



County Councillor Philippa Williamson Lancashire County Council

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

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Hello!

It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of 2022 – it seems to have gone so fast! I hope you are keeping warm, safe and well and are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.

Crowdfund Lancashire - This is an annual fund of £500,000 set up by the County Council to boost culture and sports initiatives across Lancashire.

Crowdfund Lancashire is not just about supporting Culture and Sport in Lancashire, it is also about improving people's health, wellbeing, and cultural experience in the process. Empowering individuals, organisations, businesses, parish & town councils to improve their community with culture and sport related projects, and these will be match funded by the County Council up to a maximum of £5000 per project.



So, do you have an idea for a project? Crowdfunding on [Spacehive](#) enables you to showcase funds from different sources in one place to help you hit your fundraising target. Simply fill out a [project idea form](#) and one of the county council team supporting this fund will get back to you with guidance on how to get started.

You can also register for one of the County Council led [online project creator workshops](#) taking place on Zoom on the 14 December and 12 January. These will go through the key steps in more detail to help get you ready to launch your crowdfunding campaign ahead of 1 February 2023.

Policing - Locally police have been undertaking a joint operation with Cumbria Constabulary to reduce burglaries of homes in North Lancashire and South Cumbria. This has involved marked and unmarked police patrols, stop checks and searches. In addition, similar investigations are underway following the theft of quad bikes and 4 x 4 vehicles in Arkholme and North Yorkshire. And our local police have also had some success in tackling poaching in the area, charging three men with 26 animal cruelty offences connected to deer poaching in our area.

More widely across Lancashire, 'Operation Warrior' was launched this month targeting organised crime gangs operating in Lancashire and stripping criminals of their cash, cars and other assets. You'll see and hear about Operation Warrior in the media, on social media channels, and in a forthcoming advertising campaign - all designed to make Lancashire an even more hostile place for organised criminals to operate in.



Lancashire Police have also launched their annual impaired driving campaign, targeting dangerous drivers across the county.

1 in 8 drivers tested by the police are found to be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol and risk up to 6 months' imprisonment, an unlimited fine, and a driving ban if they are caught driving while above the legal limit. So far the campaign has resulted in 167 arrests.

If you suspect somebody is drink or drug driving you can call 1010 or email: doitonline.lancashire.police.uk Alternatively you can tell Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org

Wintry Weather – In this current spell of wintry weather, a fleet of 45 gritters which can treat the 2,500km of the county council's priority road network within around four hours is out on the roads.

There are also 2,600 grit bins and salt piles throughout the county which have been restocked to help add traction where needed. You can get gritting updates here:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/gritting/updates/> and you can request grit bin refills and report concerns about the highway by logging on to the County Council Website and using 'Report It', or using the Love Clean Streets App.



And remember when its cold out there, all libraries in Lancashire have been designated as warm and welcome spaces where people can find a warm drink, a space to sit, free computers and Wi-Fi, charging points for digital equipment, events and activities and help from staff to find further information about what support is available.



Holiday Activities & Food - Many families across Lancashire can now book places for children to attend Christmas holiday clubs following the County Council's successful holiday activities and food (HAF) summer programme.

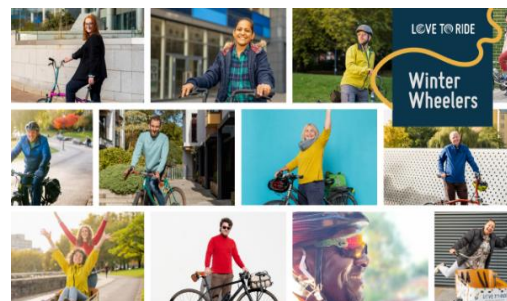
Four hours of action packed activities a day, including a meal, over four days of the school holiday is available and as it is nearly Christmas, the emphasis will be on bringing families together and enabling children to have fun over the holiday period.

To get a free place on the HAF programme, families need to be eligible for free school meals, although some children may be eligible using discretionary criteria. If you have a specific need, your child's school will help you find out if this applies to you. For more details about the Christmas HAF programme and how to book, visit: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/>

Win prizes for riding a bike this December - Winter Wheelers aims to help people get on their bikes in winter and reward them for doing so!

Throughout December (1-25), you can turn your rides into fantastic prizes like a bike worth £1,000. Know other people that might want to ride? If you encourage them, you could win up to £750.

Bike anywhere, any time - it's not about how fit you are or how far you ride, even a 10-minute ride around the park counts. Every day you ride enters you into a prize draw for that day and it earns you the chance to win a brand-new bike on Christmas Day! Sign up at lovetoride.net



Tree Planting - Lancashire has received £300,000 from the Government's Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund to kickstart tree planting activity, create new green jobs and boost woodland cover.

The County Council, alongside the Woodland Trust, Groundwork Trust, Ribble Rivers Trust and Lancashire Wildlife Trust, will work with district councils to identify sites for planting, especially in urban settings and on the boundaries between urban and rural locations.

For a county that is 80% rural, surprisingly Lancashire has the ninth lowest woodland coverage in the country. Although the County Council has planted over 150,000 trees over the last 10 years, this grant will accelerate that work and fund four new posts to oversee:

- Planting of 70 hectares of rural woodlands and a further 10,000 urban and peri-urban trees in 2023/24
- Planting of 100 hectares of rural woodlands and a further 20,000 urban and peri-urban trees in 2024/25

Not only will the extra trees help to capture almost 100,000 tonnes of CO₂, but they will also improve flood protection, biodiversity, and air quality.

Ofsted - An 8 strong Ofsted team have been reviewing the County Council's Children's Services over the last 3 weeks. They have undertaken 123 meetings, talked to more than 141 frontline staff, 39 parents and carers and 13 young people and hundreds of files were reviewed.

Overall, the inspection went well with inspectors providing lots of positive feedback including that children's lives were improving as a result of the early help and support and the strong support given to children in the care of the local authority with high ambitions for young people. They also heard that the County Council's Foster Carers feel well supported in their work caring for children and young people.

Inspections do not come without challenges and opportunities to learn and develop, and the final report will be received in January 2023.



Foster with us - A new campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the urgent need for more foster carers in Lancashire who could foster older children or teenagers (children aged 10 or older).

The county council needs new foster carers to look after children and young people of all ages, but there is a particular need for foster carers for older children and teenagers.

There are no additional requirements to foster older children or teenagers and extensive training, generous allowances, and a comprehensive package of support is there for all foster carers.

More details about the events can be found online: www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering/events/

Cabinet - At the December meeting of the County Council Cabinet, a new environment and climate strategy was launched.

Protecting the environment is one of the council's priorities and this strategy spearheads vital environmental work to make Lancashire a greener county and organises future action in to three main areas:

- **Reducing waste and tackling pollution** - this includes reducing waste, increasing recycling and improving air and water quality.
- **Climate Change** - action under this section includes reducing greenhouse gasses, ensuring infrastructure and services are resilient to climate change and managing water resources and flood risk.
- **Natural and historic environment** - including conserving habitats and biodiversity, ensuring people have easy access to green spaces, protecting our environment and landscapes and using natural solutions to tackle climate change.



The new strategy follows Lancashire's first Climate Summit, which took place earlier this year. Other recent ground breaking action has included [piloting biochar use](#) to store thousands of tonnes of CO2 in the ground beneath our feet, where it is not practical to increase tree cover; supporting peatland restoration in the Forrest of Bowland AONB and enabling Highways Teams to recycle road surfacing materials.

New Speed Indicator Device (SpiD) policy - This is the adoption of best practice that has been developed over the last few years enshrining it as a policy to help council officers deal with applications for SpiDs from Parish and Town Councils. Cabinet approved the document which sets out what a SpiD is and provides a clear set of criteria for applications. A copy of the new policy can be found here: <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s204361/Appendix%20A.pdf>

2022/23 Budget - The County Council's annual budget is around £1.5 billion for all the many services the Council delivers including Adult and Children's Social Care, Transport and Highways, libraries and museums, support for schools, waste management, economic development and much more. Cabinet also discussed at the December meeting the latest budget forecasts. The council is on track to deliver a balanced budget for 2022/23. By acting quickly to ensure a very firm grip, the predicted overspend earlier in the year has been reduced to around £10m and is expected to reduce further. There still remains a lot of work to do but the view of Cabinet was that a strong course has been set for this year and the coming 4 years where current plans suggest that for these years a balanced budget can be delivered.



Lancashire Warm Spaces - The number of warm spaces where people can visit in Lancashire is rapidly growing, as communities across the county step up to support and protect residents this winter.

The County Council is developing a network of warm, safe and welcoming spaces that will provide residents with somewhere to keep warm, access information and advice or spend time with others.

In November, a new grants scheme was launched to allow organisations in Voluntary, Community, Faith and

Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, as well as parish and town councils, to create or improve their warm space offer in their local community. Grants of up to £500 are available through a simple application process. In the first month 59 applications have been processed from across the county and over £27000 awarded.

Following on from the launch of the grants scheme, a new online directory has been set up where people can search for warm spaces across Lancashire. Those organisations wishing to offer a warm space are asked to sign up to the Lancashire Warm Spaces Charter – a set of seven principles intended to help local people know what to expect when they enter a Lancashire Warm Space and what those providing spaces expect in return. To date, 76 locations have been added to the Lancashire Warm Spaces directory in addition to the county council's entire library network.

Libraires have been designated as warm and welcome spaces where people can find a warm drink, a space to sit, free computers and Wi-Fi, charging points for digital equipment, events and activities and help from staff to find further information about what support is available. To learn more about Lancashire Warm Spaces and the other cost of living support available, visit: <https://lancashire.gov.uk/costofliving/>

Archives - Lancashire History Magazine On Sale Now! A new Lancashire Local History magazine, 'Archives', is now in print and is available to purchase in all Lancashire County Council Libraries and at Lancashire Archives, priced at £3. The Archive Service would be delighted to receive any feedback or ideas for future features and if you are interested in submitting an article for the next edition of the magazine, the deadline for copy to be received by the Archives is Friday 17 March 2023. All submissions should be sent to archives@lancashire.gov.uk – full details on how to contribute are available in the magazine.



A series of conversations about interesting items from the collections at Lancashire Archives have been released as **Podcasts**.

The podcasts are released through all major podcast providers.

Small Grants for Community Projects - As your County Councillor I have a small grant to fund projects that will directly benefit the community in our area, from gardening workshops and knit and natter sessions, to football activities to help young people stay active.

Voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) groups can apply and the process is very straightforward. So, if you are involved in a community group and you have a project planned that would benefit from a small amount of funding, more information about the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/local-member-grants-scheme>

And finally - As ever please keep in touch, and if I can help just let me know. Also, if you would like to hear more about anything covered in this update or to receive a copy please let me know.

Have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

Phillippa Williamson
December 2022

