

LANCASTER
CIVIC VISION

JANUARY 2024

ABOUT US

Lancaster Civic Society was founded in 1967 and since that time has overseen the preservation of the heritage of the Lancaster and Morecambe district, its outstanding natural beauty, whilst assisting in its future development.

Our District boasts two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Morecambe Bay which is the largest expanse of intertidal mudflats and sand in the United Kingdom as well as having the second largest gas field in the UK.

It was to reflect our ambition for the future of our district that in 2022 we changed our name to Lancaster Civic Vision (LCV) in order to better align our branding with the focus of our organisation.

LCV is the premier non-partisan organisation in the Lancaster and Morecambe District. representing all views and outlooks and is the principal campaigner for the protection of our heritage, improvements to the environment and local economy, and enhancing our visitor experience.



ABOUT US

LCV is dedicated to improving the quality of life experienced by the residents of Lancaster District. We define Lancaster as the entire administrative area of the City Council. This includes Lancaster, Morecambe and surrounding areas.

Originally established to promote and encourage the highest standards of architecture and town planning, and to preserve and improve buildings and areas of architectural and/or historic significance. Whilst these remain core aims of Lancaster Civic Vision we have, more recently, expanded our focus to include regeneration and environmental issues.

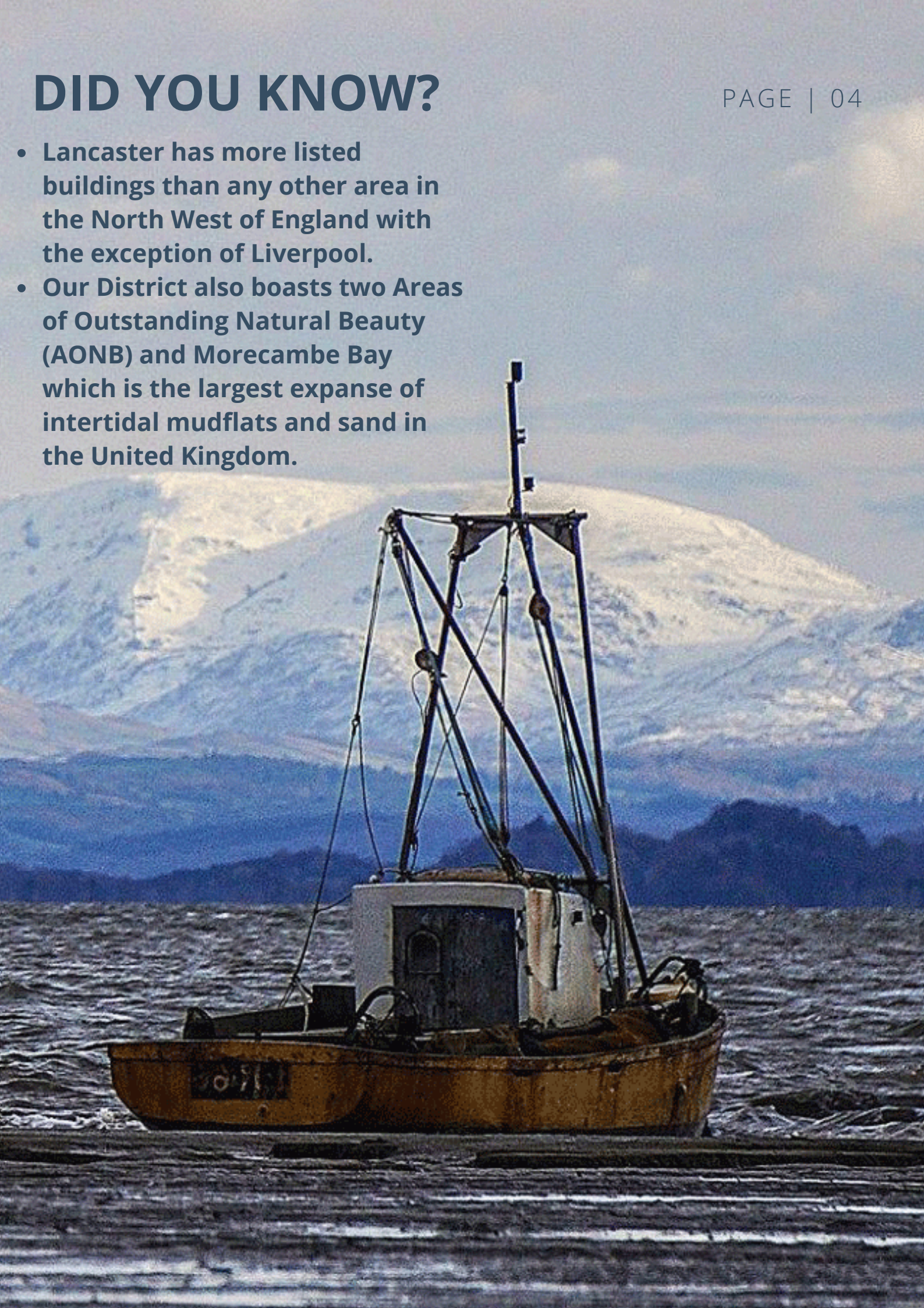
Lancaster is a very special place and has the potential to offer the best quality of life in the North West specifically and the UK generally.
We have the major communities of Lancaster with its heritage assets, and Morecambe, a vibrant seaside town, together with highly attractive villages, beautiful countryside, and a stunning coastline.

Lying 25 miles from the centre of the UK – at Dunsop Bridge - we have superb road and rail links namely the M6 and the West Coast Mainline for north and south as well as M62 and the Leeds Bradford for east and west travel.

Our District has one of the largest cultural clusters in the North West with a wealth of facilities and talent. It is home to two leading universities with a diverse and innovative economic base including brewing, the flourishing and expanding Port of Heysham, a nuclear power station, and an emerging digital sector.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Lancaster has more listed buildings than any other area in the North West of England with the exception of Liverpool.**
- **Our District also boasts two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Morecambe Bay which is the largest expanse of intertidal mudflats and sand in the United Kingdom.**



WHAT DO WE DO?

We campaign for a wide range of projects and development across the District and work closely with regulatory bodies and local stakeholders to effect change in our community. Some of our more recent projects include:

TRANSPORT

- Ongoing campaign to electrify the Lancaster – Morecambe – Heysham Railway Line.
- Worked with Northern to expand their timetable to allow late evening trains from Manchester to Lancaster and South Lakeland.
- Developed nomination for Carnforth to be the HQ of new Great British Railways.
- Campaigned for a new road bridge over the River Lune from Lune Industrial Estate to Heysham bypass.

ECONOMY

- Working on a series of campaigns to ensure that this District is prepared for, and will benefit from, Eden Project North.
- Development of a Community Wealth Strategy to encourage a 'Buy Local' policy at all levels of procurement.

LOCAL HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

- Secured funding to carry out restorative work as part of the "The Streets Are Ours" campaign.
- Installation and unveiling of Heritage Plaques to recognise the contribution of local women, inc. Emily Williamson (Founder of the RSPB), Sr. Ainee Cox (Founder of the Lancaster Hospice movement), Janet Raby and Beatrice Parkinson (Cockersand and Plover Scar Lighthouse Keepers), Jennie Harris, Dick Kerr and the Lancaster Town footballers.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Regular member meetings with speakers on a variety of topics of local interest.
- Monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and Annual General Meeting with members.
- Specialist subgroups (please see next page for further details).
- More than 120 Guides and Walks for the local district.
- Regularly updated web page, blogs, podcasts, and social media posts (inc. Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn).
- Extensive lobbying and campaigning through multiple media outlets including press releases, our extensive email distribution list, online and face-to-face conferences, and local stakeholder contacts.

SPECIALIST SUBGROUPS

REGENERATION GROUP

LCV established a Regeneration Sub-committee to take forward the past work of Lancaster Vision with membership being open to all members. Between 2012 and 2022 Lancaster Vision became actively involved in working with other local stakeholders to help improve the fortunes of the city. Currently we are involved in such projects as the electrification of the Lancaster-Morecambe-Heysham railway line, community wealth building, Canal Quarter regeneration and development of a District Transport Master Plan.

PLANNING SCRUTINY GROUP

Lancaster Civic Vision is a statutory consultee on planning applications for Listed Buildings and some parts of a Conservation Area submitted to Lancaster City Council. The Planning Scrutiny Group is made up of a proportion of members of Civic Vision who after discussion among the group, comment and recommend to the Planning Department. Through the efforts of this Group Lancaster Civic Vision seeks to protect and enhance the existing townscape of our fine city and to try and ensure that developers, architects, builders and planners remain true to the unique nature of the City and its surrounding landscape.



LCV EXECUTIVE TEAM

All of our team are elected yearly at our Annual General Meeting held on the second Wednesday each June. Members wishing to stand for a Principal Office or the Executive Committee are nominated and seconded and subject to ballot by the LCV membership.

Chair

Leads the executive committee and responsible for directing activities. This includes planning and presiding over executive meetings, and setting resolutions. They also have first-hand involvement in all of our projects.

Deputy Chair

Assists and supports the Chair in providing leadership to the executive whilst also acting as a 'sounding board' and confidante to the Chair in the execution of their role.

Secretary

Provides administrative support to LCV's operations including: arranging meetings, taking minutes, circulation of key papers, and following-up on agreed actions.



LCV EXECUTIVE TEAM

Treasurer

Manages the finances of LCV, reports on its financial performance, and spearheads fundraising efforts.

Membership Secretary

Responsible for managing and processing of new and renewing membership payments, keeps accurate records of members, and involvement in activities aimed at membership recruitment and retention.

Communications Lead

Establishes relationships with media outlets, develops strategic marketing plans and handles public relations in line with LCV's values, plans and ambitions. Also includes leading on membership communications, drafting press releases, and managing LCV's web page and social media accounts.

Coordinator, Members' Meetings

Schedules and organises regular meetings and events for all members, securing and liaising with speakers, organises AV equipment, and takes a lead on developing risk assessment.

LCV Executive Committee Member

The wide range of experience and skills across our Executive Committee enables LCV to be involved in a wide range of diverse projects across the district. All Exec members play a vital role in providing assistance to these projects as well as attending the monthly Executive meetings.

JOIN US!

Our membership is made up of local residents who have a passionate interest in the area. Some members have lived here all their lives whilst others have moved to the area and made the District their home.

Our members are from a very diverse range of backgrounds including:

- Industry
- Commerce
- Academia and education
- Local Government
- Architecture
- Banking
- Sales and Marketing
- Design
- Healthcare
- Distribution



As we embark on new initiatives, our membership is expanding. If you would like to help us achieve our ambition to become the area with the best quality of life in the North West please join us as member, part of our Executive team or as part of one of our sub groups.

All members of the LCV's Civic Vision Executive Committee automatically become a Trustee registered with the Charity Commission. Further details regarding this are given on the following page.

BEING A TRUSTEE

Trustees come from all walks of life, and we welcome anyone with an interest in the Lancaster & Morecambe District and the work of LCV to join us on the Executive Committee.

LCV believes in equality and diversity and welcomes those who might not usually be represented, including younger people.

Trustees are expected to:

- be ambassadors for the charity
- promote and champion our work, its ambition, vision and objectives to stakeholders, local communities and relevant organisations
- play a full and active part in Executive Committee meetings, contribute knowledge, expertise and experience
- support LCV and its development at a strategic level
- agree business plans, budgets, and allocation of resources
- exercise balance, good judgement and respect
- ensure that we fulfil all legal requirements
- encourage best practice, and strive for high quality, and excellence.



Further details about the responsibilities and obligations of Trustees is available on the Charity Commission Website

CONTACT US



Enquiries:
admin@lancastervision.com

Membership joining form:
https://www.lancastercivicsociety.uk/contact/

LCV website:
https://www.lancastercivicsociety.uk/

Facebook site:
https://www.facebook.com/lancastercivicsociety

Twitter/X:
https://twitter.com/civic_society

Acknowlegments
Photographs in this booklet are reproduced with kind permission from Ian Greene and Lancashire County Council & Local History