

27 April 2010

Dear Councillor / Colleague

EQUALITY FORUM - MONDAY, 26TH APRIL 2010

The following presentations were delivered to the above meeting of the Equality Forum.

Agenda No Item

4. **Task and Finish Group on Town Centre Accessibility** (Pages 1 - 20)

The presentation and action plan are enclosed.

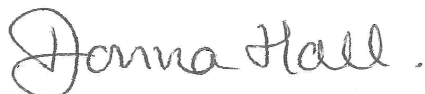
5. **Umeed Domestic Violence Steering Group** (Pages 21 - 40)

The presentation is enclosed.

6. **Allotments and Community Growing** (Pages 41 - 44)

The presentation is enclosed.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive

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This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون کیجئے: 01257 515823

Town Centre Accessibility

Presentation by

Task and Finish
Review Group

Date

26 April 2010



Introductions

- Sarah James, Performance, Partnerships and Equalities Manager, Chorley Council
- Eileen Bee, Co-ordinator, Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum
- Judith Daniels, Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum

Outline of Presentation

1. Process undertaken
2. Accessibility issues
3. Findings
4. Action Plan

1. Process Undertaken

- Membership of Group
- Walkabouts
- Findings
- Actions and Action Plan

2. Accessibility Issues

Judith Daniels

Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum

1. Busy Junction



2. Drop Kerbs



3. Road Signs and Bollards



4. Tree Roots



5. Orange Bricks



Town Centre Accessibility

Equality Forum Task and Finish Group
April 2010



Agenda Page 11

Agenda Item 4

Introduction

This report provides the findings from the Town Centre Accessibility Review. This was undertaken during the winter / spring of 2009/10 by a group of partners. The review has identified a number of actions, which together will enable us to make Chorley Town Centre a more accessible place to visit for everyone.

Process for the Review

The Equality Forum set up a task and finish group to undertake a review of town centre accessibility. The task and finish group included;

- Chorley Council, representation from;
 - Planning, Urban Design and Policy
 - Policy, Equalities
 - Streetscene
 - Town Centre Management
- Lancashire County Council, Highways
- Lancashire County Council, District Partnership Office
- Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum

The task and finish group undertook a number of town centre walkabouts, to identify potential accessibility issues for people with both visual and physical disabilities. The group then worked together to identify solutions for these issues. This was drawn together into an action plan, which identified the issues, the solutions, the lead officers and organisations and a timescale for implementation of the solutions.

The action plan will be implemented from 1st May 2010, and will be measured by Chorley Council's Performance, Partnerships and Equalities Manager on behalf of the Equality Forum. The actions within it range from six weeks to more long term actions, dependant on other developments within the town centre. As a guide, where a specific date is not indicated, the following guideline applies; Short term - up to 6 months, Medium term - 6 months to one year, Long term - one year plus.

To conclude, a note of thanks to all those involved in this review for both their time and commitment to making Chorley Town Centre a more accessible place to visit for all.

Issue		Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale
1	No pedestrian crossing at a busy set of traffic lights, and the pedestrian island is narrow	Union Street/Park Road junction (a) + (b)	<p>A bid will be submitted to the Pedestrian Priority Programme for 2011/12 which will propose the addition of green/red man crossing</p> <p>Review of the junction to assess different traffic scheme solutions and to consider possible match funding from any funding that may be received from Lancashire County Council for improvements.</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council</p>	Long term
2	<p>Drop Kerbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'drop kerbs' are too high • drop kerb needs attention • drop kerbs not lined up 	<p>Union Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction with Fellery Street (a) • Entrance to Flat Iron Car Park (b) • New Market Street/High Street opposite the roundabout outside the betting shop (c) <p>At the entrance to Mealhouse Lane/White Horse side (d)</p> <p>Top of Union Street by traffic lights/opposite the church (e)</p>	<p>Maintenance work to be carried out to lower the kerb.</p> <p>Maintenance work to be carried out to repair the kerb</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>6-8 weeks</p> <p>Autumn 2010</p>

Issue		Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale
3	<p>Road Signs and Bollards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign post narrowing the pavements • Sign post sited badly • Unnecessary road signs and bollards • Large amount of unnecessary bollards • Number of bollards do not have reflective strips 	<p>St Thomas's Road next to Town Hall (a)</p> <p>Clifford Street/Church Street by traffic lights (b)</p> <p>Signs - Town Centre (ie Chapel Street/Church street – no entry sign) (c)</p> <p>Bollards - Town Centre (ie corner Chapel Street/New Market Street) (d)</p> <p>Town Centre (e)</p>	<p>Re-design the sign to remove the obstructive pole</p> <p>Relocate sign closer to road.</p> <p>Carry out town centre signage audit with view to removing redundant signage and bollards.</p> <p>Review all bollards in the town centre and remove any that are deemed unnecessary</p> <p>Conduct maintenance work to ensure that all bollards in the town centre have contrasting/reflective colours around the bollard</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Mal Gallagher, Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council (audit & review)</p> <p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Autumn 2010</p> <p>Long Term</p>
4	<p>Tree roots pushing up the pavement making it narrow and uneven</p>	<p>Union Street, trees lining the Flat Iron car park (a)</p>	<p>Improvement scheme is currently being drawn up for Flat Iron which will solve this issue. Explore any possibility of 'interim' measures to tackle this issue.</p> <p>The tree roots causing an uneven footway will be removed as part of the works to resurface Union Street</p>	<p>Peter McAnespie Mal Gallagher, Chorley Council</p> <p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council /</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Long Term</p>

Issue		Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale
5	<p>Pavements</p> <p>Orange brick paving is slippery especially when wet in some locations</p> <p>Inconsistent paving at crossings</p>	<p>Various locations, eg crossings at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Street (a) • Clifford Street (b) • Flat Iron carpark/Flat Iron Parade <p>Town Centre</p>	<p>Explore improvement measures</p> <p>Explore improvement measures</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council / Peter McAnespie Mal Gallagher, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Timescales vary - Union St is summer 2010</p>
6	<p>Planters narrowing the pedestrian walkway</p> <p>Planters on shop boundaries</p> <p>Planters generally narrowing the pedestrian walkway</p>	<p>Outside Booths supermarket next to Flat Iron car park (a)</p> <p>New Market Street</p> <p>Town Centre</p>	<p>Move planters closer to the flat iron car park</p> <p>To write to shops asking them to re-site their planters back to the middle of the walkway, as a planter in the middle of a walkway is a clear case of obstruction</p> <p>Review location of all planters to make sure they are located appropriately and do not obstruct the pavements</p>	<p>Martin Walls, Chorley Council</p> <p>Conrad Heald, Chorley Council</p> <p>Martin Walls, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Early May 2010</p> <p>Early May 2010</p>

Issue		Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale
7	'A' boards and shop/market stall merchandise narrowing walkways/causing obstruction	Town Centre (a)	Work in partnership to produce a clear enforcement policy	Conrad Heald , Martin Walls, Peter McAnespie. Chorley Council/ Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council	Summer 2010
			Approach shops and market stalls and inform the manager/owner of Council's preferred policy	Conrad Heald , Chorley Council	Autumn 2010
8	Pavement Cafes and shop displays obstructing pedestrian movements	Town Centre (a)	Explore what can be controlled by licensing and planning permission. In the meantime, approach public houses, café's and shops extending their businesses outside the premises and inform the manager/owner of Council's concerns.	Conrad Heald /Peter McAnespie/ Martin Walls, Chorley Council	Summer 2010
			Work in partnership to produce a clear enforcement policy	Martin Walls , Chorley Council	Summer 2010
9	Tactile paving remains where crossing points no longer exist causing confusion	Flat Iron Parade next to WC (b)	Correct in accordance with the current layout of car park	Mal Gallagher , Chorley Council	Summer 2010
10	Uneven pavements	Eg. Market Street outside the Royal Bank of Scotland opposite entrance to Chapel Street (a)	To be monitored as part of regular safety inspections by Capita	Alan Capstick , Lancashire County Council	Ongoing

Issue		Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale
11	<p>Covered Market</p> <p>Children's coin operated ride preventing a clear path in to the entrance of the Market</p> <p>Market stalls operating outside their stalls</p>	<p>by the Café</p> <p>Covered Market</p>	<p>Owner to be approached and asked to re-site the ride</p> <p>Stall holders to be approached if they are displaying goods outside the demarcation line</p>	<p>Conrad Heald, Chorley Council</p>	<p>May 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
12	<p>Memorial Statues</p> <p>Police Memorial has a raised lip which is a trip hazard for visually impaired people</p> <p>Access to the Chorley Pals memorial is via the Flat Iron car park next to car parking bays – the very narrow pedestrian walkway would not accommodate a wheelchair</p>	<p>Fazakerley Street</p> <p>Flat Iron Car Park</p>	<p>Look at option open for improvement which could include different coloured tiles to highlight the raised lip.</p> <p>Interim solution - Chorley Pals are aware of concerns already and are submitting a bid for funding to improve access</p> <p>Car parking bays in the memorial vicinity to be kept clear</p> <p>Long term, the Flat Iron Car Park had been scheduled for improvement works and it is intended that the memorial be made a feature</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Martin Walls Peter McAnespie (advisory capacity)</p> <p>Peter McAnespie</p> <p>Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Long Term</p>
13	<p>Street Clutter</p>	<p>Flat Iron Parade/New Market Street</p>	<p>To find an interim arrangement for improvements</p> <p>As part of the Flat Iron Improvement Scheme the issue of street clutter at this location will be addressed</p>	<p>Mal Gallagher, Chorley Council</p> <p>Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Long Term</p>

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'Umeed'

Cindy Bolton

Together we can end violence against women and girls: A strategy

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009

- Home Office November 2009

- Women and children fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds in Chorley and South Ribble

- Home Office estimates that over 500 women, girls and their children per year try to escape from abusive partners but cannot access emergency housing provision or other benefits because of their immigration status

Immigration status

- **Husband/Wife sponsorship**
- **After 2 years of living in UK**
- **Can either:**
 - a) apply for an extended visa of 2 years or;**
 - b) apply and be accepted for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)**

The Sojourner Project

- Pilot scheme funded by the Home Office
- Works in partnership with other voluntary agencies to co-ordinate support, accommodation and subsistence for women and their dependents throughout the country

What is happening locally?.....

- Anecdotal evidence
 - key members in our local communities
 - 'ad hoc' accommodation
 - financial assistance by way of donation from members of the public
 - practical help and assistance

Background

- Multi agency steering group to consider how we might help women fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds
- Group also considered how it might help people fleeing from 'so called' honour based violence
- Group agreed a constitution on 2nd June 2009



'Umeed'

Chorley & South Ribble

Faith, Hope and Love.....

Aims and objectives

- To relieve the distress and suffering of victimisation and domestic abuse of those residing permanently or temporarily in Chorley and South Ribble Districts
- To relieve financial hardship, sickness and the preservation of physical and mental health and well being of sufferers of domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence
- To provide adequate shelter, food, clothing and necessities for people with no recourse to public funds and who are fleeing from domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence
- To advance the education of and to the benefit of the public, information and education of the effects of domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence

Powers.....

The group gave itself powers to:


- To raise funds
- To buy, take on lease any property and equip for its use
- To grant funds to the beneficiaries and their dependants

Short term.....

- Offer to provide informal 'ad hoc' short term accommodation to support women and children fleeing domestic violence with no recourse to public funds
- Raising funds by donation from individual donors and grant making bodies

Reality!

- We do not have a 'property' that is available to provide emergency accommodation to people who are fleeing domestic violence and who have no recourse to public funds or who are subject to so called 'honour based' violence
- Funds available to relieve financial hardship etc. are extremely limited!



We cannot eat the whole
elephant today!

Short term.....

- We know that there are families in the community who are willing to provide informal support to women & children who are fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds by;
 - a) providing informal accommodation
 - b) family financial contributions are being made by way of voluntary giving to support people (women and children) who are destitute

Short-term Risks.....

- Families willing to offer support could be placing themselves at risk from repercussion from family and adversaries 'in the name of 'honour''
- Limited funds could be distributed in an 'ad-hoc' way which could jeopardise any future funding applications to support those who are at risk
- The organisation could be held accountable if it is not able to support its potential 'beneficiaries'

What can 'Umeed' do?.....

- Continue to raise funds
- Develop a protocol and process of application for individuals to access financial support from Umeed from funds raised
- Raise awareness that there are women and children fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds.....here in Chorley and South Ribble

Conduct a mapping exercise

- To create a local 'directory' of information of what available assistance and support is available locally to women with no recourse to public funds
- Distribute 'directory' to public services and key members in the community

The way forward.....

- Members of Umeed agree that there is a need for statutory and public services and the whole community to agree on a way forward to enable Chorley to support women and their children with no recourse to public funds
- Protect members of the community
- Encourage new members to become actively involved in the work of Umeed

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Allotments and CFG

Monday 26th April 2010

Martin Walls / Andy Brown

StreetScene

Definitions:

Allotments – Individual Plots

Community Food Growing – Larger sites / plots for groups of people

Key Challenges

- Allotment Waiting Lists
- Identifying Proposed Sites
- Town Centre Demand
- Resources for development of Community Food Growing scheme

Key Achievements

- Injection of Capital Funding to develop further sites
- Potential to develop greater relationships with recognised allotment support groups
- Identification of proposed sites
- Engagement through LSP and other stakeholders to support CFG
- Officer post created within Chorley to drive the scheme and secure external funding
- Project links into a number of the Corporate Strategies for 2010/2011

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