

# Disability Liaison Group

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

**Wednesday, 10th October  
2007**

In The Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 7.00 pm



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## Chief Executive's Office

Please ask for: Ruth Hawes  
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Date: 2 October 2007



Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley  
Lancashire  
PR7 1DP

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**Chief Executive:** Donna Hall

Dear Councillor/Colleague,

## **DISABILITY LIAISON GROUP - WEDNESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2007**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Disability Liaison Group to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Wednesday, 10th October 2007 commencing at 7.00 pm.

I hope you will be able to attend.

\*\*\*Please note that as the meeting will be held in the Lancastrian speakers will need to use the microphone\*\*

### **AGENDA**

1. **Welcome by the Chair**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Declarations of Any Interests (Councillors only)**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. If the interest arises **only** as result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak.

If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. Normally you should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do, however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision on the matter.

4. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Disability Liaison Group held on 11 July 2007 (enclosed). A schedule is enclosed listing issues that have been considered at past meetings of the Liaison Group and summarising the action that has either been taken by Officers or is proposed to be instigated on matters in respect of Pavements, Dropped Kerbs, Road Crossings, General Highway Issues, Parking and Other Issues.

5. **Community Cohesion Strategy**

Sarah Dobson will introduce the Chorley Partnership's Draft Community Cohesion Strategy for consultation. The strategy aims to set out the challenges and opportunities facing the Borough of Chorley in terms of Community Cohesion. Members of the group will be asked to take away the strategy and respond to the consultation by the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2007.

Continued....

## 6. **Focus Group on the Chorley Council website**

Sarah Dobson will present to the group a series of questions about the Council's revamped website and accessibility.

- The purpose of this item is to gauge opinion about what currently works well in terms of accessibility on the website and what improvements the Group would like to see made.
- Those attending the meeting are asked to access and use the Council's website evaluating its current accessibility levels and to compare with the best practice outlined in the other suggested websites and then answer the following questions
- What improvements would you most like to see on the website in terms of accessibility?
- Do you currently use the website to conduct business, if not could this be made easier?
- Would you be willing to participate in a focus group looking at the website in more detail and helping to implement improvements?
- The information provided in this session will be feedback to the Council's communications manager who will lead the focus group looking at implementing the proposals set out in the meeting. Changes to the website will be reported back at the next meeting.

There are several websites that have been suggested as examples of good practice: [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk), [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk), [www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk), [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk). Also, [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk) and [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk). It may be helpful for members of the Group to have a look at these sites before the meeting to generate some ideas and suggestions for the Council's website.

## 7. **Discussion on Council Literature**

The Communications Manager will bring examples of literature produced by the Council to discuss with the Group examples of good practice and any suggestions for improvements.

The group will be asked to advise officers on the best process for accommodating the needs of those with impairments in the production of Council literature.

The feedback from the Group will be used to improve the literature produced by the Council.

## 8. **Break out session**

There will be a 15 minute break out to enable members of the Group to speak to individual officers about any issues they have.

## 9. **Progress updates on Yarrow Valley Country Park and Chorley Leisure Services Inclusive Fitness Initiative**

Sarah Dobson will update the Group on Yarrow Valley Country Park and the Chorley Leisure Services Inclusive Fitness Initiative.

10. **Update on the Pavement Cafe Design and License Guide**

Sarah Dobson will update the Group on the Pavement Cafe Design and License Guide that was discussed at the last meeting of the Group.

11. **Review of Polling Districts/Polling Places - Point of Information for the Group**

There is a requirement to carry out a review of Polling Districts/Polling Places every 4 years with the first review to be completed by 31 December 2007.

This is primarily a review of polling premises and locations to access their geographical location suitability within the polling district concerned and the suitability of the premises themselves for such things as disabled access and other access/usage issues.

The review continues until 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007 with any consultation replies being requested in writing by 12<sup>th</sup> October to the Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley.

Further information can be found for downloading at [www.chorley.gov.uk/pollingstations](http://www.chorley.gov.uk/pollingstations). If you require further more specific details and/or a hard copies of any of the above please contact Phil Davies in Democratic Services on 01257 515131 or via e mail on [elections@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:elections@chorley.gov.uk).

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

- 9 January 2007
- 23 April 2007

13. **Items for the next agenda**

**Update on Astley Park**

There will be a full update on Astley Park at the next meeting. For the Group's information the following queries and responses have been put forward.

**1. The new surfaces on paths through the woods are too steep in some places, a couple of bridges have no sides and the surfaces are uneven due to bikes and surface water.**

As the project was being developed an assessment was made of the paths through the woodland to the south of the park. Due to the existing contours and gradients of the path it wasn't possible to make the changes necessary to meet current Disability Discrimination Act standards to all paths. The project team are currently looking at the possibility of amending the woodland path where it joins the main driveway nearest the main entrance. A wheel chair user was in contact with us a number of weeks ago commenting on how good the new path through the woodland is, but asking if something could be done about the slope where it meets the main driveway to Chorley, estimates have been requested to accommodate this.

A new circular path around is under construction with 'access for all' in mind, consideration being given to surface and gradient etc. Any defects within the surface of the paths will be rectified - all depressions etc will be filled. The project does not include for work to existing bridges, any renovation/repair work is currently the responsibility of Liberata and the Council.

**2. Can we see more detailed plans for the play areas and pets corner.**

The play areas and pets corner are currently being designed, when detailed plans have been produced these will be brought to the Group.

3. The 'blind garden' is used a lot by vandals as also are the ducks in the pond used for target practise which means that disabled people will not use the park unaccompanied.  
The 'Friends of Astley Park' are keen to be involved with improving the Blind Garden and hopefully it is a project that could be developed with them to improve the area for all. The park needs to be classified as a crime hotspot to attract some police presence in the park, the Council would therefore encourage anyone who witnesses any incidents within the park to report them to the police.

4. Is there a maintenance plan for the park?

Currently the maintenance of the park is the responsibility of the Neighbourhoods Directorate. A 10 year maintenance management plan is being developed which will be implemented upon completion of the project.

14. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

**Distribution**

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Disability Liaison Group.

**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.**

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

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