



Equality Forum

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Monday, 19th October 2009

In the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm



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Dear Councillor

13 October 2009

EQUALITY FORUM - MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2009

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Equality Forum to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Monday, 19th October 2009 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 16)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Equality Forum held on 9 July 2009 (enclosed). The schedule is enclosed outlining queries raised at the last meeting.

4. **Equality Forum feedback 6.50 PM**

Councillor Greg Morgan, Chair of the Equality Forum will present this item.

What is the purpose of the item?

To feedback comments received at the last Equality Forum on 19 July 2009.

Questions for the Forum?

Any further feedback on the improvements made.

What are we going to do with the information?

We will be establishing a Task and Finish Group to look at disabled access to the town centre.

We are working to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at increasing the ethnic minority representation at the Forum.

5. **Disability Discrimination Act Audit of Council Premises 6.40 PM**

Garry Hall, Assistant Chief Executive (Business and Transformation) will present this item.

What is the purpose of the item?

Chorley Council has a statutory duty under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) to ensure that our buildings are accessible to disabled people.

We have undertaken the first phase of an audit of our buildings, and would like to share the results with the Equality Forum. We will also share the proposed schedule of works that we envisage may need to be carried out, and the order in which we intend to do this work.

Questions for the Forum?

Based on these initial findings, how do you think we should priorities the work that needs to be done?

Do these initial findings address any of your concerns about disabled access to Council owned buildings?

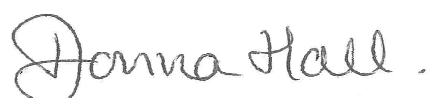
What are we going to do with the information?

We will use both your feedback and the findings of our DDA audit to inform the order of the work that needs to be carried out, and to take into consideration the views of people with disabilities in making the improvements needed to these sites.

6. **Networking break 7 PM**
7. **Open Forum to discuss any issues for each equality strand 7.15 PM**
 - a) Age
 - b) Disability
 - c) Ethnicity
 - d) Faith
 - e) Gender
 - f) Rurality
 - g) Sexuality
8. **Notices / Feedback / Publicity 7.45 PM**

Members of the Forum are welcome to inform other members of upcoming event, give feedback or notices.
9. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

Yours sincerely



Donna Hall
Chief Executive

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Democratic and Member Services Officer
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Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Equality Forum Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), and Councillors David Dickinson, Catherine Hoyle, Laura Lennox, Rosie Russell and Iris Smith for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Donna Hall (Chief Executive Chorley Council), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Gary Hall (Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation)), Claire Thompson (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager), Sara Cooper, Liz Morey, Cathryn Barrett (Democratic and Member Services Officer) and Sarah Palmer (District Partnership Officer) for attendance.
3. Agenda and reports to Members of the Equality Forum for attendance.

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

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کیجئے:

Equality Forum

Thursday, 9 July 2009

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), and Councillors David Dickinson, Catherine Hoyle, Laura Lennox, Rosie Russell and Iris Smith

Officers: Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Claire Thompson (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager), Cathryn Barrett (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Sarah Palmer (District Partnership Officer) and Jim Weightman (Graduate Management Trainee)

Also in attendance: Julia Berry (Heapey Parish Council), Cindy Bolton (Chorley & South Ribble CVS), Mike Collinson (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Jean Cronshaw (Clayton Brook Together), Mr B & Mrs Y Curwen (Walking for Health), Judy Daniels (Disability Forum), Kinga Grzeczynska (Polish Catholic Community), Alison Hansford (Withnell Parish Council / Chorley Wildcats / Chorley Play Partnership), Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Albert Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Francis Maguire, Marilyn Porter (Crossroads), Terence Reynolds (Disability Forum), Reverend E Saville (Diocesan Race Relations and Cohesion Officer), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council), Mr S Van, Terry Brown, David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association) and Carol Halton (Street Pastors)

09.EF.47 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as the new Chair of the Equality Forum and that his appointment was made at the Council's annual meeting which took place on 13 May 2009. The Chair then introduced the people on the top table. People were reminded to say their name, the organisation they represent and to use the microphone when speaking.

09.EF.48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Eileen Bee (Disability Forum), John Forrest (Villages in Partnership), Diane Grandwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Victoria Hansford (Chorley

Youth Council), Fiona Hilton (Young People's Service), Ronnie and Maureen Kay (Deaf Forum), John Miller (Central Lancashire NHS Trust), Liz Morey (Chorley Council, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator), David Naden (Linkability), and Jeff Smith (MIND).

09.EF.49 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Judith Daniels in the attendees list and the following amendments: -

- Julia Berry had asked that the budget for the cost spent on equality improvements be an agenda item.
- Judith Daniels had asked for an audit of Council buildings.

Lesley-Ann Fenton informed the Forum that the costs associated with meeting our Equality & Diversity commitments would be included in the presentation regarding the Council's approach to equality and diversity later in the agenda.

The Forum was also informed that Liberata would do an audit of Council buildings, the findings of which will be made available to members of the Forum.

Questions raised at the Equality Forum 23rd April 2009

Dial-a-Ride is currently charging disabled customers full fare before 9.30am. Can anything be done about this?

Officers have looked in to this matter and confirm that disabled customers are able to travel for free after 9.30am. However, prior to 9.30am the national scheme applies where disabled customers are eligible for full fare. We understand West Lancs offer a concessionary fare prior to 9.30am. However, there are no plans in any of the other Transport Concession Authorities including Chorley to change from the national scheme.

Can more disabled parking bays be made outside the town hall, that are wider than the standard disabled parking bay which would be useful for wheelchair users?

Liberata have been asked by the Council to look in to creating a large disabled parking bay outside the Town Hall.

Access to Chorley Railway Station

Claire Thompson informed the Forum that after she had been liaising between the Disability Forum and Northern Rail and it is hoped a representative from Northern Rail would be attending the Disability Forum on 2 October 2009.

09.EF.50 UPDATE ON RURALITY TASK GROUP 6.40 PM

The Chair welcomed Jim Weightman, National Management Trainee at Chorley Council to the meeting, who gave a presentation on the Rurality Task Group. Key areas the group highlighted include gritting and highway safety, rural transport/accessibility and possible rural funding streams

Through its work, the Group helped: -

- find funding sources for rural businesses which will be available in the coming months.
- clarify arrangements for safety on rural roads and pathways
- learn more about what rural transport is available to help equality groups
- support Chorley Council to find ways to improve access to community transport

Jim advised that Group had been successful in what it had set out to achieve and had identified key issues that needed to be addressed. Discussions are planned to take place with keypartners i.e. LCC re the feasibility of developing a bid to the Lancashire Rural Development Fund to improve transport accessibility in rural areas

Following the presentation Jim received suggestions and observation from members of the Forum on transport accessibility.

In response to a question raised, Sarah Palmer (District Partnership Officer, Lancashire County Council) advised that she would check if a survey had been done in Chorley town centre about dropped curbs.

Lesley-Ann Fenton advised that any concerns about access to the Leeds Liverpool canal for cyclist should be directed to United Utilities.

The Chair thanked Jim for this presentation. Jim can be contacted on 01257 515341 or e-mail jim.weightman@chorley.gov.uk.

09.EF.51 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AT CHORLEY COUNCIL 7 PM

The Chair welcomed Claire Thompson, Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager for Chorley Council who gave a presentation on how Chorley Council aims to address equality and diversity issues in its service delivery.

The Forum was advised that: -

- Over the last 10 years, there had been an increase in ethnic diversity with more languages spoken in the borough than ever before.
- Chorley has an increasing older population, which is growing quicker than anywhere else across Lancashire.
- 18.5% of the population are registered disabled or have a limiting life long illness.

Claire reported that the effects of the recession will have had a major impact on people who fall in to one of the seven equality strands, and that the Council recognised the need to constantly review its services to ensure vulnerable people are offered appropriate services.

Claire's presentation outlined:

- How the Council assesses the impact re Equality and Diversity on new or changed policies and the services we provide to ensure fair access etc.
- Examples of where we have adapted services to meet customers needs.
- The range of mechanisms we use to consult with our customers
- That Equality and Diversity is integral to how we develop and manage services to meet the needs of the customer and outlined the budgets identified with supporting Equality and Diversity i.e. Language line and translation/interpretation costs; E&D training costs for staff

and members; ad-hoc revenue and capital costs for building adaptations, website development etc.

- The requirements of the Equality Standard and the assessment process
- The requirements of the Single Equality Bill currently under debate in parliament and how we are currently meeting those requirements
- The background to and the role of the Equality Forum

Claire informed the Forum that following external assessment in April 2009 the Council was awarded level 3 of the Equality Standard, 'Achieving'. At the time the IDeA highlighted lots of good practice but it also gave three recommendations for improvements:

- Streamline the equality impact assessment process
- Improve data collection on the diverse profile of our customers
- Strengthen consultation with equality groups

We currently collect and monitor customer information through the Contact Centre and, under new legislation due to be released in the autumn (The Single Equality Bill) the Council will be collecting a wider range of information as part of its consultation with customers, to ensure services continued to meet the needs of customers. Claire invited the Forum members to give their views on how best to gather this information.

In response to Cllr Julia Berry question regarding costs associated with Equality and Diversity, Lesley-Ann Fenton advised that Equality and Diversity is seen as being part of the mainstream development of services to meet the needs of the customer and not as an add on. Consequently other than those specific budgets outlined in the presentation, time spent on equality and diversity matters or needs identified through Equality Impact assessments etc is covered by mainstream service budgets, and Cllr Berry asked for the costs of running the Equality Forum. Lesley-Ann said she would seek to understand and address Cllr Berry's request outside of the meeting.

The Chair thanked Claire for her presentation and asked the Forum to write down their suggestions on how the Equality Forum could be improved so that it better serves those people it

is meant to represent. This will inform the 12 month review of the Equality forum.

Claire can be contacted on 01257 515348 or email claire.thompson@chorley.gov.uk.

09.EF.52 NETWORKING BREAK 7.20 PM

The Forum members took a short break.

09.EF.53 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND 7.40 PM

(a) Age

- Frances Maguire raised concerns that the assisted bin collection service was failing some residents, as a relative had numerous problems with the service. Officers undertook to look into this matter.

Estelle Brown asked what the procedure was for arranging an assisted bin collection. There was further discussion regarding the promotion of the service. Any member of the Forum wishing to arrange an assisted bin collection could pass on their contact details to Claire Thompson who would make the necessary arrangements.

(b) Disability

- Judith Daniels raised concerns about the number of pavements which have been dropped and the edges removed. This is causing serious problems for those people who are blind or partially sighted as they are unable to determine the edge of the pavement and are walking in to the road unawares.

Claire Thompson advised the Forum that members of the Disability Forum had raised a number of issues relating to the town centre and highways and as such a Task and Finish Group would be set up to look in to access to Chorley Town Centre. Representatives of the Disability Forum and Lancashire County Council would be invited to get involved in the review.

Claire Thompson will contact the Disability Forum regarding dates for the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

- Alison Hansford asked what provision was being made by Chorley Council to make all holiday play provision accessible and an option for children with disabilities even severe and autistic, ADHD etc in line with aiming high programme? Officers undertook to look into this.
- Alison Hansford asked why a young person who is a wheelchair user was denied the possibility of doing her work experience with the Council due to her mobility problems as they said they were unable to accommodate her needs. The Arts Partnership accommodated her instead. Officers undertook to look into this.
- Judith Daniels asked officers to look into the reasons why Stagecoach has changed the bus for service 125 and 126 (Preston/Chorley/Bolton route) from easy access buses to ones with steps.
- Judith Daniels commented that since the traffic lights on the St Thomas's Road/Market Street had been replaced by a zebra crossing people with disabilities have found it more difficult to cross the road safely. It is also difficult to cross at the set of traffic lights on Market Street outside the Town Hall, and a request was made to introduce a pedestrian crossing facility on the traffic lights. Sarah Palmer (District Partnership Officer, Lancashire County Council) undertook to look in to this.

(c) Ethnicity

- Cindy Bolton gave a progress report on the Domestic Violence Steering Group which supports those people who have no recourse to public funds. The constitution has now been formed. The Group has widened its remit to help those people who have been subjected to honour based violence.

The Committee is a small one, and any one who is interested in joining would be welcome.

(d) Faith

- Carol Halton advised the Forum that Chorley Street Pastors were operating in Chorley Town Centre every Friday and Saturday night. The purpose of the Pastors is to help those people who find themselves in difficulties to get home safely, or get the support they need, whatever that might be.

(e) Gender

No issues were raised.

(f) Rurality

- Julia Berry asked for feedback on the strategic survey of rural businesses. Officers advised that feedback would be provided when available.
- The Forum was advised that there had only been three meetings of the Rurality Task Group and some members involved in the group felt that the group could have continued.

Lesley-Ann Fenton advised that there was a possibility for one more meeting of the Rurality Task and Finish Group in the future which would give members an update on progress made, but that the group had achieved what it had set out to and that a lot of issues can be dealt with through neighbourhood working.

(g) Sexuality

Jeannie Stirling read out a statement on behalf of John Miller, Public Health Associate (Vulnerable Groups), in his absence which updated the Forum on current activities.

- A small number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Chorley and South Ribble have met a few times with a view to setting up an LGBT community group. Attendance is quite low and progress is slow as members of the group do not necessarily have a lot in common apart from being LGBT. South Ribble Council have offered some support to the group by offering a free room and buffet a

couple of times and the group hopes that similar assistance might be forthcoming from Chorley Council. For the time being John Miller is the contact for this group and can be contacted on John.Miller@centrallancashire.nhs.uk

- The LGBT youth group Pout, has relocated to South Ribble due to the previous premises no longer being available. The group will continue to serve young people from both Chorley and South Ribble boroughs.

The young people wanted to draw attention to the continuing problems of the lack of relevant LGBT sex and relationships education in most schools, and the lack of visible and positive support for LGBT young people in schools. They are also concerned with how teachers deal with LGBT issues and that schools are still not required to monitor and report homophobic incidents on the same basis as they monitor and report racist incidents, and that teachers do not have mandatory LGBT awareness training.

The group via the Forum would like to ask elected members to take a specific interest in the LGBT awareness of the schools in their ward (both secondary and primary) and encourage the schools to think how they can take active steps to show positive support towards the LGBT community and their human rights.

There is an LGBT community website at www.clangles.com with offers plenty of information, and is managed by John Miller as part of Project Oscar work at NHS Central Lancashire.

Sarah Palmer (District Partnership Officer, Lancashire County Council) undertook to look in to the issues raised relating to schools and liaise with the School Partnership team to see if any support and training is offered in schools.

The LGBT group raised concerns about public transport into Manchester, with regards to the absence of any late trains stopping at Chorley. Can the Council influence train providers to improve this?

09.EF.54 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY 8.10 PM

Members of the Forum wished to express their thanks and gratitude for all the good work Councillor Hasina Khan had done to promote and support the Equality Forum during her time as Chair.

- Sunday, 26 July & Monday, 27 July 2009 – Fusion Festival between 1.30pm and 5pm at Clayton Brook Village Green.
- From 30 July – 1 August 2009 Reach Event in the Town Centre – Disability awareness event.
- Wednesday, 5 August – National Play Day, Devonshire Road recreational ground from approx 11am.
- Sunday, 9 August 2009 from 10am to 5pm – Help for Heroes Charity Fundraising Day, Clayton Brook Village Green.

Chair

Can more disabled parking bays be made outside the Town Hall, that are wider than the standard disabled parking bay which would be useful for wheelchair.

Awaiting update.

What provision is being made by Chorley Borough Council to make all holiday play provision accessible and an option for Children with disabilities even sever and autistic, ADHD etc in line with aiming high?

All the venues used for activities are assessed for accessibility and adaptability and, where possible, venues are suitable for people with a disability. Several Council staff who regularly assist with activities are trained and experienced in working with children and young people with disabilities. Staff who have worked with us over the last two years have had equality training and we are currently promoting an Equality and Diversity in Sport workshop to assist professional and partner agencies.

The Council's aim is to offer as much as possible to all members of the community and, although the Council are limited due to capacity to deliver specialist activities, we are always happy to promote other providers.

The Council have launched what is believed to be one of the first disability Rugby League projects in the North West, working in MLD and SLD schools, to assist Lancashire County Council to develop the game for those with a disability.

The Council have also been delivering Multi Skills Development aimed at children with severe learning difficulty. This has been documented in a joint project with UCLAN and a local school, to demonstrate the benefit of developing skills, such as agility, balance and co-ordination.

The Council's work with Chorley Wildcats over a number of years, has enabled them to improve their infrastructure and develop as a club. They are now close to achieving Clubmark, which will help them provide a better service and improve the skills of their volunteers.

Why was a young person who is a wheelchair user denied the possibility of doing her work experience with the Council due to her mobility problems as they said they were unable to accommodate her needs? The Arts Partnership accommodated her instead?

The request for a work placement with the Council was not denied but redirected to The Arts Partnership based solely on the young person's interests, as they were based around music, drama and film studies. It was the officer's opinion that compared to the Council, The Art Partnership would provide a more interesting, meaningful and enjoyable work experience in an area in which the young person was interested in.

Please could the Council inform all members of the public that smaller bins and assisted collections are available to all?

Smaller bins and assisted collections are advertised on the Council web site as well as the bin leaflet which has been circulated to all residents.

To request a smaller bin and/or assisted collection contact Jo Oliver, Team Leader – Waste and Contaminated Land on 01257 515737.

Does Travelcare cover Chorley?

Travelcare has a large presence in Chorley but their vehicles cannot be accessed by the general public. In the New Year Travelcare are to start a review of accessible transport in Lancashire to see how they can integrate various Lancashire County Council transport functions and use resources to provide a better service for Lancashire people.

Andrew Gill to give a presentation on the Accessible Transport Review at the Equality Forum at a future meeting.

Does Lancashire County Council regularly assess the accessibility of pavements / footpaths e.g. review the needs for dropped curbs for wheel chair users – particularly in

public spaces. What is the process for this? Are there standards we have to meet? How should people report issues which they come across?

Lancashire County Council has developed a Vulnerable Road User Audit to ensure that any adaptations to the existing highway or areas of new build are designed to improve access for vulnerable road users. Each scheme has to be audited to improve facilities where possible. This includes the provision of dropped kerbs and adequate crossing facilities.

With regard to maintenance of existing facilities, Highway Inspectors monitor footpaths for defects eg cracked pavement flagging and they are corrected from a separate maintenance budget.

Lancashire County Council design to the standards included in the Department for Transport (DfT) document called 'Inclusive Mobility' that can be accessed from the DfT website

To request a dropped curb members of the public can contact the Lancashire County Council call centre on 0845 005311. Traffic engineers in the area offices are responsible for investigating such issues.

Estelle Brown from Chorley Pensioners Association raised the issue about the lack of dropped curbs in Devonshire Road (near Post Office) and Carrington Road.

Sarah Palmer, District Partnership Officer contacted Estelle Brown with Lancashire County Council Highways number 0845 005311, and said that if she experienced any problems to contact Sarah.

At the time the agenda was published no further contact had been made to Sarah Palmer on this issue.

Does Chorley Library have a loop system? If it does how can people who need it ensure that it is available?

Lancashire County Council confirmed that induction loops were in place at:

- Chorley - Lending library counter and meeting room,
- Adlington library,
- Ecclestone library
- Coppull Library.

Euxton library is currently being refurbished and due to open later in the summer. This should have an induction loop included.

Clayton Green was refurbished last autumn. Lancashire County Council Officers are arranging for the induction loop to be re-instated.

The induction loops are available at all times and the hearing aid user just needs to switch their hearing aid to "t" to ensure that they can use the system.

The traffic lights on Park Road and Union Street near the Town Hall do not indicate when it is safe to cross. Could an indicator be added? The changes to the lights have disrupted the routes used by many visually impaired people in the town centre.

Lancashire County Council's Assistant Area Manager for Highways advised the proposed addition would require additional ducting and cables as well as the visible alterations including dropped kerbs, tactile paving and the push buttons on the signal poles. Such an improvement is prohibitively expensive and there are no allocations for this scheme at the present time.

What role does Lancashire County Council play in encouraging schools to provide support to LGBT pupils in schools? What is the policy for reporting inappropriate behaviour aimed at LGBT pupils? There was a concern that these sorts of incidents are not treated in the same way as racist offences. Will this change with the introduction of the Single Equality Framework?

Lancashire County Council's Children and Young People's Education Standards and Inclusion Group have advised that the incoming Single Equality Framework had now been updated by the

Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to encompass the needs of the LGBT children and young people and members of staff.

The DCSF has produced guidance for schools and school leadership around homophobic bullying and this information is available to view or download from the Government's TeacherNet website (see links below)

- Guidance on dealing with Homophobic Bullying
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/doc/11911/HOMOPHOBIC%20BULLYING.pdf>
- Single Equality Framework Update 2009-2010
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/des/docs/SES%20UPDATE%202009-10.pdf>

The LGBT group raised concerns about the absence of any late trains stopping at Chorley, and could the Council influence train providers to improve this?

Train times back from Manchester Victoria at 23:03 arriving into Chorley at 00:01 and 23:16 on a Saturday night. As this is a commercial service, if members of the public feel that they wish to contact Northern Rail to request later trains they are advised to do so directly with evidence of a demand for later trains.

Why has Stagecoach Service 125/126 from Preston to Bolton changed from an accessible bus for disabled and push chairs to one with steps?

This service is operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis and Lancashire County Council has no jurisdiction over the type of vehicles used.

However, Stagecoach do try to provide low floor easy access buses on the 125/126 services at all times. However, if a low floor bus is unavailable due to breakdown or not having a low floor

vehicle available, Stagecoach would substitute it with a step-entry vehicle, rather than not operate the journey at all.

Stagecoach are expecting a brand new fleet of buses for the 125/126 services in the next two to three months, which will help them achieve a better low floor spare vehicle availability ratio, than they have now.

Why does Stagecoach no longer operated its number 16 bus service round Greenside due to it being a narrow road but continued to operate its service down Cedar Avenue which has an equally narrow road.

Stagecoach stopped the number 16 bus servicing Greenside in May 2007. Stagecoach took the decision to stop the service operating on Greenside due to some residents parking their cars badly preventing the bus from operating on time. On a number of occasions drivers of Stagecoach's vehicles have had to ask residents to move their cars as the vehicle had been unable to pass.

If residents wanted the service reinstate they should contact Stagecoach direct. If the service is reinstated it would be on a trial basis.

Can you consider offering free swimming for people with long term health conditions/disability?

At the moment in line with Council's nationally Chorley provides free swimming to anyone aged 60 and over or 16 years and under. The Council will have to review the offer of free swimming shortly and this proposal will be considered as part of the review.

The Council may be able to arrange 6 free swimming session on request for groups of 6 or more for groups represented on the Equality Forum including those with disabilities. More information can be found on the Council's web site www.chorley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3185