



Equality Forum

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Monday, 16th January 2012

In the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm

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Dear Councillor

05 January 2012

EQUALITY FORUM - MONDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2012

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Equality Forum to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Monday, 16th January 2012 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 - 18)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2011 and 5 October 2011 and be signed by the Chair (enclosed).

4. **Active Women Project**

Lee Boyer, Sport, Play & Physical Activity Manager for Chorley Council will present this item.

What is the purpose of this item?

To inform the Equality Forum and the wider public on the project, the aims and the rationale behind it as well and how it is unique as part of a national project.

Questions for the Forum?

There are no specific questions but welcome comments and ideas / links on how the project can develop further.

What are we going to do with the information?

The information presented will inform the Equality Forum of the potential and the scope, especially for young women along with making the Equality Forum understand the project at a national and local level.

Lee Boyer can be contacted on 01257 515816 or email lee.boyer@chorley.gov.uk.

5. **Handyman Service**

Martin Sample, Housing Team Leader (Private Sector) for Chorley Council will give a presentation on the Handyperson Service.

What is the purpose of this item?

The main aim is to raise awareness amongst the Equality Forum of the existence of the Handyperson service, in order to help to promote it more effectively and to encourage take-up.

Questions for the Forum?

There are no specific questions but would encourage the Equality Forum to give their suggestions as to how to reach the target audience (ie those who are over 60 or disabled, living in owner-occupied or privately rented accommodation)

What are we going to do with the information?

The information provide at the meeting, along with the anticipated feedback received from the Equality Forum members, will help to target the Council's promotional activities regarding the handyperson service more effectively.

Martin Sample can be contacted on 01257 515704 or email martin.sample@chorley.gov.uk

6. **New Task and Finish Review**

Sarah James, Partnerships Manager for Chorley Council will present this item.

What is the purpose of this item?

At the last Equality Forum, the Forum were asked for topics for a task and finish review. This agenda item will present those ideas and a scope for taking forward the most popular idea.

Questions for the Forum?

Does the scope cover everything within this topic or is there anything additional we should cover? Would anyone from the forum like to volunteer to be involved?

What are we going to do with the information?

A task and finish group will be established to consider this topic and report back on their findings and recommendations to the Equality Forum in July.

Sarah James can be contacted on 01257 515348 or email sarah.james@chorley.gov.

7. **Open Forum to discuss any issues for each equality strand**

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Gender Reassignment
- d) Pregnancy and Maternity
- e) Race
- f) Religion and Belief
- g) Rurality
- h) Sex
- i) Sexual Orientation

8. **Notices / Feedback / Publicity**

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**

10. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Equality Forum will be held on 12 April 2012 at 6.30pm in the Lancastrian Room, Town Hall, Chorley.

11. **Networking break**

Yours sincerely



Gary Hall
Chief Executive

Cathryn Filbin
Democratic and Member Services Officer
E-mail: cathryn.filbin@chorley.gov.uk
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Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Equality Forum Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Alison Hansford, Catherine Hoyle, Hasina Khan and Steve Murfitt for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Sarah James (Partnerships Manager), Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Val Hall (BSL Interpreter),

Tracy Gibson (BSL Interpreter), Gary Hall (Chief Executive) and Catherine Moxon (BSL Interpreter) 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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Equality Forum

Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Hasina Khan and Steve Murfitt

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Sarah James (Partnerships Manager) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Partner officers: Inspector Alison Barff-Lewis (Lancashire Police), Heather Corson (Chorley/South Ribble Borough Council) and Stephanie Iaconianni (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Also in attendance: Eileen Bee (Disability Forum Co-ordinator), David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Estelle Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Jean Cronshaw (Clayton Brook Together), Brian Curwen (Walking for health), Yvonne Curwen (Walking for health), Judy Daniels (Disability Forum), Paige Hall (Chorley Youth Council), Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Albert Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Emma Johnson (Young Peoples Services), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Maureen Kay (Deaf Forum), Ronnie Kay (Deaf Forum), Richard McCumskay (Chorley Youth Council), Geraldine Moore (Age UK Lancashire), Barry Moss, Terence Reynolds, Reverend E Saville (Diocesan Race Relations and Cohesion Officer), Geoff Smith (Lancashire MIND), Jeannie Stirling (Home-Start) and Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council)

11.EF.01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those on the top table to introduce themselves. Attendees were reminded to introduce themselves, state the organisation they represent, if applicable, and to use the microphone when addressing the meeting.

11.EF.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies form absence were received from Councillor Alison Hansford, Councillor Catherine Hoyle, Alan Capstick

(Lancashire County Council), Mr Desi (Racial Equality Council), Rev Tim Wilby (Churches Together), Diane Gradwell (Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Citizens Advice Bureau) and David Naden (Linkability).

11.EF.03 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11.EF.04 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY CONSULTATION - THE FRONT COUNTER AND ESTATES ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Inspector Alison Barff-Lewis attend the Forum to inform its members that following a review Lancashire Constabulary and the Police Authority were consulting interested parties on the recommendations to close some front counters within police stations across the County.

Members of the Forum were advised that Lancashire Police had to find £42 million of savings over the next four years. Over £38 million of savings had already been agreed. As a result, 800 posts would be lost, two thirds of these would be police officers and one third police staff, mostly from back office or support functions. The reduction in posts would be managed mainly through voluntary redundancies, ill health, early retirement and non recruitment.

They were now looking closely at police premises and in particular whether to close some of the less frequently visited front counters and police buildings. The review which had been undertaken was based on the footfall of these counters, which found that 81% of the total footfall of visitors across the county catered for by 17 of the front counters. The remaining 21 were dealing with 19% of the overall footfall and were therefore recommended for closure.

A consultation on the proposed recommendations was launched on 1 July which would run for 12 weeks, after which a final decisions would be taken.

In response to concerns raised, Inspector Barff-Lewis reassured members of the Forum that through its review, it was found that a number of police premises identified for possible closure were not open to the public, and many of those premises that were currently open to the public had their cells decommissioned some time ago. Presently a custody suite in Leyland was operational, however, this had also been identified in the review for possible closure. If the Leyland premises closed those in custody would have to be transported to Preston or Skelmersdale. Members of the Forum were reassured that prisoner transport would also be considered as part of the review.

In response to concern raised by members of the Forum, Inspector Barff-Lewis reassured members that there were numerous methods for someone to contact the police in place already (other than at the police stations) and that these would remain the same, and that the Emergency SMS” (E-SMS) project, was an update of type talk that allowed people who were deaf or had hearing impairment to report emergency incident.

Inspector Barff-Lewis advised that every department, process and procedure would be considered as part of the review to ensure sure a more business like approach. At the moment crime and anti-social behaviour in this area was on the decrease, however, should this trend reverse procedures would be put in place to address the increase.

Councillor Murfitt stated that the reduction in workforce would mean increased work loads, pressure and a reduced work life balance.

Inspector Alison Barff Lewis can be contacted on Alison.Barff-Lewis@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.

Should you require to recall someone using Type Talk (facility to assist the deaf/hard of hearing) ring 0800 731 1888 and an operator will assist or email – Lancashirepolice@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

11.EF.05 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Chair introduced an additional agenda item at this point and invited Phil Davies, Chorley Council’s Electoral Registration

Manager to inform Forum members of the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, which was a formal review that needed to be completed every four years.

As part of the official review the Council were undertaking a consultation exercise inviting local political parties, Members of the Council, MP's and electors within the borough of Chorley as well as such persons as may have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

The review will commence on the 18 July 2011 and end on 12 September 2011.

Although the review was of polling districts and polling places it was accepted that polling stations are inexorably linked to the review and comments are invited for those stations currently used and any suggested alternatives.

Councillor Murfitt had stated that the community should have a wide variety of methods to cast their vote.

Information about the current polling districts and places will be available at the Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley; from Phil Davies or alternatively from the Council's web site at <http://www.chorley.gov.uk/pollingstations> from the 18 July 2011.

Representations should be sent in writing to the Acting Returning Officer at the very latest by 18 August 2011.

Phil Davies can be contacted by email phil.davies@chorley.gov.uk.

11.EF.06 ONE BIG VOICE CONSULTATION FEEDBACK - CHORLEY YOUTH COUNCIL

Members of the Chorley Youth Council attended the Forum to present their findings of the 'One Big Chorley Voice' consultation which had been commissioned by Chorley Children's Trust Board. The consultation took place over three months from February to April 2011. The purpose of the consultation was to give the young people in Chorley an opportunity to say what was important to them.

A total of 1197 young people took part in the consultation, which included young people from POUT (LGBT YPS Youth Project), Shaftesbury House and the Prince's Trust Group, the Young People with Offending Behaviour Lancashire Attendance Centre, Young People in Care Focus Group, Travelling Community Focus Group, Young Homeless Focus Groups (The Bridge and Cotswold House), Young Mum's Focus Group and Young Carers Focus Group.

The young people were asked a number of questions relating to:

- the most important things in their lives
- personal appearance/eating/weight/being healthy
- their dream job and what support would they would need to get it
- safety
- what would make their area better for young people
- Volunteering

Young people from the Youth Council submitted the results for the consultation to the Children's Trust for them to consider and it had been agreed that they would meet with them to discuss the findings further and the actions that would be taken by the Children's Trust in response.

A summary report of priorities identified by the young people had been produced and would be circulated with the minutes. The report also contained facts, figures, ideas and suggestions that young people have made to help shape their local area in the future.

To contact Chorley Youth Council please contact Emma Johnson on emma.johnson2@lancashire.gov.uk.

11.EF.07 CHORLEY VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR (VCFS) FORUM

As requested at the last meeting, Geraldine Moore gave a presentation on the development of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) Forum.

Following a review of Chorley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and its thematic groups the VCFS was formed. The purpose of

the VCFS forum was to provide a forum for all voluntary, community and faith sector organisations in Chorley, enabling them to share information, good practice and work together for the benefit of Chorley's communities. It would seek to influence other sectors and become a single point of access for those engaging in the local area.

A consortium of 3rd Sector organisations (which included Age UK, CAB, Faith Sector, Rotary and Home Start), were awarded £9, 000 of LSP money, as a one off amount of funding to do the work, subject to monthly monitoring.

The aim of the VCFS was to develop a network that was owned and run by the sector. A Committee had been set up and the first two meeting had been scheduled for 19 July and 12 September both at St Joseph's Church Hall, Harpers Lane, Chorley. Membership was open to all VCFS organisations.

In response to questions raised by Members of the Forum, Geraldine advised if any member of the Forum wanted to attend but had special requirements such as transport issues are required the need of an interpreter, to contact either Geraldine or Sarah Boocock to make arrangement.

If you are interested in attending the meetings contact Sarah Boocock at Chorley Citizens Advice Bureau, 35-39 Market Street, Chorley or email finance@chorleycab.cabnet.org.uk.

Geraldine Moore can be contacted on tel: (01257) 479006 or email gmoore@ageconcernlancs.org.uk.

11.EF.08 TASK AND FINISH GROUP - SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS

Members of the Forum were invited to suggest future topics they would like to consider as part of a task and finish group. Past task and finish groups included the Chorley Town Centre Accessibility and Rurality.

A review of topics would be completed before the next Equality Forum meeting, with a view of choosing a topic and creating a group at the October meeting.

Sarah James can be contacted on 01257 515348 or email sarah.james@chorley.gov.uk.

11.EF.09 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND**(a) Age**

- Geraldine Moore asked that in light of recent Government cuts, that older people issues were not disproportionately affected in Chorley. Although older people's services for Chorley were predominately provided by Lancashire County Council, Geraldine urged the Council to prioritise its older people's issues.
- Estelle Brown reported the difficulties she had experienced as an older person with a disability which included a reduction in care provision, rising costs for services rising and asked for reassurance that she would not become more worse off.

Geraldine Moore advised that Lancashire County Council were holding a Stakeholder Visioning Event on 27 July at County Hall, Preston, and that it was important the Estelle's views were fed back.

- Marel Urry suggested a task and finish group to look at social isolation, and look at ways to provide information on voluntary services and activities available in the borough for people to meet new friends.
- Albert Jeffery advised that there was a Chorley deaf club every Tuesday.
- In response to a comment made the Chair advised that most funding and issues related to older people were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council and that the comments raised at the meeting would be reported to them.

(b) Disability

- Eileen Bee was concerned that the whole of the Equality Act may be potentially scrapped as it was one of the Act's identified on the Government's red tape challenge website, the purpose of which was to give suggestions of legislations and regulations thought unnecessary. Sarah

James reassured the Forum that the Council had implemented the general duty of the Equality Act 2010 and would still abide by the Act until told otherwise.

- Barry Moss raised concern that the disabled swing replaced on Devonshire Road was not appropriate for wheelchair users. Chris Sinnott understood that the swing was to be a like for like replacements and that he would contact the relevant officers for information.
- Judy Daniels asked for an update on the enforcement powers relating to A boards and street cafes. Chris Sinnott advised that Lancashire County Council's statutory powers for enforcements could not be easily transferred and that the County Council had to delegate their powers to the Council which was not a simple process. However, the Council would continue to work with the County Council on this issue. The Chair assured the Forum that officers would put pressure on to the County Council to speed up the process.

(c) Gender Reassignment

No issues were raised.

(d) Pregnancy and Maternity

No issues were raised.

(e) Race

No issues were raised.

(f) Religion and Belief

No issues were raised.

(g) Rurality

Marel Urry enquired as to what was happening to the library services offered in rural communities following a cut in the number of hours the trailer library service operated which had been reduced from 12 hours on a weekly service to 3½ hours on a fortnightly services.

(h) Sex

No issues were raised.

(i) Sexual Orientation

No issues were raised.

11.EF.10 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

- Ed Saville was looking for 100 to 200 volunteers (including families) from all of the equality strands to take part in an emergency exercise scenario on 25 September 2011 from 2.30pm until 5.00pm. To be registered for the event contact Ed Saville on 01254 503275 or email ed.saville@blackburn.anglican.org by no later than 10 August 2011.

At the Chairs request, officers of the Council to publish this event wider than this Forum meeting.

- Eileen Bee announced that the annual REACH Disability Awareness week would be in August. Notable dates included:
 - a) 11 August – ‘Disability in the Age of Austerity’ was a full day conference being held in Leyland, and open to residents in both the Chorley and South Ribble areas.
 - b) 12 August – ‘Information Day’ will be held in Chorley Town Centre. A few stalls were available and could be booked by contacting Eileen Bee on 01772 518000 or email csr@disabilityforum.freeserve.co.uk.
- Jeannie Stirling advised that Home-Start had moved premises to 112A Market Street, Chorley. The new premises offered meeting rooms which were available for hire and office space available to rent.
- Yvonne Curewen expressed her disappointment that the Chorley Smile magazine for this quarter had not been published on time, and that the events scheduled at the beginning of July would not have been adequately publicised. Chris Sinnott apologised for the delay which had been unavoidable and but confirmed that the magazine would be available on 6 July.

- A leaflet was circulated to anyone wishing to join the Chorley Older People's Forum. The Chair asked that a copy of the leaflet to be circulated with the minutes.
- Councillor Murfitt would like to encourage more members of the different equality stands to attend the meeting.

11.EF.11 NETWORKING BREAK

At the conclusion of the meeting, Forum members were encouraged to take part in the networking session.

Chair

**Equality Forum
5 July 2011
Q&A**

- 1. Geraldine Moore email: gmoore@ageuklancas.org.uk asked – what will happen to many current users of day support who find the costs too high – transport, lunches etc? Many older/disabled people are very fearful that services such as Fosterfields will no longer be available and loneliness and isolation will increase.**

Response received from Lancashire County Council is as follows:

I appreciate your concern at the impact of the new charging policy and the difficulties faced when charges are increased, particularly for people on fixed incomes. We consulted as widely as we could about the need to increase charges. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of service users and other affected parties, it was available online on the county council website and four well attended public meetings were held across Lancashire. The recipients of the questionnaires represented a cross section of our service users. They were older people; adults of working age with different needs; those who are not required to pay charges; those whose charge is based on their weekly income and those who are required to pay the maximum charge.

Lancashire County Council must reduce its spending by almost £180 million over the next three years. The county council must balance the needs of many different vulnerable groups, including older people, adults with learning difficulties, children at risk of abuse, people at risk of rural isolation and vulnerable road users to name but a few. This is why some 53% of the savings needed in 2011/12 will be made by efficiencies through different ways of working, reducing management costs, reducing bureaucracy and increasing charges. Over the next three years almost half of the savings needed will be met from these sources.

In the area of adult social care, the county council had to actively consider a number of actions, including raising the charges people are asked to pay for services. The reality is we cannot afford to deliver the services in the same way and to the same level as we have in the past. We believe that we need to target our resources

effectively towards the most vulnerable people and that people who use our services should contribute towards them, if they can afford to. In particular, the county council has heavily subsidised day care services for a number of years, and to a much greater extent than other social care services. For example under the previous charging policy the standard price paid by the county council to care agencies for home care was £11.96 per hour and the charge levied on users of the service was £11 per hour, whereas the price paid to agencies for the provision of day care was £30.75 per session and the charge levied on users was a maximum of £5.

I realise that some service users may choose to no longer attend day centres rather than pay the increased charges. To mitigate this, the county council is limiting the increase in charges anyone is asked to pay in 2011/12. We also offer a financial reassessment if needed to make sure that people can afford to meet the charge being levied and are claiming all state benefits to which they are entitled. Additionally, service users contacting the county council with a view to cancelling services are offered advice on alternative options available to them. My officers are closely monitoring the number of cancellations and the impact on providers of day care services.

We recognise that these changes may produce significant increases for some existing service users particularly those who have advised that they have savings of over £23,250. If a person feels that their financial circumstances have changed, a further financial assessment can be carried out, to ensure that liability for charges has been correctly assessed. In particular if a person's savings are less than £23,250 then they may not be required to meet the full cost of the service.

I hope that you now understand better the position we are in and why we need to change how we charge for services. However if you still have any concerns at all please contact the Finance Team on 01772 531149. Additional information can also be accessed on our website -www.lancashire.gov.uk under Changes to Adult Social Care.

We are monitoring the impact of the changes to our services. People may contact us by e-mailing: Changestomycare@lancashire.gov.uk

We deliberately opted for an email address as our main communications channel for feedback because from past experience, many service users and their families (who often reply on their relatives' behalf) do find it easy and accessible to use.

Alternatively, people can write to:

Changes to my Care
Room 228
East Cliff
Lancashire County Council
Preston
PR1 3EA

2. **Yvonne Curwen email: yvonnecurwen@btopenworld.com asked: What was happening to Astley Hall Farmhouse (CVS building)?**

Response from Chorley Council is as follows:

We are in the process of undertaking some market testing to look at alternative uses for the farmhouse. We expect this to be completed in the next 6 months. We are considering options that will generate income and complement the offer of the other facilities such as Cafe Ambio and Astley Hall – examples would include a farm shop or a garden centre.

3. **Marel Urry email: marel.urry@tesco.net asked about Lancashire County Council Library service – trailer/mobile library service to rural areas. After a period of consultation 2009-2010, the trailer library service was replaced by a mobile library van operating a reduced service from 1 July 2010. Rural areas such as Brindle, Hoghton, Bretherton and Croston went from a weekly 12 hour shared service to 3 hours fortnightly – despite a high number of service users. This worked well until April/May when Easter holidays/public holidays etc took 3 weeks out of the provision. In June the van came to Gregson Lane on only one Friday. The Library Service rang regular users to individually tell them the van could not be in service on 17 June. On 1 July (the next visit) users were told the next visit would be 29 July provisionally – another 4 week gap. The reason given was that the routes and provisions was being reconsidered as fewer people were using the service. This is**

not surprising as we have only had 1/3 of the promised provision. Many users are giving up as the mobile library had been cancelled at such short notice that they mistakenly believe the service had been withdrawn through poor communication. Please could you enquire what are the long term plans for the mobile library provisions for the rural areas?

Could you also let the Equality Forum know what the are the current levels of provisions – and cuts to the Lancashire Library Services and Chorley Borough Library for all age, social, rural and community groups. I know this is a big ask, but from really readers to silver surfer classes many of the excellent provisions of the Library Service seem to be disappearing. Those living in the rural/remote areas or with physical or social needs seem to be particularly hardest hit as are many disadvantaged groups under our equality strands.

Response received from Lancashire County Council is as follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the position about the mobile library service. If it is still primarily the ex-Trailer sites that you are interested in, the position remains unchanged and there is little new to add, though the bullet points below provide you with an update on the overall picture following the implementation of the Mobile Library Review:

- The Mobile Library Review was implemented earlier than originally anticipated, with the old routes going out for the last time in the weeks leading up to the 1 July and the new routes starting on Monday 18 July.
- All existing stops with regular customers are still receiving a service, though the day and times of operation have probably changed.
- Requests for new stops have been accommodated where possible.
- The route network is now operated by nine vehicles rather than eleven as the routes have all been redrawn to operate in the most efficient manner possible and stop durations have been reviewed to reflect the level of business at each.
- Because of a misunderstanding, there were some problems in the south of the County in notifying customers of the day and time of their next call when the new routes came into operation. These have now all been resolved.

- The three ex-Trailer stops are continuing exactly as before, with service provided for half a day per fortnight at the same times as previously. The Croston times had already altered to make this a morning rather than an afternoon stop. Anecdotal evidence from the mobile library staff suggests that this remains the quietest of the three stops.
- The location of the Croston stop has been changed from the ex-Trailer site to the car park of the Lord Nelson pub, thanks to the co-operation of the licensee. This is adjacent to the old stop, but may be slightly more visible from Town Road, which could attract extra customers. No-one should be inconvenienced by this change.
- The new routes will be reviewed after six months of operation. This is not with the intention of making further major changes – merely tidying up what we have already done and changing anything which has proved problematic operationally.
- At the moment there are no plans for any further review of mobile services. I suspect this means that the routes will effectively continue on the current basis until at least March 2013. I cannot, however, absolutely guarantee this as so much is dependent on the County Council's financial position.

I hope that this helps. Basically customers at Croston, Gregson Lane and Banks should be receiving a service almost exactly as before.

4. Judith Daniels asked “What is the latest position on town centre A Boards obstructing pavements?”

A review of highways issues in the borough has recently been completed by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny committee. This highlighted issues around the use of advertising boards and overhanging vegetation that cause obstructions. The Executive cabinet have now asked officers to continue to make arrangements to transfer enforcement powers from Lancashire County Council to Chorley Council. Chorley Council is also continuing to work with town centre traders to ensure they are aware of the problems that 'A' boards can cause visitors.

5. Please can you provide an update on the provision of wheelchair swings? Barry Moss

The swing which was suitable for wheelchairs and used to be located at Coronation recreation ground was removed after it was damaged. It has been replaced by a basket swing, which is suitable for wheelchair users but does not attach the wheelchair to the swing itself.

The decision to not replace the original swing on a like-for-like basis was taken because advice was that the wheelchair specific swings were more suited for more controlled environments (such as schools), as any misuse or damage to the equipment can result in serious injuries. In addition, the basket swing allows all children to play together on the same equipment.

Unfortunately, the newly installed basket swing has been vandalised, and is awaiting refurbishment following the damage.

If Mr Moss would like to meet relevant officers to discuss the provision of play equipment, we would be happy to arrange.

Equality Forum

Wednesday, 5 October 2011

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Hasina Khan and Steve Murfitt

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Sarah James (Partnerships Manager) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Partner officers: Peter Cogley (Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service), Jeanette Hickey (Lancashire Constabulary) and Stephanie Iaconianni (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Also in attendance: Eileen Bee (Disability Forum Co-ordinator), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Barry Moss, Marilyn Porter (Crossroads) and Geoff Smith (Lancashire MIND)

11.EF.12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Due to the low attendance, and following a short discussion and agreement with members of the Equality Forum present, the Chair deviated from the formal agenda, announcing that the presentations listed on the agenda would be heard at a future meeting. The Chair then invited members of the Equality Forum to raise any questions:

- **Geoff Smith queried where the location of the new psychiatric hospital would be located as the original location had been rescinded.**

The Council has since received a response from Clive Taylor from Lancashire Care Trust who advised that there was an understanding that a new psychiatric hospital would be built in Central Lancashire, the location for which was not yet known.

11.EF.13 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

Jeannie Stirling advised that the next meeting of the Chorley Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Forum (VCFS) would take place on Tuesday, 29 November at 4pm at St Mary's Church, Chorley. Anyone wishing to attend would be most welcome.

Chair