

CHORLEY LIAISON

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2019, 6.30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY

****Please note – as requested at the last meeting there is a session on the Central Lancashire Local Plan prior to this meeting at 5.45pm in the Council Chamber.**

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1 **WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

2 **MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2018 OF CHORLEY LIAISON**

(Pages 5 - 8)

3 **ITEM REQUESTED AT THE LAST MEETING - DISCUSSION WITH JANINE BLYTHE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INSPIRE YOUTH ZONE, CHORLEY**

At the last meeting it was requested that Janine be invited to attend the meeting to give an update on the work of the Youth Zone since it opened in May 2018, with reference to engaging young people in the Parishes and transport issues.

4 **ITEM REQUESTED AT THE LAST MEETING - DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF INSPECTOR GARY CROWE, LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY**

At the last meeting it was requested that a representative from the Police be invited to attend the meeting to discuss issues, including speeding in rural areas and support in tackling drug use in play areas (Bretherton), the plan to resolve issues with travelling football fans, an update on neighbourhood policing and changes to the call handling centre.

5 **ITEM FROM ANDERTON PARISH COUNCIL - ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH CHORLEY COUNCIL**

Recently the parish council has had need to contact Chorley Council with a simple question regarding a land use planning matter. For this our parish clerk submitted the question electronically. The initial (presumably?) automated email responses from Chorley Council have proved to be very confusing and seem to reflect more the administrative process rather than the matter at hand.

The parish council is fully supportive of electronic communication means but does question if other parishes experience the same level of confusion. We would like to request that the borough council reviews the format of its electronic communications in order to simplify and remove extraneous content and to make the replies more meaningful to the user.

A response will be provided at the meeting.

6 **ITEM REQUESTED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL - TRANSPORT TO THE YOUTH ZONE**

To discuss support for the provision of transport to enable young residents from rural areas to access the Chorley Youth Zone.

It is suggested that this issue is discussed as part of item 3: Discussion with Janine Blythe, Chief Executive, Inspire Youth Zone.

7 **ITEM REQUESTED BY CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL - CONTROL OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS)**

(Pages 9 - 14)

The Parish Council have requested a follow up item on this issue, which was discussed in July 2018.

A report was considered by Executive Cabinet in November 2018 and this is enclosed for information. Lindsey Blackstock, Open Space Strategy Officer, will attend to answer any queries.

8 **ITEM REQUESTED BY CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL - DISCUSSION ITEM**

The Croston Branch of the RBS closes in January and, following the approval of application 18/00906/FUL, the ATM outside the bank is also to be removed.

The Parish Council would like to include an item to discuss whether anyone attending or connected to the Liaison has any suggestions as to whether any alternative arrangements might be organised.

9 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON AND THE PUBLIC**

In order to allow members of the Liaison and members of the public to raise issues of local concern, a period of 20 minutes has been set aside.

A member of the public may speak for no more than 3 minutes. Members of the public are not required to give notice of the issue they intend to raise, although it is expected in the case of service issues that the appropriate mechanisms for resolving the issue have been explored.

Where a question is raised which cannot be answered at the meeting, a record will be kept by officers supporting the meeting and it will be responded to via the appropriate mechanism.

10 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

(Pages 15 - 16)

A schedule setting out deadlines for items to be requested on the agenda for the Chorley Liaison and dates for future meetings is enclosed.

11 **ANY URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIR**

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Chorley Liaison.

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MINUTES OF CHORLEY LIAISON

MEETING DATE Wednesday, 17 October 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, LCC) (Chair),
Lancashire County Councillors: Julia Berry (Chorley South Division, LCC),
Chorley Borough Councillors (Chairs of Neighbourhood Area Meetings): Doreen Dickinson (Western Parishes), Danny Gee (Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw), Alan Whittaker (Southern Parishes) and Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town)
Town and Parish Councillors: Timothy Summers (Adlington), Ian Horsfield (Anderton), Helen Drinkall (Clerk to Anglezarke), Gwyneth Lloyd (Bretherton), Karen Wait (Bretherton), Alan Cornwell (Charnock Richard), Anne Peet (Croston), Katrina Reed (Euxton), Graham Ashworth (Heath Charnock), Christine Bailey (Clerk to Heath Charnock), Marel Urry (Hoghton), Terry Dickenson (Wheilton / Chorley Sports Forum) and Colin Evans (Whittle-Le-Woods)

OFFICERS: Chris Sinnott (Director (Early Intervention and Support)), Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Carol Gore (Planning Obligations Officer), Jen Parker (Planning Obligations Assistant) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

APOLOGIES: Lancashire County Councillors: Aidy Riggott (Euxton, Buckshaw & Astley Division, Lancashire County Council)
Chorley Borough Councillors: Gordon France (Eastern Parishes) Town and Parish Councillors: Nicola Smith (Anderton Parish Councillor) and Louise Parkin (Anglezarke Parish Councillor)

17.25 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair, Councillor Kim Snape, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17.26 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 18 July 2018 of Chorley Liaison

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was noted that a training session is available to all Town and Parish Councils on Monday, 12 November from 6pm on the Central Lancashire Local Plan review. A session will also be held prior to the next meeting on Wednesday, 16 January 2019.



17.27 Electoral Review update

Members of Chorley Liaison received a briefing note which provided information on the electoral review of Chorley Council and the next steps in the process.

On 6 November 2018, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is expected to publish its draft recommendation for the new borough warding arrangements. It also signals the start of a second consultation on those draft recommendations. The publication of draft recommendation will be the first time the LGBCE will detail its preferred warding arrangements for Chorley.

Members of the Liaison were encouraged to participate in the consultation process which runs until 14 January 2019. Even if a parish or town council approved of the draft recommendations it was important that this approval was conveyed to the LGBCE with additional supporting evidence. Otherwise the LGBCE may receive compelling evidence that the recommendation should be changed.

During discussion it was clarified that: -

- The LGBCE was conducting the review including the consultation, and as such all representations should be sent to the LGBCE direct;
- The review was instigated by the LGBCE and not one Chorley Council requested;
- Parish/town council boundaries would not change as part of the electoral review;

The final recommendations will be announced in March 2019; no further consultation will take place. Whole of Council elections will be held on the new warding arrangements in May 2020.

NB: Since the meeting, the LGBCE has informed Chorley Council that the final recommendations will be announced on 26 March 2019 instead of 12 March as detailed in the briefing note.

Decision: That the update be noted.

17.28 CIL portions paid to the Parish Councils

Carol Gore, Planning Obligations Officer, gave a presentation which outlined the requirements of the CIL Regulations.

The Charging Authority (Chorley Council) will pass accumulated funds to the Local Council every six months, and the Local Council are required to report on the receipts and expenditure each year.

Local Councils must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area, or any part of that area, and will decide what infrastructure is needed. The levy is intended to focus on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development.



The meeting considered guidance on how to select projects eligible for CIL and the annual reporting requirements.

Members noted that a higher CIL portion would be available to local Councils if they had a Neighbourhood Plan in place. The Plan requires a referendum and the involvement of local residents.

There is the potential to join together with other local Councils and Chorley Councils on a CIL project, in particular the Neighbourhood Area projects. In areas where there is no local Council the Neighbourhood Area Meeting determines the relevant CIL spend.

Decision: That the update be noted.

17.29 Electronic Weekly List/ Digital Services

Chris Sinnott, Director (Early Intervention and Support), advised that due to budget constraints and the Council's drive to online services as a preferred method to view information and request service Parish Clerks will receive a letter and questionnaire to help the Council understand how Parish Councils currently view Planning information.

The Council will continue to offer Parish Council's assistance with broadband installation, training in digital skills, extended electronic circulation of the weekly list and equipment loans to assist with the migration to digital services.

Members raised issues relating to a lack of printing facilities, in particular A3 and issues with broadband provision. Anderton Parish Council are no longer receiving the weekly list electronically - this will be investigated.

Decision: That the update be noted.

17.30 Item requested by Heath Charnock Parish Council

The meeting noted that CC Keith Iddon has advised that Lancashire will not be hosting the Ironman UK event next year. Members were pleased with this outcome.

17.31 Items requested by Bretherton Parish Council

Gwyneth Lloyd, Bretherton Parish Council, reported issues with drug use around a play area in the village.

Members noted the difficulties faced by the Police with resources and noted the importance of reporting any issues to the Police to enable them to map any trends. The involvement of the Youth Zone in engaging young people and reducing anti-social behaviour was discussed and the potential to invite a representative of the Youth Zone to a future meeting.

Decision: That the Democratic Services Officer write to the Police, outline the issues raised and request that a representative attend the next meeting.



Gwyneth Lloyd raised an issue in relation to speeding in the village, which has been compounded as the local school no longer has a crossing person. The school children have given a presentation to the Parish Council and the information within it has been provided to LCC and the Police.

Members suggested this issue as a future Neighbourhood Area project, potentially to request that the road be reduced to a 20mph speed limit and to continue to lobby CC Keith Iddon. It was noted that the bend by the school makes the use of speed traps difficult.

Decision: That the issues be noted and discussed with the Police at the next meeting.

17.32 Questions from Members of the Liaison and the public

Terry Dickenson, Wheelton Parish Council, queried if any venues were available to hire for two evenings. Anne Peet, Croston Parish Council, indicated she could assist with the query.

17.33 Items for Future Meetings

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader, noted that Lancashire Constabulary are trialing the use of control room operatives specifically by area. The use of community volunteers was also raised. It would be useful for the representative from Lancashire Constabulary to cover this during the discussions at the next meeting.

Chair

Date



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Business Development and Growth (Introduced by the Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Cabinet	15 November 2018

CONTROL OF INVASIVE NON NATIVE SPECIES IN THE BOROUGH OF CHORLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide information about the control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the Borough of Chorley

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The report to be noted
- To note that Council has a history of supporting collaborative funding bids with key partners in order to control INNS across the Borough and that small amounts of match funding may be required on a case by case basis for future, collaborative activity focusing on Council land and public open spaces.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The majority of Invasive non-native species are found along river corridors, for example Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Mink. Others are in wooded valleys, such as Rhododendron; and Japanese Knotweed can invade anywhere.
- The Borough of Chorley lies entirely within the catchment of the River Ribble and the sub-catchments of the Rivers Darwen and Douglas, the latter including the Yarrow and its sub-catchment, the Lostock. The majority of the Borough drains into the Douglas, but an area stretching from Wheelton Moor to Withnell/Abbey Village, to Hoghton and Brindle, drains into the Darwen.
- In terms of River Catchment Partnerships, Chorley lies within the Douglas Catchment Partnership (No. 20 of 100 in England), administered by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside from Wigan. Chorley Council site on the Partnership and play a key role in the Action Plan delivery.
- The control of INNS can only be a success if carried out through a collaborative partnership approach amongst all council directorates, landowners and the community throughout the whole catchment. A great deal of work has already taken place throughout the Borough over many years to control INNS and this is proposed to continue.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason	1, a change in service	2, a contract worth £100,000
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Please bold as appropriate	provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- 8. To be noted

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 9. To not control INNS and allow the spread of them across the Borough.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	*	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	*	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	*

BACKGROUND

- 11. In 2011 The Conservation Volunteers (TCV, formerly BTCV) secured £50,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a three-year pilot project in the Yarrow catchment to trial different ways of controlling Himalayan Balsam (bashing, hoeing, pulling, scything, strimming and using herbicide). Between 2011 and 2013, the project delivered 151 balsam clearing days involving 1,185 person-days on sites in and around Astley Park, Duxbury Woods, Healey Nab, Rivington Reservoirs and Yarrow Valley Country Park. The project also delivered LANTRA accredited brushcutter/trimmer training to 30 volunteers.
- 12. In 2012 Lancashire Wildlife Trust undertook some field work using volunteers to map the upper limit of Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed in the catchment of the Douglas.
- 13. In 2012 Lancashire Wildlife Trust was commissioned by the Environment Agency to produce a feasibility report for controlling Invasive Non Native Species on the Rivers Douglas, Wyre, and Lune. The report was published in May 2013.
- 14. In 2014 Lancashire Wildlife Trust applied to the Veolia Environmental Trust for £35,450 to cover a two-year project controlling Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron at priority sites with landowner consent in the Yarrow catchment. The bid was successful and match funding was provided by the Environment Agency (£12K) and Chorley Borough Council (£4K). Between May 2016 and February 2018, the project delivered 116 balsam clearing days involving 303 volunteers controlling INNS on Biological Heritage Sites including Astley Park woodlands, Clay 'Ole, Copperworks Wood, Cuerden Valley Park, Duxbury Woods, Foxhole Wood (United Utilities), the Leeds Liverpool Canal, Plock Wood, and Yarrow Valley Country Park. The project also delivered NPTC accredited pesticide and stem injection training to 14 staff.
- 15. Sustainable Management of INNS is identified as a project in the Action Plan for the Douglas Catchment Partnership 2016.

16. In February 2018, the government launched a new EU-funded grant, the Water Environment Grant (WEG) for projects that deliver local Water Framework Directive objectives, focussing primarily on in-channel work in rural areas, but can include controlling INNS as well as creating riparian woodland and wetlands. The deadline for bids was May 2018. Grant offers are expected to be made in December 2018 and funding must be spent by March 2020. A bid was submitted for a project on Carr Brook in Whittle/Clayton and this has got through the 1st round.

17. Suggested Action Plan for Himalayan Balsam in Chorley

Himalayan Balsam has spread so widely, and become so prevalent in Chorley, that complete eradication is probably now impossible, unless the rust fungus trial is successful, or another biological control comes along. Hence, unless resources were infinite, the idea of eradicating Himalayan Balsam from river catchments as big as the Darwen, Douglas and/or Yarrow from source to sea isn't going to work and is no longer the right approach. It may, however, still be possible to eradicate balsam from some of the smaller sub-catchments of the River Yarrow, e.g. Eller Brook and the River Tawd, but ongoing vigilance and control would inevitably be required.

Being realistic the answer is to work out which areas are the most valuable and in need of protecting from Himalayan Balsam. Most resources should be directed to sites with active friends of group, or to set up a friends of group and support them in managing balsam on the valuable sites. This has been successful on Lower Burgh Meadows, Carr Brook, Throstle Nest Wood and parts of Astley Park to name a few sites.

18. Suggested Action Plan for Giant Hogweed in Chorley

Giant Hogweed hasn't spread so widely, or become so prevalent in Chorley, that complete eradication is impossible. It has the added Health and Safety issue of its sap producing a photo-chemical reaction that can damage skin permanently.

It is not recommended that private landowners and volunteers deal with Giant Hogweed, but both these groups can play an active role in mapping and/or alerting the council, the Environment Agency, and/or the relevant Catchment Partnership to the presence of Giant Hogweed at sites in, or adjacent to, Chorley Borough. Giant Hogweed should be tackled by trained people working for the council (Chorley and/or Lancashire County Council), Catchment Partnership Project Officers, private contractors (including Lancashire Wildlife Trust's contracts team), government agencies (Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Natural England) and utility companies (e.g. Network Rail and United Utilities).

Giant Hogweed should be comprehensively and systematically eradicated from the Borough and any future infestations controlled ASAP after discovery or notification. Staff working for the councils and government agencies should work with private landowners to treat Giant Hogweed growing on their property. If any landowners are not cooperative, then staff should use their statutory powers to access private land to control Giant Hogweed and charge the costs back to the landowner(s). Chorley Council ranger team are very proactive and eradicate 100s of giant hogweed plants each year.

19. Suggested Action Plan for Japanese Knotweed in Chorley

Japanese Knotweed hasn't spread so widely, or become so prevalent in Chorley, that complete eradication is impossible, however, it is spreading and is much more damaging to property, much more difficult and expensive to treat.

It is not recommended that private landowners and volunteers deal with Japanese Knotweed, but both these groups can play an active role in mapping and/or alerting the council, the Environment Agency, and/or the relevant Catchment Partnership to the presence of

Japanese Knotweed at sites in, or adjacent to, Chorley Borough. Japanese Knotweed should be tackled by trained people working for the council (Chorley and/or Lancashire County Council), Catchment Partnership Project Officers, private contractors (including Lancashire Wildlife Trust's contracts team), government agencies (Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Natural England) and utility companies (e.g. Network Rail and United Utilities).

Staff working for the councils and government agencies should use their statutory powers to access private land to control Japanese Knotweed, which should be comprehensively and systematically eradicated from the Borough and any future infestations controlled ASAP after discovery or notification. The cost of treating Japanese Knotweed should be borne by the landowner.

Chorley Council are very proactive in eradicating knotweed from Council land and have a rota of biannual visits programmed in to both treat and check sites that are known to have had knotweed present.

20. Suggested Action Plan for Rhododendron in Chorley

Rhododendron is mainly a problem in woodlands, where it was deliberately planted in the Victorian era, and more recently, as cover for game, especially Pheasants, but also for its stunning flowers in ornamental parks and gardens. The main issues with Rhododendron are:

1. It being a carrier for the tree disease from North America called sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), which attacks oaks in America, but the two native oaks in England are resistant. However, Larch trees, are susceptible and infected trees, and carriers such as Rhododendron, have to be felled if a plant health disease order is issued, e.g. as occurred at Rivington Terraced Gardens and in Astley Park.
2. Detrimental impacts on ancient woodland* flora, fauna and fungi as a result of its shade, acidification and poisoning of the ground.

However, Rhododendron is also spreading onto moorland in Lancashire, including the West Pennine Moors, some 7,615 hectares of which has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are an estimated 230 hectares of ancient woodland in the Borough of Chorley.

It is recommended that Rhododendron is controlled, ideally removed, from ancient woodland* in the Borough of Chorley and from within, or adjacent to, the West Pennine Moors SSSI. Woodland management grants are available from the Forestry Commission to landowners who have registered their landholding(s) with the Rural Payments Agency, which can fund the removal of Rhododendron.

Chorley Council with the help of volunteers have removed rhododendron from within Astley Park, Duxbury Woods and Plock Wood. This is an ongoing process.

* Ancient woodland in Britain is defined as having been continuously wooded since at least AD1600. This date is used because the first accurate maps were being produced and it wasn't until the 1700's that people really started planting trees, often introduced species, on a large-scale. Much of our ancient woodland is derived from the original woodland cover that recolonised Britain after the retreat of the last ice age some 10,000 years ago.

21. Controlling INNS should be a standard condition attached to all planning consents and built into ongoing landscaping and maintenance or management contracts. It should also be a condition that projects receiving funding from the Council should control any of the major INNS on the site(s).

Timetable showing optimum time for treatment

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
INNS												
Hogweed												
Japanese Knotweed												
Himalyan Balsam												
Rhododendron												

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

22. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area	*	Policy and Communications	

RISK

A risk register has been completed	Yes	No
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COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

23. Future match funding from Chorley Council for external funding is not envisaged to be more than £5k at a time and as such can be managed within existing revenue budgets.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

24. No comments.

MARK LESTER
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Lindsey Blackstock	5218	18/10/2018	***

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Chorley Liaison agenda management timetable

Date of meeting	Deadline for items to be requested by Members	Agenda Publication Deadline
Wed, 20 March 2019	Fri, 1 March	Wed, 13 March
Wed, 17 July 2019	Fri, 5 July	Wed, 10 July
Wed, 16 October 2019	Fri, 4 October	Wed, 9 October
Wed, 15 January 2020	Fri, 20 December	Wed, 8 January
Wed, 18 March 2020	Fri, 6 March	Wed, 11 March

Please contact Ruth Rimmington on 01257 515118 or email ruth.rimmington@chorley.gov.uk if you would like to request an item on the agenda.

Future agenda items

Spice Time Credits
 Our Health Our Care
 Northern Rail

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