

Disability Liaison Group

Wednesday, 14 June 2006

Present:

Chorley Borough Councillors:

Councillor David Dickinson (Chair) and Councillors Daniel Gee, Mrs Marie Gray, Catherine Hoyle, Miss June Molyneaux and Mrs Iris Smith

Chorley Borough Council Officers:

Roger Handscombe (Director of Property Services), Jamie Carson (Director of Leisure and Cultural Services), Elaine Knott (Technical Support Manager), Cindy Lowthian (District Liaison Officer), Duncan Nicholson (Senior Waste Management Officer) and Ruth Hawes (Democratic Services Officer)

Disability Forum Representatives:

Eileen Bee (Disability Forum Co-Ordinator), Terence Reynolds (Disability Forum Vice-Chairman), Bill Coxhead (Disability Forum), Daniels (Disability Forum), Albert Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Maureen Kay (Deaf and Disability Forum), Devi Nicholson and Clive Yates (Disability Research)

Sign Language Interpreter:

Carol Kyle (Interpreter)

06.DLG.12 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Dickinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. On behalf of the Group Councillor Dickinson thanked the previous Chair, Councillor Hoyle, for all of her work.

Members of the Group had attended a tour of the One Stop Shop prior to the meeting. The tour had been useful to see the facilities provided for customers with disabilities.

06.DLG.13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Russell, R Snape, Ivy Carroll, Susan Richmond, John Lechemere and Alan Capstick.

06.DLG.14 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

06.DLG.15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Disability Liaison Group held on 3 April 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

Jamie Carson, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, reported that he had received a letter from the Disability Forum relating to Disability Awareness Day. A response had been sent to the Forum explaining that the Day would be going ahead in 2007 and that a meeting to determine the way forward would be held in the next few weeks. Jamie would contact all of the community groups to invite them.

06.DLG.16 DISCUSSION REGARDING WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

The Chair welcomed Duncan Nicholson, Senior Waste Management Officer, to the meeting. Duncan gave some background information about the alternate weekly collection scheme.

Members of the Group raised the issue of litter due to recycling and rubbish falling out of the collection vehicle, waste items and the sacks themselves being blown away. Duncan advised that measures were being taken to mitigate this, including plastic weighted woven sacks that wouldn't blow away. The design of the collection vehicles meant that the compaction action when the rubbish was being loaded rubbish could fall out.

In response to a query it was clarified that if a fridge were dumped steps would be taken to find the owner. Any charge to remove it would be the responsibility of the owner.

The Group considered the issue of emptied recycling receptacles being left on the pavement and causing obstructions. The way forward would be to have a senior member of staff on each crew to ensure that emptied receptacles did not cause an obstruction.

It was noted that there were developments in the pipeline relating to home composting, including additional support, information and publicity. The Group supported this.

The Group discussed bins that were over full and, therefore, not emptied. In these cases there was a need to call out the Neighbourhood Wardens to get the bins emptied and cleared away.

The Group thanked Duncan for his attendance.

06.DLG.17 ONGOING ISSUES

Pavements

Overhanging bushes on Southport Road. This item had been completed and would be deleted from the schedule.

Dropped Kerbs

New Issue. A dropped kerb was needed between the Police Station and the Town Hall, on the corner by the Town Hall staff car park.

General Highways Issues

It was noted that the telephone number to report any defects on the highway was 0845 0530011.

New Issue. On Harpers Lane there are some potholes requiring attention, on the left as you drove up the hill.

Trees obscuring lighting on Park Road. Alan and Judy had inspected the trees in question, but further cutting back was required.

Parking

Other Issues

Toilets within Chorley Library. Cindy reported that the views of the Group had been passed on to the County Librarian. At the present time no funding was available for the provision of toilets. It was AGREED that a letter be sent from the Chair, on behalf of the Group, to stress the views of the Group on this issue.

Obstruction caused by A-Boards. Elaine reported that this issue would be considered further after the transfer of the highways department to Lancashire County Council. There had been discussions on this issue at Town Centre Forum. It was AGREED that Judy be invited to attend the next Town Centre Forum to highlight the problems.

Concessionary bus travel. It was clarified that within the Borough there would be free bus travel for people over 60 and disabled people. Where trips went through another Borough half fare would be charged. It was queried what the arrangements would be after 2007. This would be reported to the next meeting.

Facilities at Chorley Railway Station. The manager at Chorley Railway Station would be contacted for an update.

Problems with the lighting at Chorley Interchange. It was noted that the lighting was an anti-drugs initiative.

Fosterfields. It was noted that, without introducing himself, an officer had come in to count the number of people using the facility. This would be investigated. It was agreed that officers should introduce themselves and explain their activities.

06.DLG.18 ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES IS/ARE URGENT

The Group discussed the lack of disabled access at Chorley Registry Office. It was understood that there were proposals to build a new registry office. An update on this would be presented to the next meeting.

It was noted that there would be a presentation on the Astley Park project at the next meeting.

The Group discussed the need for a new Lead officer from the Borough Council. Officers from the Policy and Performance Directorate would be invited to the next meeting of the Group.

06.DLG.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15 November 2006.

Chair