

Equality Forum Q&A
19 January 2010

1. Councillor Smith had asked if play equipment for disabled children aged 6+ yrs could be installed in Astley Park

Officers of the Parks and Open Spaces team have looked into this request and have responded to say that the external funding bid monies has all now been committed in the development of the Pavilion and the introduction of three new play areas over the last two years. Therefore, it is highly unlikely any new additional funding will be available in the near future to satisfy the request.

2. Councillor Iris Smith asked if one of the disabled parking bays on Farrington Street could be widened by 9 feet to allow a wheelchair user to exit their vehicle using a ramp with additional room to manoeuvre off the ramp?

Officers have looked in to the request and concluded that to widen one of the disabled parking bays on Farrington Street would not be feasible. Anyone who was the holder of a blue badge is entitled to park in a disabled parking bay, and the parking bay could not be restricted to wheelchair users only. Furthermore, if one disabled parking bay was widened, other disabled parking bays, in all the town centre car parks would have to be widened also.

Officer would advise that the holder of a blue badge was allowed to park in two disabled parking bays. The blue badge would be allowed for one of the bays however, payment would be required for the second.

3. Cindy Bolton/Councillor Cath Hoyle had asked for the consultation on the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy be extended

The Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy Consultation was extended and ran for a full twelve week consultation. A summary of the revised policy was available on the partnership website as well as a link to the full draft policy, and hard copies were available on request. This consultation

closed on 13th April 2010. The policy will now be put forward for Executive Member approval.

4. What is happening with the Council's application for the LGBT friendly Charter Mark.

Officers have made enquires into the LGBT friendly Charter Mark, Navajo. This provides a good way to examine an organisation's awareness of issues for its LGBT service users and staff, and developing an action plan to address those areas needing improvement. Officers have looked at the requirements and updated the Chair of the Equality Forum on the application process. It was decided to undertake more research into the requirements, and to contact the other local authorities who have the Charter Mark to learn from their experiences and how to progress the application (Lancashire County Council, Preston, Blackpool etc).

5. Would Chorley help fund transport for young people traveling to Leyland for POUT meetings

Chorley Council have no current funding available that this group could apply for, however, they may wish to apply for the Core Funding next year - details can be provided. This normally opens in January with decisions made in March and funding available for the financial year.

Lancashire County Council are also looking in to rural transport for young people and we have highlighted this as an issue to them.