

Chorley Council Overview & Scrutiny Task Group – Allotments

Chorley & South Ribble Disability Forum discussed the provision of allotments at its meeting on 7th October 2010.

The following points were made:

People are very well aware of the long waiting list for allotments – many people don't even bother to apply because of this.

Some groups of people are disadvantaged because of difficulty they may experience in accessing information about allotments, tenancy agreements etc, for example, people with visual impairments, BSL users, and other people who may have difficulty with written English, eg people with learning difficulties.

People generally felt that information about charges should be more readily available – Forum members knew of people who were paying very different rents for similar allotments, but didn't know why this was.

The overall layout and access to allotments is crucial for disabled people. People who use wheelchairs need accessible parking reasonably close to their allotment, with level, smooth (definitely not cindered), unobstructed pathways and raised beds. Smooth unobstructed pathways are also important for people with visual impairments.

Members were also supportive of the idea of forming User Groups, providing such groups understood and were committed to principles of inclusivity – there is a danger of such groups excluding (knowingly or unknowingly) Deaf and disabled people, and people from other minority groups.

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