

**Equality Forum  
Q&A  
6 October 2010**

- 1. A bus stop had been put on the corner of Cowell Lane which is very dangerous. Could this be moved?**

Lancashire County Council have attempted to make contact with the attendee who raised this question to discuss this matter further, but have currently received no response. The placement of the bus stops was initially decided following detailed discussions with the Police and local Councillors. If there are still concerns, I would be grateful if they could contact Tony Moreton at [tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk)

- 2. Judith Daniels explained when crossing the road at the crossing on Preston Road outside the hospital it ends in a cycle lane. Could something be done?**

Lancashire County Council have advised that in terms of the provision of cycle lanes, when deciding whether to provide an off road cycle facility or not we look at pedestrian, cycle, vehicle flows, number of HGVs and vehicle speeds. The standard minimum width of a shared use path is 3 metres, as opposed to 1.8 metres for a footway. This allows a cyclist and a pedestrian room to safely pass.

Lancashire County Council can also make a path safer for cyclists and pedestrians to share by using various pavement changes by introducing measures such as different pavement surfacing, kerb heights etc.

For more information contact Alasdair Simpson on e-mail: [alasdair.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alasdair.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk)

In terms of the hospital crossing, there are ongoing discussions between the Hospital and the Disability Forum regarding safe access.

- 3. Branches on the trees on Devonshire Road are severely overhanging and need attention.**

Chorley Council officers have advised that an initial assessment has been conducted and there were no signs of overhanging trees. A member of grounds maintenance team will check and prune if necessary on their next visit to the area.

- 4. Judith Daniels reported that there has been some broken glass on Devonshire Road near the registry office for sometime. This could cause serious injury to guide dogs**

Chorley Council officers have confirmed that this has been removed.

- 5. Jennie Jones was concerned that the lights at controlled crossing changed quickly, particularly the school crossing at Whittle-le-Woods.**

Alan Capstick from Lancashire County Council advised that an assessment had been arranged for the traffic signal installation in Whittle-le-Woods, to ensure that it is operating satisfactorily. Any alterations will be made following this assessment.

Alan Capstick can be contacted on e-mail [alan.capstick@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.capstick@lancashire.gov.uk)

- 6. Officers were advised that the disabled wheelchair swing at the park on Devonshire Road has been broken for sometime.**

Chorley Council's Parks Team have informed us that the wheelchair swing had been damaged a number of times during use since its installation. Therefore, we are looking at alternative provision, as repairs to this one are not cost effective. We are hoping to provide a new swing that will be DDA compliant, while interesting to everyone, and robust. It will be replaced with a basket swing as found on several other sites, allowing children of various abilities to play together. It is hoped that this will be completed by end of January 2011.

**7. Councillor Rosemary Russell asked why children from faith schools were being charged £2 per child for Lancashire County Council School transport.**

In a statement County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, said: "In the current financial climate we have to review the services that we provide as a County Council".

"Asking parents to contribute to the cost of travel to a faith school which is not their nearest school will enable us to save a significant amount of money, while still subsidising the service by more than half."

"Although most local authorities have traditionally chosen to provide free discretionary transport on denominational grounds, it is very costly. Councils faced with spiralling costs and budget reductions are increasingly having to look at these arrangements and a number of authorities have already either completely withdrawn support, or are asking for a contribution from parents."

**8. Do drivers of mobility scooters have training before using them as some drivers put themselves and other people in danger.**

A spokesperson for Shopmobility advised a person requesting use of equipment must provide documents with their name and address on, such as passport, utility bill, driving licence etc. Then they register them on their database, and provide them with a membership card. Training is then given in the safe use of equipment which involves being taken out on the equipment and being assessed.

**9. What are the arrangements for the Chorley Smile Magazine to be viewed online?**

The Chorley Smile magazine can be viewed online, using a digital reader, which allows people to zoom in on the articles. There are no current plans to expand into a signed version on the website.

**11. What is happening with regard to pavement restrictions at certain town centre shops?**

This is regularly monitored by the Town Centre Manager, who upkeeps an informal dialogue with all town centre retailers and encourages retailers to ensure that the pavements are kept clear. As part of the Town Centre Accessibility Action Plan, Chorley Council is working with Lancashire County Council to develop an enforcement policy and guidelines. Progress on this is reported to the Equality Forum quarterly, and will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**13. Disability Forum to meet with LCC regarding the Deaf Children in Education question**

Representatives from Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, the Disability Forum and the Deaf Forum met with colleagues from the Educational Inclusion Service including a Hearing Impaired Specialist Teacher. At this meeting, information was given regarding the provision for hearing impaired children in mainstream education and in specialist education. It was a useful meeting, which helped to share information and gave an opportunity for representatives to ask questions of the service providers. The main outcome of the meeting was a recommendation from the Disability Forum and Deaf Forum that they would look to engage with parents of deaf children to ensure that they are aware of the full range of support that can be brought in by schools from the Educational Inclusion Service.

**14. Youth Council to receive some support from Chorley Council Policy and Communications**

Officers from Chorley Council Policy and Communications (Sarah James and Andrew Daniels) attended a special meeting of the Youth Council to provide some capacity building regarding marketing and media relations. A workshop including an exercise on the advantages and disadvantages of a variety of media techniques was undertaken, and the Youth Council were provided with a variety of contacts and information for further use. It was agreed that more support would be given as required.