

Town Centre Accessibility

Equality Forum Task and Finish Group
Update Report - March 2011



Introduction

This report provides the findings from the Town Centre Accessibility Review. This was undertaken during the winter / spring of 2009/10 by a group of partners. The review has identified a number of actions, which together will enable us to make Chorley Town Centre a more accessible place to visit for everyone. The task and finish group included;

- Chorley Council, representation from;
 - Planning, Urban Design and Policy
 - Policy, Equalities
 - Streetscene
 - Town Centre Management
- Lancashire County Council, Highways
- Lancashire County Council, District Partnership Office
- Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum

Update Report

The action plan has been implemented since May 2010, and actions within it range from six weeks to more long term actions, dependant on other developments within the town centre. As a guide, where a specific date is not indicated, the following guideline applies; Short term - up to 6 months, Medium term - 6 months to one year, Long term - one year plus.

The following report contains updates on the work undertaken against these actions since May 2010.

Issue & Location		Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale	Work Undertaken
1	<p>No pedestrian crossing at a busy set of traffic lights, and the pedestrian island is narrow <i>Union Street/Park Road junction (a) + (b)</i></p>	<p>The provision of pedestrian facilities at this junction is a local issue that will compete for funding as part of the new Commissioning way of working within LCC</p> <p>Review of the junction to assess different traffic scheme solutions and to consider possible match funding from any funding that may be received from Lancashire County Council for improvements.</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council</p>	Long term	An application is planned for the new financial year.
2	<p>Drop Kerbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'drop kerbs' are too high <i>Union Street</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Junction with Fellery Street (a)</i> • <i>Entrance to Flat Iron Car Park (b)</i> • <i>New Market Street/High Street opposite the roundabout outside the betting shop (c)</i> • drop kerb needs attention <i>At the entrance to Mealhouse Lane/White Horse side (d)</i> • drop kerbs not lined up <i>Top of Union Street by traffic lights/opposite the church (e)</i> 	<p>Maintenance work to be carried out to lower the kerb.</p> <p>Maintenance work to be carried out to repair the kerb</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>Mid October</p> <p>Autumn 2010</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>LCC have reassessed and no additional work is required at this time.</p>

	Issue & Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale	Work Undertaken
3	<p>Road Signs and Bollards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign post narrowing the pavements <i>St Thomas's Road next to Town Hall</i> Sign post sited badly <i>Clifford Street/Church Street by traffic lights (b)</i> Unnecessary road signs and bollards <i>Signs - Town Centre (ie Chapel Street/Church street – no entry sign) (c)</i> Large amount of unnecessary bollards <i>Bollards - Town Centre (ie corner Chapel Street/New Market Street) (d)</i> Number of bollards do not have reflective strips <i>Town Centre (e)</i> 	<p>Re-design the sign to remove the obstructive pole</p> <p>Relocate sign closer to road.</p> <p>Carry out town centre signage audit with view to removing redundant signage and bollards.</p> <p>Review all bollards in the town centre and remove any that are deemed unnecessary</p> <p>Conduct maintenance work to ensure that all bollards in the town centre have contrasting/reflective colours around the bollard</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council (audit & review)</p> <p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>Autumn 2010</p> <p>Autumn 2010</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>Design complete</p> <p>Discussions are underway with regards to the Bollards. However a wider piece of work is to be undertaken to review the current traffic orders with the Town Centre area, this will result in a review of existing signs and poles</p> <p>In line with government directives we are actively searching for opportunities to remove street clutter. Reflective strips will be fixed to those bollards that are due to stay</p>
4	<p>Tree roots pushing up the pavement making it narrow and uneven <i>Union Street, trees lining the Flat Iron car park (a)</i></p>	<p>The tree roots causing an uneven footway will be removed as part of the works to resurface Union Street</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>Currently ongoing</p>	<p>Resurfacing works are currently ongoing on Union Street and tree roots will be dealt with as part of these works</p>

Issue & Location		Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale	Work Undertaken
5	<p>Pavements</p> <p>Orange brick paving is slippery especially when wet in some locations <i>Various locations, eg crossings at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Union Street (a)</i> • <i>Clifford Street (b)</i> • <i>Flat Iron carpark/Flat Iron Parade</i> <p>Inconsistent paving at crossings <i>Town Centre</i></p>	<p>Explore improvement measures</p> <p>Explore improvement measures</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council / Peter McAnespie / Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Timescales vary</p>	<p>There is no short term fix to get around this problem but work is ongoing to develop a Flat Iron Improvement Scheme.</p>
6	<p>Planters narrowing the pedestrian walkway <i>Outside Booths supermarket next to Flat Iron car park (a)</i></p> <p>Planters on shop boundaries <i>New Market Street</i></p> <p>Planters generally narrowing the pedestrian walkway <i>Town Centre</i></p>	<p>Move planters closer to the flat iron car park</p> <p>To ask shops to re-site their planters back to the middle of the walkway, as a planter in the middle of a walkway is a clear case of obstruction</p> <p>Review location of all planters to make sure they are located appropriately and do not obstruct the pavements</p>	<p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council</p> <p>Conrad Heald, Chorley Council</p> <p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Summer 2010</p>	<p>This has been completed.</p> <p>Conversations have been had with the Market Walk manager, who has requested that the Equality Forum put their request in writing. This has been completed.</p> <p>This has been completed.</p>

	Issue & Location	Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale	Work Undertaken
7	<p>'A' boards and shop/market stall merchandise narrowing walkways/causing obstruction <i>Town Centre (a)</i></p>	<p>Work in partnership to produce a clear enforcement policy</p> <p>Approach shops and market stalls and inform the manager/owner of Council's preferred policy</p>	<p>Conrad Heald, Peter McAnespie. Chorley Council/ Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Conrad Heald, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Autumn 2010</p>	<p>Awaiting devolved powers of enforcement from LCC to CBC upon which we can write a workable policy.</p> <p>Chorley Chamber of Trade and Chorley Retail Alliance aware of Equality Forum issues.</p>
8	<p>Pavement Cafes and shop displays obstructing pedestrian movements <i>Town Centre (a)</i></p>	<p>Explore what can be controlled by licensing and planning permission. In the meantime, approach public houses, café's and shops extending their businesses outside the premises and inform the manager/owner of Council's concerns.</p> <p>Work in partnership to produce a clear enforcement policy</p>	<p>Conrad Heald/Peter McAnespie/ Chorley Council</p> <p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Summer 2010</p>	<p>Awaiting devolved powers of enforcement from LCC to CBC upon which we can write a workable policy.</p> <p>As per above we have no powers without the authority above, therefore it's only a softly softly approach trying to coax traders etc to think of vulnerable groups.</p>
9	<p>Tactile paving remains where crossing points no-longer exist causing confusion <i>Flat Iron Parade next to WC (b)</i></p>	<p>Correct in accordance with the current layout of car park</p>	<p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p>	<p>Due to be completed within the next round of inspection repairs</p>

Issue & Location		Solution	Lead Officer and Support Officers	Timescale	Work Undertaken
10	<p>Uneven pavements <i>Eg. Market Street outside the Royal Bank of Scotland opposite entrance to Chapel Street (a)</i></p>	To be monitored as part of regular safety inspections by Capita	Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council	Ongoing	This work is ongoing.
11	<p>Covered Market</p> <p>Children's coin operated ride preventing a clear path in to the entrance of the Market <i>by the Café</i></p> <p>Market stalls operating outside their stalls <i>Covered Market</i></p>	<p>Owner to be approached and asked to re-site the ride</p> <p>Stall holders to be approached if they are displaying goods outside the demarcation line</p>	Conrad Heald, Chorley Council	<p>May 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This has been completed. The Café operator will move ride further out when open</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
12	<p>Memorial Statues</p> <p>Police Memorial has a raised lip which is a trip hazard for visually impaired people <i>Fazakerley Street</i></p> <p>Access to the Chorley Pals memorial is via the Flat Iron car park next to car parking bays – the very narrow pedestrian walkway would not accommodate a wheelchair <i>Flat Iron Car Park</i></p>	<p>Look at option open for improvement which could include different coloured tiles to highlight the raised lip.</p> <p>Interim solution - Chorley Pals are aware of concerns already and are submitting a bid for funding to improve access</p> <p>Car parking bays in the memorial vicinity to be kept clear</p>	<p>Alan Capstick, Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council Peter McAnespie (advisory capacity)</p>	<p>Summer 2010</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>LCC have looked into possible options for this. The most appropriate solution would be to erect a dwarf steel fence immediately behind the brick kerbs. The estimated cost is £2,000, however, LCC do not have a budget which could be used to fund this work.</p>

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		Long term, the Flat Iron Car Park had been scheduled for improvement works and it is intended that the memorial be made a feature	Peter McAnespie Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council		
13	Street Clutter <i>Flat Iron Parade/New Market Street</i>	To find an interim arrangement for improvements As part of the Flat Iron Improvement Scheme the issue of street clutter at this location will be addressed	Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts, Chorley Council Peter McAnespie, Chorley Council	Long Term	Work is ongoing to develop a Flat Iron Improvement Scheme.