

## Chorley 3 Tier Liaison – meeting 21 January 2015

### Update on actions

#### **15.27 Unify, credit union**

It was AGREED that information be supplied to the Parish Councils to feature in Parish newsletters.

#### Response from Unify

*Unify Credit Union is a community savings and loan co-operative providing financial services to over 9000 people across Chorley, Wigan, Leigh, Skelmersdale and Leyland. In 2013 Unify started to operate in Chorley with the support of Chorley Council. Members save with Unify and those savings are used to give low cost loans to members. Any profits at the end of the year are returned to members by way of a dividend on their savings, which has been between 1% and 3% over the last five years. Unify is authorised and regulated by the FCA and the PRA, like banks and building societies, and covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, ensuring members savings are protected. In addition, Unify provides all members with free life and loan insurance, something unique to credit unions.*

*If you want to know more, visit their website [www.unifycu.org](http://www.unifycu.org) or call into the Chorley Credit Union office at 29 Market Stret, Chorley 01257 241860.*

#### **15.28 Notification of planning decision**

John Pigott, Bretherton Parish Council, noted that this meant having to repeatedly look on the web, as it was not known when applications would be determined.

#### Response from Chorley Council

*From the weekly list, parish clerks / councillors can request alerts for any activity against an application, including the decision notice. If there is interest, we can provide training on how to do this.*

John Taylor, Charnock Richard Parish Council, noted that consultation responses could only be viewed online if they had been submitted online.

#### Response from Chorley Council

*The online system is not operating using its full functionality at the moment. We are working hard to bring this about, as soon as possible. In the interim, we will make this clear on the website and scan and upload responses from key consultees eg highways.*

#### **15.29 Questions from Members of the Forum and the public**

Alan Whittaker, Southern Parishes, advised that there were issues with changes to the number 7 bus service in Charnock Richard, Heskin, Eccleston and Croston.

#### Response from Lancashire County Council

*Alan Whittaker has previously received a response from the Bus Services Team regarding the confusion over the bridge closure in Charnock Richard.*

*In summary, Stagecoach were advised of a bridge closure which would impact on the number 7 route and adjusted the route accordingly. The bridge closure was subsequently deferred and regrettably this change was not communicated in time to the bus company. This led residents locally within Charnock Richard to some confusion over what has happened. The bridge closure has since been postponed.*

Dan Croft, Adlington Town Council, raised the issue of works to the railway in Adlington. A number of bridges would be closed at the same time.

#### *Response from Network Rail*

*There are a number of reasons the road closures have unfortunately required some overlap. Firstly, Grimeford Lane was delayed due to the presence of Great Crested Newts which has put back its commencement to 2 March 2015.*

*Bridges are being rebuilt at the same time as each structure requires a railway closure approximately halfway through each road closure for core works to be carried out. These railway closures are agreed with the train operators 18 months – 2 years in advance and typically consist of 6 consecutive weekend closures to prevent irregular ongoing disruption to train operators, passengers and the wider rail network.*

*The above resulted in us having a scenario whereby only 2 blocks of possessions (railway closures) were available but three bridges to rebuild in Adlington, meaning two would have to be completed at the same time. In this regard we engaged with elected members and council officers at length and whereby a consensus was reached to complete Railway Road first (which has now been widened/improved) and complete Chorley Road and Rawlinson Lane together.*

*The dates of the rail closures strongly influence the start dates of the road closures which overlap due to the railway closures being over 6 consecutive weekends. In addition to this, the first aspect of work for electrification is to make all structures clear for electrification before installing the overhead line equipment. We currently have bridge works taking place across numerous boroughs and cannot complete bridges in isolation while meeting the milestone of December 2016 as agreed with the Department for Transport for Manchester - Preston electrification.*

*Finally, Grimeford Lane would be an unsuitable diversion route for Station Road at Blackrod due to Grimeford Lane being of insufficient classification. The diversion from Grimeford Ln and Station Road is via the A6027 By-pass. A pedestrian footbridge is in place at the bridges to assist users where a short journey on foot is preferable to driving the diversion route.*

*Please be assured we are working alongside Lancashire County Council to monitor and optimise the traffic management of these closures at what we appreciate is a difficult time. We appreciate there is never a good time to close roads and will complete the work as quickly as possible.*

*Electrification will allow for quieter, greener, quicker and more reliable services to operate and once these bridges are rebuilt they will each have a lifespan in excess*

*of 100 years. I hope this information is helpful to you and explains the reasoning and timing of the closures.*

Dan Croft, Adlington Town Council, requested that some training be arranged for Parishes in relation to planning policy.

*Response from Chorley Council*

*Two representatives from the borough's Parish and Town Councils have been invited to join Ward Councillors at this year's Planning in Practice which will take place on Monday, 23 March from 6pm until 8pm in the Lancastrian Room, Town Hall, Chorley.*

*This year we will be looking at "Development in the Green Belt", focussing on:-*

- definitions of green belt, greenfield and brownfield land*
- an overview of changes to national planning policy in relation to the green belt*
- a review of recent examples of decisions before and after national policy changes*

*The session will also be looking at "Engagement with Developers" or 'how to respond to developers seeking your views on proposed development', from a Ward and Parish/Town Councillor perspective.*