

MINUTES OF CHORLEY LIAISON

MEETING DATE Wednesday, 15 July 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lancashire County Councillors: Steve Holgate (Chorley West Division, Lancashire County Council), Mike Devaney (Chorley Rural North Division, Lancashire County Council) and Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, Lancashire County Council),
Chorley Borough Councillors: Eric Bell (Clayton and Whittle), Gordon France (Eastern Parishes), Doreen Dickinson (Western Parishes), Kim Snape (Southeast Parishes), Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town) and Matthew Lynch (Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw)
Town and Parish Councillors: Barry Lee (Adlington Town Councillor), Ian Horsfield (Anderton Parish Councillor), Laura Lennox (Astley Village Parish Councillor), David Cole (Coppull Parish Councillor), Kath Almond (Croston Parish Councillor), Kate Brown (Eccleston Parish Councillor), Katrina Reed (Euxton Parish Councillor), Malcolm Allen (Heapey Parish Councillor), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Councillor), John Dalton (Ulnes Walton Parish Councillor), Terry Dickenson (Wheelton Parish Councillor) and Tina Newall (Whittle-le-Woods Parish Councillor)

OFFICERS: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Jamie Carson (Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community), Carol Russell (Democratic Services Manager), Martin Sample (Private Sector Housing Officer) and Angela Barrago (Time Credits Facilitator)

APOLOGIES: Lancashire County Councillors: Bev Murray (Chorley South Division, Lancashire County Council) and Mark Perks (Chorley North Division, Lancashire County Council) Chorley Borough Councillors: Alistair Morwood (Chorley Town East) Town and Parish Councillors: Darren Cranshaw (Brindle Parish Councillor), John Taylor (Charnock Richard Parish Councillor), Ann Woodhouse (Cuerden Parish Councillor) and Glen Hester (Rivington Parish Councillor)

15.34 Item from the work programme: Review of Chorley Liaison and future arrangements

Steve Holgate, Chair of the Chorley 3 Tier Liaison in 2014/15, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Steve Holgate invited Alistair Bradley, Leader of Chorley Council, to outline the background to the item which was to look at the future of the Liaison Meetings. Alistair Bradley referred to the responses to the review which had been undertaken earlier in the year, which had been generally very positive and were contained in the agenda papers. Lancashire County Council (LCC) faced major budget cuts and did not feel they could support these types of Forums across the County. Whilst LCC felt the Forums were important they could not resource them.

Councillor Bradley proposed that the meeting should continue and that Chorley Council should administer it. He proposed that County Councillors continue to be invited to attend and noted that the Leader of LCC had given an undertaking to try and give some support from Executive Cabinet members. On that basis, Councillor Bradley requested support from the meeting for the proposed approach. Any actions for LCC arising from the meetings, would be pursued with them.

Marel Urry, Hoghton, queried reverting back to the Borough Parish Liaison format, but Councillor Bradley indicated a wish to continue with some input from LCC. Steve Holgate proposed that County Councillors be requested to action issues raised at the meeting to retain the three tier nature of the meeting.

Gordon France, Eastern Parishes, supported the proposal from Alistair Bradley. Terry Dickinson, Wheelton, expressed support for the work on future governance arrangements being undertaken in Chorley. Ian Horsfield, Anderton, queried if LCC had committed to answering queries on their services. Alistair Bradley advised not, but that answers would be pursued through the County Councillors and that he would speak to the Leader of LCC about this.

It was AGREED

1. That the Chorley Liaison continue as proposed by Alistair Bradley, administered by Chorley Council with Lancashire County Councillors being invited to meetings and where appropriate, asked to undertake any follow up actions.

Response from Chorley Council

Chorley Council has written to the Leader and Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council to advise them of the new arrangements.

*Ruth Rimmington, Democratic and Member Services Officer,
ruth.rimmington@chorley.gov.uk*

2. That the meetings take place as scheduled, except that the 20 April 2016 meeting be rearranged for a date in March 2016.

Response from Chorley Council

The dates for future meetings are:

- *21 October 2015*
- *20 January 2016*
- *16 March 2016*

*Ruth Rimmington, Democratic and Member Services Officer,
ruth.rimmington@chorley.gov.uk*

15.35 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Gordon France (Chorley Council) was appointed as Chair.

Kim Snape (Lancashire County Council) was appointed as Vice-Chair.

15.36 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 21 January 2015 of Chorley 3 Tier Liaison

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

On item 15.29 Laura Lennox, Astley Village, the bridge work had finished but the unsatisfactory bus service had not returned to normal. Daytime buses were two an hour but only 13 minutes apart instead of 30 minutes apart. The evening subsidised service had continued throughout unaltered. Please could LCC ask the bus company to restore the half hourly daytime bus service.

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape
Response outstanding.

15.37 Item from the work programme: Feedback from Town and Parish Councils on Spice Time Credits

Angela Barrago, Time Credits Facilitator, noted that, last September the meeting had received information about SPICE and had agreed that the representatives from Town and Parish Councils discuss Time Credits within their areas, see how they could help to embed them and suggest projects which could get involved.

In response to queries raised at the last meeting Angela advised that in the next few weeks leaflets would be available in mobile libraries and that 50/55 young people were involved in SPICE within the 16-24 years age bracket.

A Parish Hub would shortly be established in Mawdesley, with the aim of making connections with local cricket and bowling clubs and requested feedback from Parishes on the scheme.

It was noted that work had been undertaken with residents in the area of Buttermere Community Centre and time credits could be spent in the Community Centre.

Some young people had engaged with the scheme, working in the Walled Garden, Astley Park, in the morning and in the afternoon they had gone swimming.

The update was noted.

15.38 Item from the work programme: Energy Switching Service and Integrated Home Improvement Service

Martin Sample, Housing Team Leader (Private Sector), introduced the item.

The Integrated Home Improvement Services was a new partnership with Lancashire County Council. It gave our Home Improvement Agency (HIA) a co-ordinating role in

helping people to stay independent in their own homes, reduce accidents in the home and prevent/delay hospital admissions.

Martin outlined the eligibility criteria, key features of the service like the handyperson service, minor adaptations service, and liaison with mobility care. Details of how to access the service, which was launched on 1 July 2015, were also provided

The Group noted that one of the target groups was people who had been in hospital and making sure their property was safe for when they went home. The Council was working with health services towards this. There were links with CAB, debt referral service and Age UK.

The Energy Switching Support Service had been a Corporate Strategy project in 2014/15. Its primary aim was to help residents to combat Fuel Poverty and achieve Affordable Warmth in their homes by helping them to switch to a more cost-effective tariff or supplier of gas and electricity.

To date £35,776 had been saved achieved from switching, with average savings per switched customer being £216.82. Appointments were available on Mondays from 9am onwards, by calling 01257 515151 to book.

Further information can be accessed here:
<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/b14070/Energy%20Switching%20Support%20Service%20and%20Integrated%20Home%20Improvement%20Service%2015th-Jul-2015%2018.30%20Chorl.pdf?T=9>

The update was noted.

15.39 Chorley Council item: Corporate Strategy Update

Jamie Carson, Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community circulated copies of the Corporate Strategy and explained that a revised strategy was approved by the Council each year. The purpose of the item was raise awareness of the Corporate Strategy, the vision and four strategic priorities and the associated corporate projects. The strategic priorities were: 1. involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all, 2. Clean, safe and healthy communities, 3. A strong local economy and 4. An ambitious Council, that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area.

Some examples of corporate projects were: the Chorley Flower Show, an improved CCTV system, proposals for a Chorley Youth Zone, and improvements to the town centre and Market Street.

In response to a query Gary Hall, Chief Executive, explained that one of the projects was an Action Plan project relating to Rural Communities. This would involve 15 parish councils with the aim of delivering improvement for rural communities under four themes: health, employment, digital access and traffic and transport. Councillor Alan Whittaker was the lead on this project.

The update was noted.

15.40 Item suggested by Anderton Parish Council: Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Ian Horsfield, Anderton, advised that LCC had carried out a consultation on their draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan and requested a formal response from LCC on the results of this consultation and what the implications of the RoWIP might be within Chorley Borough.

It was AGREED that County Councillor Kim Snape pursue a formal response.

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape

LCC are producing a consultation response which will be distributed in the next few weeks. The draft will be updated accordingly for the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2015-25. LCC will also write an Action Plan which is a list of specific actions how the ROWIP will be implemented. There will be further consultation at this stage.

David Goode, Public Rights of Way Manager, Lancashire County Council, david.goode@lancashire.gov.uk

15.41 Item requested by Anderton Parish Council: Public liability insurance

Ian Horsfield, Anderton, queried whether public liability insurance could be reduced by being part of a collective scheme with other local councils. Potentially if all the parish councils within Chorley borough together with the Borough Council were covered by the same insurer there might be a reduction in individual premiums because of the greater volume of business.

Gary Hall, Chief Executive, advised that it would be key to have all Parishes involved and noted potential difficulties of all Parishes being in a position to renew their insurance at the same time. It was noted that Parishes were very different across the Borough, although previously several Parishes had used the same insurer through LALC.

It was AGREED - that the Council's finance officers be asked to investigate the possibility further.

Response from Chorley Council

Although feasible in theory the option to combine all the parish and borough council's public liability insurances would be impractical and unworkable in practice and would be unlikely to provide the individual councils with the premium savings they might hope for. To provide a meaningful offering to insurers the vast majority if not all 23 parish councils would probably have to agree to a collaborative approach across the full range of insurance policies they procure. All the existing separate insurance agreements would need to be brought to a point of convergence to enable the same commencement date under new policies and this would need to be 1st January 2017 when the main Chorley Council policies are due for renewal. There would also need to be agreement over levels of excess and limits of indemnity and the way in which claims are handled.

In practice insurers will look at each parish council as a separate risk and assess the premium on their claims history and the risk inherent within each individual Council in the same way that they do now and as such premiums will always reflect each council's individual risk profile. Our experience is that greater overall volume of cover has minimal impact on individual premiums. Furthermore insurers are only attracted to provide an insurance offer when they have little or no work to do in assessing the tender information they are provided with and their advice to councils is to keep the information and options as simple as possible. Chorley Council is also currently in a long term collaborative insurance arrangement with South Ribble Borough Council whose policies are also due for renewal in January 2017 so the introduction of a complex and time consuming Parish Council component at Chorley would have a detrimental impact on the Chorley / South Ribble tender offering.

Finally, this type of arrangement would be administratively very burdensome indeed and therefore costly in practice which would potentially outweigh any theoretical premium savings that may be available.

*Garry Barclay, Head of Shared Assurance Services, Chorley Council,
garry.barclay@chorley.gov.uk*

15.42 Item requested by Croston Parish Council: 'A' road designation

Kath Almond, Croston, explained that traffic congestion in Croston village centre would be greatly improved by the 'A' road designation being removed from Highfield Road/Town Road/Westhead Road and transferred to Moor Road/Bretherton Road which was currently designated as a B road.

It was AGREED that County Councillor Kim Snape would pursue this with County Councillor Keith Iddon.

The clerk to Croston Parish Council emailed following the publication of the minutes to highlight that the request from the Parish Council was "A proposal was put forward to have the 'A' road designation removed from Highfield Road/Town Road/Westhead Road and transferred to Moor Road/Bretherton Road. The proposal was not carried, as it was generally considered this would only possibly alleviate a congestion problem in one area of the village by transferring the problem to another area and parish.

A suggestion was put forward to seek the support of our neighbouring parishes, Bretherton and Ulnes Walton, for support for some form of scheme to divert HGV's from these unsuitable roads, possibly via the Leyland bypass and the road current under construction south of Preston and the views of the Three Tier Liaison on this would be appreciated".

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape

LCC will undertake an investigation/assessment into the A road classification and HGV diversion and will contact you again in 8 weeks to provide an update on these issues.

*Janet Simpson, District Lead Officer, Lancashire County Council Highways,
janet.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk*

15.43 Information item: Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate progress against delivery of the Commissioning Plan for Chorley in the fourth quarter of 2014/15

The information from LCC was noted.

It was AGREED - that County Councillor Kim Snape request that LCC produce and circulate the document on a quarterly basis.

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape

The information will be forwarded to Chorley Democratic Services, who will distribution it to the Chorley Liaison Committee via intheboro – the monthly ezine to Parishes, Borough and County Councillors and community groups.

*Janet Mulligan, Senior Committee Support Officer, LCC,
janet.mulligan@lancashire.gov.uk*

15.44 Questions from Members of the Forum and the public

Terry Dickenson, Wheelton, advised that the Chorley Sports Forum was now on Facebook.

15.45 Items for Future Meetings

The schedule setting out deadlines for items to be requested on the agenda for the Chorley Liaison was noted.

15.46 Request from Adlington Town Council: Current notification process from LCC for Highways work, to both Borough and Parish/Town Councils

Barry Lee, Adlington, advised that the Town Council were experiencing issues with the notification process from LCC for Highways work, to both Borough and Parish/Town Councils.

Different agencies had undertaken roadworks on the same stretch of road at different times and there had been a lack of consultation and information over the Iron Man event.

County Councillor Kim Snape advised that LCC had requested Electricity North West to delay their work, but the utility companies did not have to adhere to guidance from LCC. She undertook to investigate the issue raised on Grimeford Lane.

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape

Please find attached a traffic management plan for the Grimeford Lane closure: <https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/b14309/Traffic%20Management%20map%2015th-Jul-2015%2018.30%20Chorley%20Liaison.pdf?T=9>. The official diversion route is via Grimeford Lane > Chorley Rd (A6) > Blackrod Bypass Road (A6) > Station Road (B5238) > Crown Lane (B5238) > Scholes Bank (A673) > Bolton Road (A673) > Grimeford Lane.

The proposed closure duration is Monday 27 July 2015 to Friday 20 November 2015.

*Further information can be obtained by contacting Network Rail on 03457 11 41 41.
Emma Lane, District Lead Officer, Lancashire County Council Highways,
highways@lancashire.gov.uk*

Jamie Carson, Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community highlighted that all agencies undertaking roadworks needed to notify LCC.

County Councillor Kim Snape undertook to investigate an appropriate means of communication.

Response from LCC via Cllr Kim Snape

Details of any upcoming capital works are outlined in the quarterly bulletins sent out to all parish and town council clerks. If any works on the highway, either by Lancashire County Council or other agencies, require a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, ie a temporary road closure/diversion, again the relevant clerks are notified. We use the contact details on the Parish & Town Councils section of our Internet:

http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?Information_for_parish_and_town_councils/37180

If the contact details are wrong any changes or updates can be notified to parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk . As most work on the highway is weather-dependent and therefore could change at short notice we would not notify any routine highways works.

*Janet Simpson, District Lead Officer, Lancashire County Council Highways,
janet.simpson@chorley.gov.uk*

Chair

Date