

MINUTES OF CHORLEY LIAISON

MEETING DATE Wednesday, 20 January 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Gordon France (Eastern Parishes) (Chair), Councillor Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, Lancashire County Council) (Vice-Chair),
Lancashire County Councillors:
County Councillor Cynthia Dereli (Lancashire County Council - Champion for Parishes) and John Fillis (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport),
Chorley Borough Councillors: Alistair Morwood (Chorley Town East), Eric Bell (Clayton and Whittle), Doreen Dickinson (Western Parishes), Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town) and Matthew Lynch (Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw)
Town and Parish Councillors: Alison Evans (Adlington Town Councillor), Keith Robinson (Astley Village Parish Council and Chorley Civic Society), Ian Horsfield (Anderton Parish Councillor), Mel Almond (Charnock Richard Parish Council), Alan Cullens (Clayton-le-woods Parish Councillor), Katrina Reed (Euxton Parish Councillor), Graham Ashworth (Heath Charnock Parish Councillor), Peter Lloyd (Heskin Parish Councillor), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Councillor), Terry Dickenson (Wheulton Parish Councillor), Steven Perry (Withnell Parish Councillor) and Julia Berry

OFFICERS: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Jamie Carson (Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Customer and Advice Services), Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Officer) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

APOLOGIES: Lancashire County Councillors: Chorley Borough Councillors: Alan Whittaker (Southern Parishes) Town and Parish Councillors: Kate Brown (Eccleston Parish Councillor) and Malcolm Allen (Heapey Parish Councillor)

OTHER:

16.57 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

16.58 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 21 October 2015 of Chorley Liaison

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

16.59 Item requested by the Vice-Chair: Parish based public transport scheme consultation

The Chair introduced County Councillor John Fillis (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) to the meeting.

County Councillor Fillis gave a presentation of the current position of Lancashire County Council in regards to their subsidised bus routes.

It was noted that the only statutory duties that the County Council had deliver in regards to bus services was the administration of the NOW card and bus timetables. As a subsidised bus service was not a statutory obligation it was expected that the subsidies would be withdrawn to reduce the deficit in the County Council's budget. Funding for those services supplied to the most vulnerable such as door to door services would not be effected.

In order to maintain a viable bus service in rural areas it was proposed that parish/town councils and community groups work together to operate their own bus service. To support this initiative the County Council had set aside £2 million in revenue to help with operation costs and £1 million in capital to buy vehicles suitable for passenger numbers. Any parish/town council interested in operating their own bus service were welcome to have a meeting with County Council representatives to discuss their proposed scheme. The risk for each scheme would be calculated, and those schemes that were more likely to succeed would be given the funding.

Following concern raised at the meeting, County Councillor Fillis confirmed that none of the bus operators had given notice to the Traffic Commissioner that they were withdrawing from the NOW card scheme.

The Chair thanked County Councillor Fillis for his attendance.

16.60 Item from the work programme: Lancashire Superfast Broadband Rollout 2013-2017

The Chair introduced Sean McGrath (Lancashire County Council), and Tony Morgan and Mark Chamberlain (BT) who gave a presentation on the current position of Superfast Broadband Roll out in Lancashire and information on the next stage.

Notable points included –

- 97% of Lancashire homes and businesses planned to have access to broadband speeds above 24mbps by March 2016, and 99% by March 2018,
- 454 SMEs received business support related to the exploitation of Superfast Broadband access,
- 854 structures out of 934 were now built and providing service,
- Use of different technologies based upon vfm issues (Fibre to the Cabinet / Fibre to the Premises),

- As of November 2015
 - 15,808 premises had access to the Fibre broadband Network,
 - 2,188 premises could achieve speeds up to 23.9mbps (possibly die to distance from cabinet), with 13,620 premise in excess of 24mbps,
 - 86.15% of Chorley could access Superfast speeds (the contract was for 85% Lancashire wide),
- Three more structures to be delivered by March 2016 which would take coverage in Intervention Area up to 16,678.

Customers might be unaware that they had access to Superfast Broadband, and that they should check to see if fibre broadband was available for their address and contact their broadband provider. It was noted not all broadband providers supplied Superfast Broadband, and that there were some benefits to using a comparison website such as Uswitch to see what offers were available.

The Chair thanked Sean McGrath, Tony Morgan and Mark Chamberlain for their attendance.

16.61 Item from Chorley Council: Budget consultation

Gary Hall, Chief Executive, advised that the consultation on the proposed budget for 2016/17 would commence following approval of the proposals by Executive Cabinet on 21 January 2016.

Councillor Alistair Bradley advised that the proposals that had been put forward had not been discussed in detail as yet. However, the Executive Cabinet would be asked to agree the content of the report in order to start the budget consultation processes, of which included -

- Council Tax to be frozen in 2016/17
- The proposed New Investment for 2016/17
- The Balanced budget position for 2016/17
- The forecasted budget position for 2018/19

The update was noted.

a Item requested by Anderton Parish Council: Libraries in Chorley

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader of the Council, advised that in response to Lancashire County Council proposing hard hitting budget cuts across its services, Chorley Council had been considering which services it could deliver with its partners to minimise the impact of the cuts.

Although the importance of the library service was not in doubt, it was important to consider how the service could be sustainably delivered in the future. This could include

- increased use of the mobile library
- using premises other than library buildings
- use of volunteers to operate libraries

Parish and Town Councils were invited to put forward their suggestions after the meeting.

The update was noted.

16.62 Item from Chorley Council: Flooding update

Jamie Caron, Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community advised that the Council and its partners were continuing with the clean-up operation which was a result of flooding over the Christmas and New Year period.

Approximately 400 people had applied for financial assistance through the Council's Flood Relief Scheme. Parish and town councils were asked to encourage those household effected by the recent flooding, who had not yet applied to the scheme to get in touch as soon as possible. There was also help for businesses that had been affected.

It was reported that the Council intended to review its flood plans, after which it was proposed that the plans would be released for consultation. In addition, the frequency and maintenance schedules of those services, provided by the Council, that could potentially have an impact on flooding, such as cleaning gutters, would also be reviewed. It was also expected that the Croston Flood Defence Scheme would be completed June/July 2016.

The Council was keen to work with parish and town councils and a drop in event had been arranged on 28 January, between 3pm and 8pm, in The Lancastrian for those people affected by the recent floods, with a number of partners being represented, including the Environment Agency.

Following the event on 28 January, Councillor Alistair Bradley, the Executive Leader of the Council, advised that it was the intention of the Council to write to the government detailing the main issues that arose from the event, and anyone wishing to comment would be welcome to do so.

16.63 Questions from Members of the Liaison and the public

There were no questions.

16.64 Items for Future Meetings

Future meetings were scheduled for 16 March, 20 July, 19 October, 18 January 2017 and 15 March 2017. An email would be sent to clerks to request items in advance of the meeting.

16.65 Item requested by Heath Charnock Parish Council: Speed limit on Babylon Lane

The agenda item was withdrawn by Councillor Graham Ashworth, on behalf of Health Charnock Parish Council.

16.66 Items requested by Adlington Town Council

Adlington Town Council requested four items to be actioned.

In relation to the question about requesting changes to a bus route to provide public transport for the residents of Lower Adlington, it was AGREED that County Councillor Kim Snape would pursue this with officers from the County Council.

It was noted that defibrillators around the borough were mapped, and the information would be provided.

Responses to all four questions would be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Update

1. The process for requesting changes to bus routes. The Council has recently suggested that the service to Adlington would be improved if at least one bus per hour on the 125 route diverted along Westhoughton Road to provide public transport for the residents of Lower Adlington, a request which has been rejected by the bus company.

Response from Lancashire County Council

Service 125 is operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis and the County Council has no influence over the route or timetable. As an observation, currently all journeys operate to the same route and a simple regular timed frequency to serve the majority of their customers along the route. Introducing an hourly diversion to an area they already serve with another service is not deemed commercially sensible on such an important route.

Stagecoach have recently invested in brand new modern buses and the continued success of Service 125 is the regular standardised route and timetable easily understood by its users.

Stagecoach already provide an alternative commercial hourly bus service for Lower Adlington in Service 8.

2. A solution to the regular problem of flooding on Westhoughton Road. The Council has been told that improvement to the drainage system is possible but costly, but as this is part of the main A6 route the Council considers the current situation to be dangerous. In addition the Council considers that more regular sweeping of the gutters would reduce the amount of flooding on the roads in other parts of the village.

Response from Lancashire County Council

I can advise that Westhoughton Road floods about six times a year. The flooding disrupts traffic and pedestrians flow on the east side of the road, the cause of the flooding is almost always leaves and debris blocking the gully tops.

In respect to the sweeping this is carried out by Chorley Borough Council and they have advised this area is swept by the large sweeper on a three week basis.

Response from Chorley Council

Chorley Council do the street sweeping and Lancashire County Council do gully cleansing.

From CBC website, at <https://myaccount.chorley.gov.uk/MyChorley.aspx> you can view sweeper routes:

Asset ID SW_1890

Sub Type of Asset

Owner Lancashire County Council

Maintained By Chorley Council

Status of Asset In Use

Location

Street Westhoughton Road Adlington

Parish Adlington

Schedule 3 Weeks

Last Maintained Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Next Maintained Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Both authorities can also respond on a reactive basis if there are leaves/detritus – <https://myaccount.chorley.gov.uk/Forms/StreetSweeping.aspx>

Or if a gully appears blocked (water not draining away) – <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/fault-search.aspx>

3. The Council is currently considering applying for funding to provide defibrillators around the village. Is there a co-ordinated plan in place for the mapping, maintenance and monitoring of defibrillators in other areas, and if not should there be, to avoid each area providing a different facility?

North West Ambulance Service (Nwas) have a small team who are maintaining an overview. Our main contact is Cheryl Pickstock Cheryl.Pickstock@nwas.nhs.uk
A further update is contained within the agenda.

4. The Town Council is aware that the train service franchise provider has changed on the route through Adlington. Is any information available on the best route or contact for requests for service changes? In the past the Council has met with representatives of Northern Rail who said that they would consider the Council's requests for additional service stops in the village at the time of franchise renewal, but presumably this information has now been lost. Could a Transport Plan be put in place for the whole area to address this type of problem?

Response from Lancashire County Council

The new franchisee for Northern Rail is Arriva trading as Arriva Rail North (ARN) and for Trans Pennine is First Group trading (I think) as Trans Pennine Express.

Both franchises start on the 1st April 2016 and Northern lasts 9 years with a possible one year extension and Trans Pennine for 8 years.

Both franchises include substantial investment in new rolling stock and stations. Services calling at Adlington should become electric by Dec 2017. The agreed train service requirements for both franchises were recently published on the DfT website. From memory the basic service calling at Adlington does not change. However, Chorley will see the return of trans pennine services between Manchester and Scotland which will be enhanced and it will also be a core station on ARN's Northern Connect services - these will operate between Manchester and Preston/Blackpool/Barrow and Windermere.

*Please see link to the DfT website for full details of the train service requirement:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-rail-2016-rail-franchise-agreement>*

Adlington appears in the spreadsheet labelled as MCR 4A and 4B.

Richard Watts, LCC

16.67 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair

It was noted that -

- The Council, along with other Councils in Lancashire, was consulting on a Combined Authority for Lancashire. Anyone wishing to contribute could do so via the Council's website. The deadline for contributions was Friday, 19 February.
- The route for Chorley Grand Prix on Saturday 26 March had been announced.
- Chorley Flower Show, 30-31 July 2016; the Council was currently taking applications for trade stands. Parish and town councils who had horticultural-based traders in their area were being asked to encourage them to apply.

Details of all the information above can be found on the Council's website <http://www.chorley.gov.uk>.

Chair

Date