

Items from Adlington Town Council

1. The progress being made with Asset Transfers

This item will be presented by a member of the Council's Performance and Partnership Team (report enclosed).

2. **The poor condition of footpaths across the borough – the Clerk has recently reported problems with footpath 18 alongside the river Douglas in Adlington. This is now impassable without heavy walking boots due to water erosion and has been the subject of several resident complaints. The Mayor and Clerk walked along this footpath on a warm and sunny day and found it flooded in many sections. In addition residents have reported problems with potholes and poor surfaces in other parts of the village. No action has been taken to improve the condition of local footpaths recently as far as the Town Council are aware.**

David Goode, the public Rights of Way Manager and LCC responded

According to our (LCC) records we have cleared 40 reports of defect over the last 12 months and there are 37 outstanding (note these are reports of defects not defects as our database records 2 reports of the same problem as 2 reports not 1 defect). The outstanding defects include missing signposts, deep mud, ploughed up paths, overgrown hedges, fences erected across the way, path falling into the river, unstable bank, missing waymarks, barbed wire, undergrowth.

Work done include stile repaired, vegetation cleared, fallen tree cleared, waymarkers put up, fingerposts erected, handrail repaired. In other cases the customer was given information that the path had been inspected and it was considered in an appropriate condition or it ran on a different route or was not publicly maintainable.

The footpath by the River Douglas west of the A6 is a particularly difficult problem of which we are aware – there is also a problem east of the A6 which is due to a blocked drain on Network Rail's infrastructure which they're dealing with but the bigger problem is Footpath Adlington 18 and we are hoping to carry out work here within the next year. However, we may be able to improve the path but not necessarily completely resolve the problem as there are constraints with the nature of the ground and the cattle that are grazed there so a boardwalk solution might not be appropriate.

3. **An update on the resolution of the flooding issues from last winter – Some parts of Lower Adlington were subject to serious flooding last winter. Doug Cridland is aware of the issues and possible resolution of these and may be able to give a more up-to-date summary of the situation. The Town Council has not been given an update since the “Making Space for Water” meeting which was due to be held this month.**

Doug Cridland, Waste and Contaminated Land Officer for Chorley Council responded

An update on the flooding at The Common, Adlington site arising from the Making Space for Water meeting held in September was expected at the meeting. However the meeting on this occasion was focussed on Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) section 19 investigation of flooding across the borough.

Nevertheless, The Common is listed as on the affected communities within phase 2 of their s.19 investigation. This means there is the prospect of an investigation into the flooding by LCC's Flood Risk Management team. However, any further work is all priority based and there is currently no indication where this site sits in terms of priority, or the timescales for action.

Chorley Council will work with LCC on any further investigation and share the outcome of our investigations and actions completed to date. The most recent work undertaken by Chorley Council was to rectify a small sinkhole in the grass verge, completed in August. Also some additional investigation has been carried out across the field, where the contractor found an old stone culvert that is running without any apparent restriction to flow through to the open water course to the south east.

At a meeting with residents and a representative of United Utilities (UU) on 7 October, the meeting was informed that –

- UU have approved some sewer improvements near Heaton House.
- UU surveys at Castle Drive and The Common previously found silt accumulation and root intrusion in the drainage system, which was cleared and is now on an annual programme for inspection, silt removal and root cutting where required.
- UU suggested there is a hydraulic capacity issue during extreme rainfall conditions. The estimated cost of improving the network in Lower Adlington is £1.2 million, and they currently do not intend to take forward a scheme on this basis as it is not a priority in their programme of capital work.

There is also the prospect of Chorley Council supporting the community with a local sandbag store. The town council could help with identifying a suitable site that could be used, perhaps a garage or somewhere to place a container?

- 4. Road safety issues in general around the borough, including speed monitoring, requests for parking restrictions and one-way traffic, and the status of “near miss” accident reports – The Council has noted an observed increase in speeding, illegal parking and near-miss incidents reported by pedestrians. The Clerk has reported several near-miss incidents, particularly on the pedestrian crossings located on the A6 in Adlington to LCC, but there does not appear to be a system in place to record these.**

Emma Lane, District Lead Officer for Lancashire County Council responded

In respect of the request for a one-way system in the proximity of the Tesco store on Chorley Road. I can advise formal consultation will take place towards the end of the year or early 2017. Subject to resolution of any objections we hope to implement the new one-way system in spring/early summer 2017.

I can advise the junction of Mill Street/Railway Road has a good accident record with no injury accidents occurring in the last 5 years or longer. Mirrors on the highway were used in the past to assist drivers where visibility is inadequate although they are no longer permitted on the highway by the Department for Transport. The reason is that mirrors whilst providing some benefits, distort the image of on-coming vehicles and give false impression of the speeds of approaching traffic thus making it more dangerous for road users. Officers do not recommend replacing the mirror at this location.

There have been no injury accidents involving pedestrians at the zebra crossing in the vicinity of the White Bear public house and one involving a pedestrian at the zebra crossing in the vicinity of the RBS bank in the last 5 years. There has been a slight injury accident involving a small HGV turning left out of Bank Street colliding with a pedestrian but this did not occur in low light conditions.

As the highway authority we have a finite budget for traffic related schemes and a responsibility to prioritise our resources that best serve the residents and road users in Lancashire. Our current priority is to target those resources at locations with a proven road

safety issue which is determined by significant numbers of injury accidents, in addition to schemes that will contribute to the improvement of the wider highway network. The impact of this prioritisation is that we do not recommend funding to low energy, high luminosity lighting is not recommend at the present time.

Officers will undertake a site investigation at the pedestrian crossing outside the White Bear public house and the crossing near the mini roundabout, to check that all the required lining and signing are in place and if any improvements are considered necessary. I will provide an update on the investigation in the next 6 weeks.

5. An update in to the current lack of accident and emergency provision in Chorley

Andrew Daniels Communication and Events Manager from Chorley Council responded

The Accident and Emergency closed in April due to a shortage of doctors to staff the service and it was replaced by an Urgent Care Centre between 8am and 8pm.

The Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) has undergone a recruitment drive but has been unable to recruit enough doctors to plug the gap.

The council and local MP have been continually pressing the LTHT to get the doctors in place and open the A&E, at least on a part-time basis.

The Save Chorley A&E pressure group has been campaigning to get the A&E re-opened too and it is looking for people to join the campaign.

The latest update from the LTHT is that they have still been unable to recruit enough doctors and they announced in the summer that the current position would only be reviewed in April 2017 at the earliest.

The LCC Health Scrutiny committee completed a review of the closure and concluded that it could have been better managed, particularly with regard to working with partners and stakeholders and communicating the changes.

NHS Improvement have been undertaking a review of the decision. The report is due but has not yet been published.

An independent review of the A&E provision has concluded that the A&E could re-open on a part-time basis.

The Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust has indicated that it will look to do that in January.