

Question Cards Raised at 19th November Meeting

1. “Will the equality forum have subgroups to focus on particular issues, for example on healthcare?”

From time to time we will set up Task and Finish groups to look at particular issues raised by the Equality Forum. For example there is currently a Task Group looking at access to public services in rural areas.

2. “Is there the possibility of a Community Minibus or similar vehicle, to take trips from the outlying villages into Chorley for essential facilities and services, or even just for shopping, where there is no public transport access via bus or train?”

Community Transportation exists in the form of the Central Lancashire ‘Dial-a-Ride’ bus service, and these provide a service for people with disabilities or injuries seeking to access town centre facilities from outlying villages. Chorley’s Dial-a-Ride scheme can be contacted on 01257 260488.

The ‘Red Rose Runner’ service is a similar scheme and can be contacted on 01772 901321.

3. “Why are there no emergency hostel placements available in Chorley for victims of domestic violence? Single placements are apparently available in other authorities for women or families who are victims of domestic violence.”

There is a women’s refuge in Chorley which can house 3 families and has a specialist support package. If this accommodation is full, the refuge is linked to other facilities in Lancashire to ensure space is available. Blackburn also has a refuge specifically for Asian women.

In addition, there is the Chorley and South Ribble Sanctuary scheme which assists people with security measures such as changing locks and securing windows to stay safe in their own homes.

4. “Market stalls are encroaching onto pedestrian areas, is this allowed?”

All footpaths should be kept clear unless traders are loading or unloading stock. This area of concern has been passed onto our Markets Manager for investigate.

5. “What are the ‘rural wards’ of Chorley?”

1. Brindle and Houghton,
2. Wheelton and Withnell,
3. Pennine,
4. Chisnall,
5. Heath Charnock and Rivington,
6. Lostock,
7. Ecclesston
8. Mawdesley.

6. “What is the Council doing about closures of rural post offices? The elderly often find it difficult to access help otherwise.”

The Council wrote to the Post Office regarding the closures and expressing the concerns of residents. We are working with the County Council to lobby against the closure of post offices.

7. “Is there an LGBT slot on Chorley FM?”

Yes, the ‘Breakout’ show goes out live every Sunday between 10pm and midnight.

8. "Is there still a system of concessionary travel for carers? How does it work?"

50p concessions for disabled Lancashire NoWcard holders within the scheme area were restored from 5 October. The concessions are not dependant on travelling after 9.30am. The companion passes for carers have not started yet as the final details have not been finished, but a start date should be agreed with the operators soon. Once the system is fully established it will be publicised.