

Feedback to Issues Raised at 19th November Meeting

1. Chorley Transport and Services Accessibility Plan

A question was raised by Judith Daniels, representing Chorley Disability Forum, around the withdrawal of the 123 bus service in the Withnell area, which is not covered by the Central Lancashire Dial a Ride service or other forms of public transport.

Judith also asked if bus drivers are required to stop for people waiting at bus stops with guide dogs so they can tell them the service number.

Judith also highlighted the fact that when on the bus some drivers do not inform blind people when they have reached their destination.

Lancashire County Council's (LCC) Response:

- Stagecoach withdrew the 123 service about a year ago because it was a commercial (ie unsubsidised) service that was no longer viable due to low usage. However there is service on a Tuesday to Chorley operating along Bury Lane and Chorley Road (part of the old 123 route) leaving Withnell around 9.30am and returning at lunchtime. There is little prospect of LCC subsidising a service in this locality as it is considered not sustainable, meaning there is likely to be low use and so a high subsidy level required.
- The Dial a Ride service does aim to cover the whole of Chorley (and South Ribble) Borough but there is heavy demand. However there is a community car scheme operating in the Withnell area which can also be booked through Dial a Ride.
- LCC are well aware of the problems blind and partially sighted people can have in using buses and are looking at possible 'flagging down' devices to 'hail' a bus and audible messages on buses. A pilot scheme is underway in East Lancashire.
- The behaviour of bus drivers is something that is in the hands of the bus operators and any complaints should be made to them directly.

2. Concessionary travel for carers

Lancashire County Council has confirmed that the 50p concession for disabled people within the scheme area was restored from 5th October 2008. The companion passes have not yet started, as discussions are ongoing around the eligibility criteria. Once the criteria has been agreed Lancashire County Council have stated they will then publicise the scheme.

3. Additional and more frequent emptying of dog waste bins in Rivington

Ishbel Murray, the Council's Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods, will ensure that more frequent emptying on dog waste bins are factored into the new neighbourhood action plans.

4. Open Forum – Disability: Clutter of the town centre

One of the principles of our Town Centre Design Strategy is to remove clutter and make the town centre more accessible. As projects for the improvement of the town centre emerge, they will be considered against this principle.

A joint town centre 'walkabout' will soon take place with LCC to determine how we can make the town centre more accessible and 'de-cluttered'.

In the meantime, LCC have an obligation to remove clutter such as advertising boards, if they are, for example, deemed to be inappropriate or preventing access to people who are partially sighted or people with guide dogs.