

Chorley Three Tier Forum

Note of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th September, 2013 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chorley

Present:

Chair

County Councillor M Devaney, Lancashire County Council

Forum Members

County Councillor T Brown, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor S Holgate, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor B Murray, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor M Perks, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss K Snape, Lancashire County Council
Councillor J Cronshaw, Chorley Borough Council
Councillor M Gray, Chorley Borough Council
Councillor H Khan, Chorley Borough Council
Councillor J Molyneaux, Chorley Borough Council
Parish Councillor M Miller, representing Parish and Town Councils.

Also in attendance

Mr J Carson, Director for People and Places, Chorley Borough Council.
Ms C Russell, Democratic Services Manager, Chorley Borough Council.
Ms S Palmer, Locality Officer, LCC Environment Directorate.
Mr M Neville, Senior Committee Support Officer, LCC Office of the Chief Executive.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of County Councillor K Iddon, Councillor D Dickinson and Councillor A Hansford.

2. Note of the Last Meeting.

When considering the Note of the last meeting members of the Forum raised the following issues.

- Reference was made to the decision of the Forum at the previous meeting to receive a report from the Borough Councils O&S Task Group on the adoption of estates, so that members could discuss the content and submit views to the County Council cabinet member, though it was noted that the report did not appear on the agenda

In response the Chair informed the meeting that at the agenda setting meeting he had taken the decision to defer the report until the Forum met in November in order to give time for the County Council Cabinet Members to consider the Task Group recommendations. Officers would then be in a position to provide the Forum with an update on progress made in relation to the recommendations and the Forum would be better informed in relation to the County Councils position before discussing the matter.

- In relation to the Manchester to Preston Electrification plans concern was expressed regarding the potential impact of bridgeworks on businesses in Brook Street, Harper Street and Lions Lane in Chorley and information was requested in relation to any proposed traffic management measures which would be in place during the works. In response Ms Palmer informed the meeting that she was aware of the issue and Environment Directorate colleagues were waiting for a response from Network Rail about the nature of the works/timescales involved.

It was also requested that Adlington Town Council be involved in any discussions around the planned bridgeworks and associated traffic management.

Ms Palmer suggested that once the timing and extent of the works was known arrangements would be made for a briefing for local councillors and other interested parties.

- In response to a query regarding the previous removal of the arches which secure the side embankments on the Buckshaw side of the Hartwood tunnel it was reported that the arches would not be put back until such time as Network Rail had completed the works associated with electrification of the railway line.

Agreed:

1. That the comments of the Forum set out above be noted and the Note of the meeting held on the 2nd April 2013 confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.
2. That once the timing and extent of the bridgeworks in the vicinity of Brooke Street, Chorley and Arthur Street are known arrangements be made for a briefing for local councillors and other interested parties regarding the works and associated traffic management.

3. Action Sheet update from the last meeting.

When considering the updates set out in the Action Sheet members of the Forum made the following comments.

- The Chair reported that having visited Bournes Row in Chorley he had been unable to identify where the carriageway resurfacing work had been done and asked for an update in relation to the scheme. He added that the section which required attention was from No 10 in a southerly direction towards the railway line.
- With regard to Lancaster Lane, Clayton le Woods it was reported that the flooding on the south side in the vicinity of Nos 70-66 and 26-24 was the result of building work in gardens which had affected the natural drainage of the area rather than the highway gully.
- It was noted that a response was still awaited from Officers at the County Council with regard to issues raised by Adlington Town Council in connection with the park and ride facilities at Adlington Station. In response Ms Palmer informed the meeting that there had been an initial delay due to concerns regarding the adoption of the highway, though this had now been resolved. It was also reported that colleagues were waiting

for a response from a colleague at the Borough Council and further information would be reported via the Action Sheet.

Agreed: That the comments set out above be noted and that where appropriate further response be provided via the Action Sheet or outside of the meeting.

4. 2013/14 Quarter 1 Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard.

Members of the Forum made the following comments in relation to information set out on the Dashboard.

- Further information was requested in relation to the planned surface dressing of Moor Road in Anglezarke
- It was noted that as part of the nationwide Rogue Trader week leaflets had been delivered to a number of 'hotspot' areas Lancashire and clarification was sought as to which, if any, areas in the borough had been targeted.
- Reference was made to the contribution made by local PCSOs and the Parish Council towards the ongoing success of the Euxton healthy streets initiative.
- Several members of the Forum expressed their concern and disappointment regarding the removal of the 125 bus service which had provided a direct route to Chorley Hospital. In response to a comment that the operator may have been instructed by the Traffic Commissioner to remove the service it was suggested that the matter be raised with the County Councils Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation in order to seek clarification on the reasoning behind the removal of the service.

Agreed: That the comments of the Forum are noted and where appropriate further updates be provided in due course either via the Action Sheet or outside of the meeting.

5. 2014/15 Environment Directorate Draft Commissioning Plan for Chorley.

Ms Palmer reported that the Forum had an opportunity to put forward suggestions about priorities which should be included in the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan for Environment Directorate services. It was noted that all responses received would be collated and put before the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation for consideration, with an update on the outcome being presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

In considering the matter the following initial comments were made by members of the Forum.

- The introduction of fingerposts
- Greater promotion of the work of the Young Peoples Service in relation to bike ability and cycling proficiency and also in relation to the availability of cycle routes, with possible future updates to be included in the Dashboard.
- Renewal of the white lining on roads in Coppull and also at the junction of Devonshire Road/Gillibrand Walks in Chorley.
- The pruning of trees which obscured street lighting.

It was noted that the Locality Officer would email all members of the Forum a form on which they could list any additional schemes/priority issues which they may wish to be considered for inclusion in the Plan.

Agreed:

1. That the comments/suggestions of the Forum as set out above regarding potential schemes and priorities for the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan be noted.
2. That any additional priorities from members of the Forum, other elected representatives from the Borough Council or Parish/Town Councils be forwarded to the Locality Officer before the 27th September 2013.

6. Item raised by member of the Forum.

Mr Carson presented a progress report in connection with the Borough Councils Neighbourhood Working initiative and informed the meeting that each of the 8 Areas had submitted three priorities which they wished to see progressed.

When considering the priorities identified by the Neighbourhood Areas members of the Forum recognised that some issues may inform the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan and it was suggested that further updates be presented to future meetings of the Forum.

In response to a query regarding action to improve hedges/trees on private land in Clayton le Woods Mr Carson undertook to speak with colleagues about arranging a meeting with local councillors.

Further information was also requested in relation to the Community Food growing planned in the Southeast Parishes Area.

Agreed: That the report is noted and that further updates be presented to future meetings of the Forum.

7. Themes for future meetings.

It was noted that further to the discussion earlier in the meeting a report on the County Councils response to the recommendations set out in the Borough Councils O&S Task Group in relation to the adoption of estates would be presented to the next meeting.

The following additional items were also suggested as potential topics for discussion at future meetings.

- An explanation of the processes used by officers from the County Council when considering the implications of potential residential developments as part of the consultation process in connection with planning applications. Some members of the Forum were concerned that often no objections were raised on highways grounds when local elected representatives had concerns about the impact a new residential development would have of traffic.

- A review of the County Council real estate across the Borough with particular emphasis on any property which was currently vacant (such as Shaftsbury House on Stratford Road and the former Open Mind Centre on Stump Lane) measures which are in place to prevent vandalism to such property and any plans for disposal/future use.

The Chair suggested that the County Councillor concerned raise the issue with the relevant Cabinet Member at the County Council ahead of the next meeting.

Agreed: That reports regarding the above be presented to future meetings of the Forum for discussion.

8. Developing the Three Tier Forums.

The Chair informed the meeting that the County Councils current administration was seeking the views of 3 Tier Forums as to how the meetings should develop in the future. Members of the Forum discussed the current operational arrangements and also referred to those of the previous Lancashire Locals (which had been replaced by the Forums) and the following comments/suggestions were made.

- It was felt the County Council had become remote and in future the 3 Tier Forums should be more inclusive, with greater involvement for all Parish and Town Councils.
- The potential role for the Forum in scrutinising issues before they go to Lancashire County Council's Cabinet so that members could give an indication of their views and thoughts.
- The importance of allowing each Forum to develop differently as a single approach may not be the best fit in different Districts.
- Meetings should be open to the public and the notes of the meetings made available to the public.
- Many Parish and Town Councils did not feel that they were actively engaged with the Forum as issues raised were often answered outside of the meeting rather than debated at the Forum.

Councillor Molyneaux left the meeting at 7.00pm

- As the Borough Council already had an established Parish Liaison Committee it was suggested that issues of concern could be referred from the Committee to the Forum for discussion and a response.
- There should be less emphasis on the work of the Environment Directorate and the Forum should look to examine service provision in other areas, particularly with regard to public health.
- The Forum should continue to receive reports from the Borough Council, particularly with regard to the Neighbourhood Areas.

Agreed: That the views of the Chorley 3 Tier Forum as set out above be referred to the County Councils Management Group for consideration in relation to the future development of the role/operation of all Forums.

9. Urgent Business.

There were no items of urgent business for discussion at the meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Forum would be held at 6.00pm on the 18th November 2013 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley.

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston