



BVCA – Residents Meeting – 4th April 2017

Notes of the Meeting Held in the Community Centre

Stuart Knowles – BVCA Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming invited representatives; Paul Hitchen, Simon Pearson and Jack Apperley (RMG), Craig Lee (Doctor's Surgery), Matthew Tomlinson (Lancashire County Council), Councillor Alastair Bradley (Leader Chorley Borough Council), Councillor Ogilvie (South Ribble Borough Council), PCSO Ray Chadwick (Police) and Jamie Potter (Boundless).

Around 50 residents turned out to hear updates on issues related to the village and to put their questions to the invited panel.

An update was given on BVCA events held during the last year Easter's joint event with the Church, the Halloween Spooktacular and the joint BVCA, Church and Youth Association Christmas event. Special thanks were given to Stuart Longworth (SJL Heating and Plumbing) for sponsoring Santa's transport.

Before moving on to updates from the invited representatives an outline of the changes to Waste Collection which come into force in May and an outline of the new Community Centre located near ALDI were given.

Waste Collection: -

The changes will vary dependent on whether your home comes under Chorley or South Ribble Council

Summary of changes – Chorley Borough Council

- Domestic/non-recyclable waste collections (green bin) and plastics, cans and glass (blue bin) will not change.
- Garden waste collections will be a chargeable, voluntary opt-in scheme **from 1 May**, collections will be **fortnightly** and those signing up will get a new grey bin.
The charge is £30 per year, per bin.
- Paper and cardboard will be collected mixed together every **four weeks** from May in the brown bins (which are currently used for garden waste).

The green box and black pod are being scrapped.



Summary of changes – South Ribble Borough Council

- All residents in South Ribble, for whose properties have their bins emptied by Chorley BC, will be subject to the same changes as residents of Chorley. .
- South Ribble is yet to introduce a charge for garden waste collections the cost will be met through an agreement Chorley BC have with the neighbouring authority of South Ribble BC and those residents will not have to pay the £30 annual charge this year.
- If you are a South Ribble resident you **do not have to do anything** and you will receive a grey bin before the changes come into force on 1 May.

Questions raised:

Q Is it true that Chorley have decided to use their money on the Town Centre whilst South Ribble chose to retain free waste collection?

A. Alistair Bradley said this was not true. Chorley had decided to change now as have many councils have been doing this for several years. South Ribble may follow next year. This change was being made to address budget deficits' resulting from the cut in funding from Central Government.

Q. Is the collection service being reduced, People had heard that there would be less with no Collection over Xmas?

A. No the service level will remain the same. There was a suggestion to reduce services over Autumn/Winter but the Council are not doing that. The service will remain unchanged.

New Community Centre:

The new “Lancaster Way Community Centre” situated close to ALDI/Costa/Dominos is run and maintained as part of Chorley’s Lesiure facilities and can be booked via the council contacting contact@chorley.gov.uk

Facilities at the new centre include:

Large room suitable for celebration events, children’s activities etc.

- The large room can be divided with a soundproof partition to create two smaller areas
- A small room which is carpeted and suitable for meetings and small group activities
- Large kitchen designed with wheelchair access in mind
- Ethernet and Wi-Fi connection
- Toilet facilities including disabled toilet and baby change unit
- Over 30 car parking spaces and disabled parking bays
- Storage facilities available for regular hirers

The cost of the centre is met by Chorley Council and is not part of the “Estate Charge” by RMG.



There was a complaint regarding pedestrian access to the site from Buckshaw Avenue. Currently pedestrians have to walk down to the Harvester and round to the centre and a shortcut has been adopted by the removal of the temporary fencing. The question was asked why the footpath outside Domino's wasn't extended to provide a permanent better access.

- A. Alistair Bradley said that the footpath should have been extended and he would take this up to have it completed.

Police

PCSO Ray Chadwick outlined how policing resources on the village have been reduced at the start of the year due to transfers/secondments, however level will be back to full strength before June.

Most of the problems on the village are related to Anti-Social behaviour and the police have found the best approach is to try to contain this, simply dispersing groups leads to them splitting up and going off in several directions, often causing criminal damage along the way. The Police aim is to prevent criminal damage.

Much of this behaviour is caused by youths from outside the village, which has become the "in" place to be. Many come by train and PCSO Chadwick is working with the Transport Police on the issue. Also, he regularly uses the train to Chorley to provide an additional deterrent. Anti-Social behaviour is a problem that moves around as the police tackle it in one area it will move to another area. With the immediate response and early intervention teams the police are working to eliminate the anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Residents were reminded of the need to report crimes or suspicious behaviour using the 101 service or online, to help the police do their job effectively.

When to use 101?

- You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if:
 - Your car has been stolen
 - Your property has been damaged
 - You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood
- Or to:
 - Give the police information about crime in your area
 - Speak to the police about a general enquiry



However, you should *always* call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

- Q. How many Police are there in Chorley.
- A. The answer is not simple, there many levels including support staff and front line and the PSCO is like the old "Village Bobby" working top contain problems.

Alistair Bradley added that crime in Lancashire has gone up by 10%. There are less officers and support staff due to cuts. Also, there are currently 100 police officers tied up with the "Fracking" Protesters around Blackpool. There is a need for more funding from Central Government for Community Policing.

Matthew Tomlinson explained that local government funding used to be made up 1/3rd from Council Tax, 1/3rd from Business Rate Tax and 1/3rd from Central Government. Now Central Government funding has almost stopped so funding is greatly reduced. Councillor Ogilvie did explain some of the reduced funding is being offset by Councils being allowed the retain more of the Business Rate Tax.

Alistair Bradley also pointed out that the Police are having to do a lot of non-police work. Chorley Council are working closely with the police and Social Services to be more efficient and get problems solved.

Surgery

Craig Lee (Practice Manager) confirmed that the surgery had won the procurement review last summer, albeit on a much lower funding level. This has meant the surgery has had to review its service provision and the launch of the walk-in service to provide a guaranteed appointment for patients on the day. The service is proving very popular and patients are seen on a priority basis rather than on a first come first seen basis.

Despite the lower funding the surgery is committed to its policy for week-end opening.

Q. Whilst congratulating the surgery on its walk-in service there is a problem as you don't see the same Doctor every-time. How many Doctors are there at the surgery?

A. Most patients attending the walk-in service are seen by a nurse clinicians or nurse practitioners, who can deal with many of the minor day to day problems encountered by patients, with the more serious cases being referred to the Doctor. (a list of Doctors and Nurse Clinicians and Practitioners can be found on the Surgery web site at <http://www.buckshawsurgery.co.uk>)

The walk-in service, which was rated as "Excellent" by the Care Quality Commission, has cut the number of missed appointments by half to around 125 missed appointments per month.



Q. What happens as the new developments progress. Are there any plans for a new surgery?

A. No there are no plans to build another surgery. The current practice still has resources and can accommodate more patients.

Boundless

Jamie Potter outlined the services of the fixed wireless network provided across the village. In the next 3 months Boundless will be investing further in the village to supply internet connections with a download speed of 100 Mbps. Anyone interested in Boundless should contact Jamie on 01257 752555 or customerservice@boundlessnetworks.co.uk

RMG (Residential Management Group)

Simon Pearson (Property Manager) confirmed that the charge to residents had again been held at £150 for the year. Payment is due and residents have 14-days in which to pay. Payments after that will incur penalty charges. All residents are encouraged to sign up for paperless billing to reduce costs in the future.

The astro-turf can't be replaced with an alternative surface (e.g. 3G) due to Section 106 rules and five-a-side and hockey will remain.

RMG are also replacing lights with LED as part of the ongoing containment of expenditure.

Parking at the sports pitches remains a problem and discussions are ongoing with Chorley Council to address this along with parking facilities at the Community Centre.

New tables have been purchased for the Community Centre along with an upgrade of security provisions due to vandalism. RMG are also looking at how to improve storage and décor at the Community Centre.

RMG are in the process of employing a Caretaker on the village. This should improve the day to day services.

A new booking web site is due to be launched for both the Sports facility and the Community Centre.

Q. Why were the bills for this year sent out to arrive on the payment date? This does not give residents much time in which to make payment and could be seen as cynical on the part of RMG.

A. Residents are aware of the payment date, but RMG will try to get the bills out sooner next year.



Q. What is happening about the pond on Old Worden Avenue near to the Redrow and David Wilson developments.

A. Either the Parish Council or RMG will take this area over.

Q. Are Redrow not responsible for this area. It was part of the original planning permission, why have Chorley Council not enforced this?

A. Councillor Mark Perks is trying to get the Parish Council to take this over.

Q. The Area has been left in a mess by contractors and the fencing is unsafe why is nothing being done?

A. Alistair Bradley promised to take this up the next day. (Note: the security fencing was repaired the next day following Alistair Bradley's intervention) RMG also promised to push Redrow on this matter.

Q. What can be done about the parking on the roads around the Station?

A. Lindsey Hoyle MP has written to LCC on the issue and LCC have committed to bring forward a proposal for consultation. Alistair Bradley outlined that Chorley Council are having discussions with the land owners in the area with a view to providing some temporary parking, - looking for solutions.

Q. Why is the bus stop near the Station located in an area with no footpath.

A. Discussions are taking place with Stagecoach to resolve to issue. Chorley Council are also working on solutions with LCC.

Stuart Knowles brought the meeting to a close at 9.55 p.m., thanking everyone for their attendance.