

Minutes for HMAG 19th January 2011

Lowton Labour Club,

Attended by 26 guests and members.
One Apology

Minutes read out and agreed from previous meeting on 19th December.

Future of Lowton Civic Hall

ET introduces Des White, who represents the Wigan Veterans Assoc, who have put up a strong bid to take over the responsibility for the Civic Hall. DW told everyone about the plans for the Civic as a Community asset as well as a rehabilitation centre for ex-vets and their families. They are willing to run training events free, provide computer equipment and phones for community groups to utilise such as History group etc. at no expense.

He told everyone that they wish to continue to operate the venue as a theatre or entertainment outlet, run the annual scooter run, but everything depended on the community accepting the veterans into their groups. DW explained about the post traumatic stress and loneliness suffered by these ex-servicemen and women and the centre was about introducing them back into “normal” life.

It would provide a hub for the North West area and has the backing of central government. DW was going down

to London the following day for an interview with David Cameron.

Everyone was asked to write to their MP and to WLCT to offer their support for this venture. See HMAG website for links to Veterans page

A vote was taken within the room and a mandate was fully backed by all for this to go ahead.

Website

Please use the website as information is being added all the time also links to the Veterans Website.

Education

ET spoke to Norman Bradbury Councillor for Atherton, he indicated that there was a possibility of a free school opening on the old Hesketh Fletcher site. The Government is backing free schools where the parents and teachers, are in favour of them

It has been indicated that Lowton High School are applying for Church of England Status or Academy. Information is coming through that several schools within the Wigan Borough are applying for Academy status one of these being the PFI school of Abraham Guest at Orrell which replaces Pemberton High was an Academy.

Wigan MBC Core Strategy Plans.

Lane Head Residents are against any proposed plans for building on the East Lancs corridor as it would add further congestion to an all ready saturated road network. This group has issued a leaflet to all households within their area, to this effect.

Hesketh Meadow Fields and Public Enquiry

When the public enquiry took place in May 2010, the land in question was deemed to have been “Open Space” i.e. for leisure or Parkland and for this reason we failed to secure Village Green Status although this land had never been registered under the Open Space Act. Using the Freedom of Information, JJ wrote to Council to ask the current status of these fields and to date, they have still not been registered.

James Grundy felt it was more incompetence than malice and was probably an oversight by the Council.

CVS or third voluntary sector.

ET and JJ attended three meeting regarding the future role of CVS within the borough and the community. The general feeling with the majority of participants to that due to these difficult financial times and the easy accessibility of the internet, then we could no longer afford to fund this organisation and that community groups can make their own arrangements for contacting groups within the Wigan area.

Lowton and Golborne Township Forum

Notification received regarding the future of all townships and the way they operate. Extraordinary meetings to be held by the Township Forum over next three months.

Next Meeting.

Wednesday 23rd February, Lowton Labour Club due to the Dance Group using the main room, we are using the upstairs room. Can all people who want to buy a drink, please buy it from the downstairs bar and bring it upstairs with them and kindly return the glass to the downstairs bar at the end of the meeting.

Kind regards,

Jan Johnston

Secretary.

3rd February 2011