

Minutes to the Housing Sub-Committee Meeting
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Held on Monday 7th January 2013, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- LENDF Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T)
- LENDF Secretary – Irene Thomson
- Peter Sargeant – Chairman, Lane Head South Residents Group
- Malcolm Jones – Secretary, Oaklands and Meadows Residents Association
- Eustace Collier – Resident of Upwood Road
- Denis Eubank – Resident of Headland Close
- David Glover – Resident of Upwood Road
- Ed Houlton (Ed H) – Resident of Newton Road
- Ruth Mercer – Resident of Church Lane
- Bev Ellison – Resident of Rosedale Ave
- Gordon Nash – Resident of Heath Lane

Apologies:

Cllr James Grundy

Keith Robb – Resident of Rutland Avenue

Brian Hunt – Resident of Ranworth Drive

Jan Johnston – Resident of Horncastle Close (and former LENDF Secretary)

Apologies not received from Cllr Gilligan or Cllr Cowley.

1. Welcome to the first meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee. Those present introduced themselves to the group and indicated their location within Lowton East Ward.
2. Ed T then proceeded to give an overview of the current position of Wigan Council's Core Strategy and the role that LENDF have with regard to making representations to the Government Inspector on behalf of Lowton East residents.

In summary:

- Ed T and Peter Sargeant attended 2 meetings with Government Inspector last summer
 - Originally only one or parts of 2 of the 4 sites were to be used which between them would accommodate 600 houses
 - Inspector requested that the sites to be used must be named
 - Following a further review of the CS the Inspector called for an additional meeting as he had noted a shortfall of 2200 house builds
 - The Council's reaction was to build in Lowton
 - Inspector suspended the proceeding for 6 months so that Council could assess other areas and consult with stakeholders and general public
 - July Cabinet meeting – Mr Normington told Cabinet that Lowton was the only option because if Standish or any other site was added into CS the Insp would reject the CS and Council would have to start again
 - LENDF present at Cabinet meeting and wrote to Chief Exe to report Lowton chosen prior to consultation
 - August – public consultation
 - LENDF have produced a 'Critical Issues' pack of documents and correspondence (Ed T read out some of these letters to those present).
3. Ed T requested that all members of the committee read through this 'pack'.

4. Discussions than revolved around the Wainhomes application. The various 'associated documents' submitted with the application need to be analysed. All committee members to read through as much as they can and find inconsistencies, errors, etc. Also to view the documents with CS in mind i.e. Traffic Assessments and see if any data could be used by LENDF as evidence for the Inspector.
5. Peter Sargeant had already started to read through some and would concentrate on the Environmental Statement.
6. Ed H has already submitted a request to Council that an Air Quality report be done.
7. Affordable housing numbers on the Wainhomes application was questioned. The Gov't are pushing for council's to allow builds to commence but so many houses already on the market are not selling, in fact some are in negative equity! This shows a lack of demand.
8. Gordon Nash invited to write a letter, through LENDF, regarding the deferment of the application until further investigations have taken place.
9. The application is outline which means they only want permission for the red line boundary and the two road junctions.
10. Ed T has spoken to the council about the application being incorrectly 'named' and was told that the consultation period will be extended as a new Notice would be required to be published. (However after the meeting Ed spoke with the planning officer and was told that he would take objections up to a week before the application is to be placed in front of committee. This will be at least 3 months and possibly up to 6).
11. Therefore LENDF to start a campaign to get more objection letters signed. Suggestion made that volunteers meet on a Saturday/Sunday and by working to a street plan, go door-knocking and asking people to individually sign a proforma letter and most importantly add their own comment. Volunteers to be requested at LENDF main meeting.
12. Ed, Gordon, Ruth, Bev, Irene – to print off 500 letters each and will print more when required.
13. It was agreed to include the Crow Wood / Scott Road estate and other roads off Slag Lane which are actually in Lowton West. These have no group representing them and will be effected by this development.
14. Placards also discussed and costings £200 for 20 - decision to be taken later.
15. The next LENDF monthly meeting is 14th Jan at 7.30pm – Lowton Social Club.

Next Sub-Committee Meeting

Thursday 17th January 2013 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

Invite sent to Andy Burnham MP, and local Councillors.

Post Meeting Note: Andy Burnham sends his apologies for the 17th.

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on lendf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson,
Secretary – LENDF