

Minutes to the meeting of LENDF held on Wednesday 20th April 2011
Lowton Labour Club as per agenda.
www.lendf.co.uk

- Welcome to Members, visitors and guests.
 - Apologies from Andy Sharrock, Carol Leigh, John Galloway.
 - Request to all present due to forthcoming elections that this meeting is not used for vote chasing purposes by any party
 - **Agenda items.**
 - **Bank Balance**
 - Three invoices to be paid from bank account for information requested., Current balance £703.03.
 - Still no reply received regarding East Lancs RD, This is to be followed up * Action ET
 - **Forum Report - Last meeting.** Debate about how forums should be changed. They have issued a document to joint chairs meeting stating our requirements. Ed read letter out to meeting. We only want two ward councillors to attend and they should not have a vote on matters concerning budget expenditure. Ed read out letter to meeting. Link up across the borough with other resident groups, utilise notice boards, form an alliance with other wards.
 - **Oaklands Road Playing area and drainage and Lane Head Residents.** Funding has finally been released after a 12 month battle for the £22,000 granted for the drainage work and the future creation of a children's play area for the under 8s. The Oaklands Road Residents assoc are well on the way for further funding from the Lottery for an additional £50,000 grant for a play area for the under 8's. Work on drainage to start late May. Contractor Mr. Holker from Chorley, agreed to keep price to quoted price in 2009 and will maintain drains for three years. 90% of the funding came from Viridor
- Lane Head residents have been successful in obtaining a £20,000 grant for a playground in their area.
- **Compassion in Action** engage with children into the community and have planted up the garden in front of shops on Oaklands Road. Keeps children active and in touch with their community, It helps them build up a portfolio of their achievements and they have received awards for

all their work which involved working for the good of the community and its residents.

- Lowton Live Day

Day planned for 20th August at Lowton St Mary's, this day is free for the community where vulnerable families can come along and mingle with other people from the community. Want a successful event and volunteers are needed. If you interested in joining in, please let Pam Gilligan know at Compassion in Action. 01942 262636. Next meeting 30th May at 10.00 am at Oaklands Road Compassion in Action.

- Update on Meeting with 8th Wonder

Everyone was concerned about the low price which the leisure venues were sold for but after meeting with the directors of 8th wonder, they seem to have the interests of the Civic at heart. Want to improve building and fields (which are being rented) by installing changing rooms and showers for the football players to use and also to incorporate a club room overlooking the playing fields. Propose to put all weather pitches plus possible tennis and cricket pitches.

- Freedom of information regarding questions put regarding Civic Hall. JJ submitted long list of questions regarding the sale of the Civic and how the process was determined. Awaiting reply.

- Youth Club Street Party

Lowton YC and CC are holding a party to celebrate the wedding of William and Kate on Friday the day of the wedding. Advertising leaflets distributed and put on our website.

- Lowton High School and visit by pensioners as part of Jan's project
Jan arranged with Lowton High for a group of mainly pensioners and their carers to attend the school for lunch and an afternoon of entertainment. We had a lovely day and the children really were so talented. If you Google "Lowton bridges" and click on videos, you will see videos we shot on the day. This is the first of hopefully many links with the school on community projects.

- Wigan No Alcohol Policy

This policy has been brought into force on all open areas, fields etc., stops anti social behaviour, litter, loutish behaviour. Offenders will have three hits and then incur a hefty fine.

- Winter Flower Boxes

Everyone agreed summer boxes have been magnificence. Next year

there will be no winter boxes provided by Brought Boroughs budgets. Possibly look to either sponsorship or community involvement in the installation of these. i.e. sources of funding for maintenance costs. Should fight to keep them, as they have a great feel good factor and improve the general demeanour of the area.

- Free Community Advice on planning issues.
If you go onto www.homeoffice site there is information regarding free advice for community leaders on planning issues. Dealing with rights of way, waterways, Involves Wigan MBC and Greenheart Peel holdings and the Canal system, so that they can be improved to provide a safer passage way for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riding etc., Wigan propose to install a passageway from Butts Bridge to the end of the borough using canal side and country parks from reclaimed land. Provides access to the countryside for all users..
- Leaflet for LENDF group.
WE have put aside money for us to generate and distribute a leaflet to all the households in the ward and we have requested volunteers who would be interested in working on this project.
Volunteers who put their names forward, were Ed Houlton, Norman Parry, Scoobie, Malcolm Jones, Gill Turner,
Once printed these could be distributed into public places such as doctors surgeries, libraries, local churches.
- Speeding cars on Oakland Road. Issue not discussed as leaders on this issue were not at the meeting.
- Bus Report from Malcolm Jones. Since contacting the relevant authorities, we are pleased to inform everyone that the buses are running more regularly now and more closely to the timetable. The concessionary fare will increase from £1.80 to £2.70 in the near future and pensioners who use the bus before the 9.30am timetable will have to pay these new fares.
- Garden and House Painting for Disabled and OAP.
Pam Gilligan and Compassion in Action are offering a free service using groups of volunteers to decorate the properties of the above groups. They will undertake Painting, garden clearance, cutting back of bushes etc they don't apply wallpaper. It is important that this information is passed onto your neighbours. Do you know someone who is in need of any such services, discuss this with them and then contact Pam on 01942 262636. The volunteers are not from unpaid work teams so there is no

need to be worried about this. It is young people who are learning life skills and gaining confidence in offering such a great service.

- NWCAN (north West Community Activist Network)

This is great resource of information that is available for everyone who is interested in their community. Just enter www.nwcan.org and have a browse around the site. Free training opportunities, interesting articles involving local and central government. See below-

As a result of political globalisation, greater opportunities exist for people to participate in an emerging global civil society – a dense network of social movements and interest groups who organize and mobilise across and outside states.

The question facing us today, is not whether to recognise ethnic identities or protect nature or enable access to cultural capital or eliminate discrimination against woman and gays or to democratize computer-mediated communication, but how you do all at the same time.

(You do it by) building people's confidence in their ability to express views and have them taken seriously, promoting involvement through genuine dialogue, subjecting ideas to critical and informed discussion and commitment to the deliberative and patient working through together of issues, towards agreed outcomes and, perhaps, common goals.

(Promises of Freedom R. H. Fryer)

LENDF Meeting possible change to a Monday Night or the 2nd Wednesday of the month

As Jan has another meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, it would be helpful, if we could change the day of our monthly meeting. Various suggestions were put forward, including changing it to a Monday Night, instead of Wednesday, as this always clashes with Bowling in the summer and important football matches at other times. If anyone has any objections to a Monday night, please let us by know as soon as possible.

Any other Business

Overgrown Trees Horncastle Close on Wigan Civic site

Trees to end of the car park overhanging the gardens of the properties in Horncastle Close. This is a security issue as the trees can be used to access the rear gardens of these properties and also the trees have caused and are continuing to cause severe damage to the fencing of these properties.

James Grundy was to check this out and report back to meeting.

Proposed Cycle track from Pocket Nook Lane to East Lancs Road.

Cycle track on Old Railway lane from Pocket Nook lane through to East Lancs for cycle track is proposed but this is not popular with some of the farmers who own land adjoining this proposed path and some of the stone has been removed from the pathways.

Support Local Allotments

Are you aware that there are allotments very close to us who sell more of the requirements for your garden without paying the exorbitant prices at local garden centres. Lawn Feed, Slug pellets, and compost etc. The hut is open from 12 until 1pm on a Wednesday and on Sundays from 11 until 12. top of Laburnum Rd left Cherry Tree Rd Left Fir Tree Avenue, left Edgerton Road track to hut on left ., Cash Only

Reduction in the Grass cutting tasks undertaken by Wigan LCT.

Due to budget restrictions the Trust are planning reduce the number of times the common grass areas are cut from April to Sept. The budget was cut by £100,000

Highways grass will reduce from 16 to 10 cuts

Planning grass will reduced from 16 to 10 cuts

Housing Grass will remain the same at 16

It is probably worth noting when the grass near your home is cut and marking it on the calendar Jan Johnston, Secretary,

Jan Johnston Secretary.