

Minutes to the Meeting of  
 Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
 held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012, at Lowton Labour Club as per agenda.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
- Also present: Inspector Kennedy, GM Police (Insp K) and Cllr James Grundy (JG)
- *Apologies received from Cllr Pam Gilligan, Cllr James Cowley, PCSO Jane Tymon, PCSO Anthony Coyne*

No. of Attendees = 31

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.

Some members do not have computers and paper copies are delivered to those individuals. In the case of a meeting date change, or police alerts, it would be useful to have mobile numbers so that 'text messaging' can be used. Please contact ET.

2. **Inspector Kennedy.**

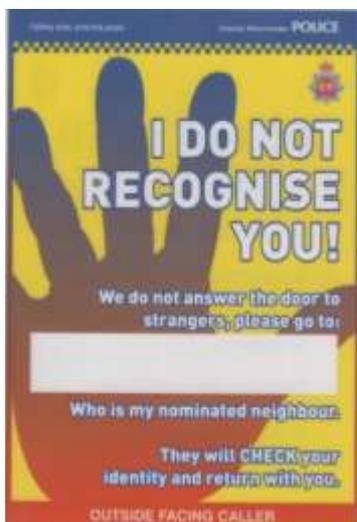
Inspector Kennedy was welcomed to the Forum and was given the opportunity to speak to the meeting ahead of the remaining Agenda. Insp K apologised for not being able to attend earlier meetings and offered to proceed straight into a Q&A session with those present. The Q & As are summarised in the table below.

Question	Answer	Feedback
Where are the police surgeries held because they are not advertised sufficiently?	Usually surgeries are held at the Civic Hall or the offices above Compassion in Action. Unaware they were not advertised clearly.	Use community notice board on Laburnum Rd, GMP website, LENDF website, 'Local' magazine.
PCSOs have not been seen around the area for some time – how many officers do we actually have for Lowton?	Three: Constable Chris Clarke PCSO Anthony Coyne PCSO Jane Tymon. They work on a rota system and every 4 to 6 weeks they also cover Leigh town centre. Shift system is currently being reviewed.	Would like PCSOs to be more visible and also attend LENDF meetings if possible.
What happened to the mobile Police Pod? It appeared once at Toby Carvery?	It did travel to other locations in the area.	Again advertising issue.
Crime statistics for L&G in November were 94 various incidents. Four were in Elm Tree Road	If the report concerns a burglary, attending officers will knock on doors of that street to	

Question	Answer	Feedback
<p>but resident not aware of them!</p>	<p>advise residents of the situation.  Vehicle crime/damage is sometimes due to drivers leaving items in plain view, i.e. phones, satnavs (inc their holders).  Insp K reminded drivers to be aware of what is visible and to ensure items are well hidden.  There has been a large increase in this type of crime.  GMP Leigh has a twitter page which gives instant reports to followers.</p>	
<p>What can be done about traffic using Hesketh Meadow/ Oaklands Road as a short cut to beat the queues to A580?</p>	<p>Insp K advised residents to report incidents and also that it might be possible to use traffic officers to monitor the location.</p>	
<p>Issues of speeding traffic on Laburnum Road travelling to the Green Meadows school and nursery – what can be done?</p>	<p>Insp K asked residents to report speeding cars, with reg numbers if possible.  For the installation of 20mph limit or speed humps the residents should contact the Council.</p>	
<p>Issues of traffic using Bodden St/St Nicholas/ Alfred Road especially at school times.  Had previously asked for 'no-access' signs but no result as yet. Why?</p>	<p>Insp K asked the resident to forward to him the emails relating to this request and he will look into the matter.  JG reported that an accident had occurred only last week on Bodden Street.</p>	<p>JG has spoken with Council engineers about the access issues.</p>
<p>Re: Access Issues Enforcements! How are they done? Are they monitored?</p>	<p>Enforcements are not monitored but complaints from residents would be responded to by the Police. Insp K suggested further enquiries regarding access should be made to the Council.</p>	<p>No-access signage is a good deterrent. JG suggested that LENDF invite Danny Orrel (Team Leader Network Management) and Richard Beamer (Area Engineer Network Management) to answer more technical questions</p>

Question	Answer	Feedback
		on highway issues.
Is parking half and half on the pavement an offence?	Yes it is. If you witness this please note the reg number of the vehicle and provide the police with a statement. They can then follow this up.	A van which parks in this manner on Sandy Lane has been reported many times and has received tickets on each occasion.
Anti-theft trackers – how long does it take to find a stolen vehicle?	Depends on the company who operate the system. Usually stolen cars are abandoned by thieves for 48 hours to wait and see if they are picked up.	
Why reduce the number of police in our area?	Police resources are needed for new squads which are being set up to tackle drugs, etc, hence less police for 'the beat.'	
Should an attempted burglary be reported?	Yes	
Bricks thrown at windows, and other property damage, should this be reported too?	Yes	

Irene Thomson added a report to the meeting of activity on the Rowan Avenue estate by PSCO Jane Tymon and Home Watch co-ordinators. Attempts to gain a 'No Cold Calling Zone' for the area have not yet been successful and Jane has provided the residents with an alternative scheme called 'Nominate a Neighbour'. This would mean any vulnerable residents on the estate could have a neighbour to represent them if uninvited callers come to their doors. The idea is that a card (see below) is provided to the resident which has the details of their 'Nominated Neighbour' displayed on it. The reverse side reminds the resident not to open their door to a stranger.



They only need to show the card through the window or leave it on display if they wish. It does not necessarily need to be neighbour's details, it could be a family member or any other person the resident wished. Jane also spoke to other residents on estate to ask if they would be willing in the future to be a 'Nominated Neighbour' if a resident became in need of this scheme.

So far 11 residents now have these cards and 17 other residents are involved in the scheme as 'nominees' or willing to be 'nominees' if needed. If you wish to enquire about this scheme being introduced to your area please contact PSCO Jane Tymon [Jane.Tymon@gmp.police.uk](mailto:Jane.Tymon@gmp.police.uk)

Other reports given to the meeting by Insp K:

- Speeding on Newton Road had been monitored on various occasions and tickets have been issued to those who offended.
- Police priorities have shifted to other crimes i.e. drugs, car thefts, but he asked residents to continue to report any incidents or issues.
- Police vehicles have been parking in various locations to deter vehicle crime by being 'police visible'.
- **NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR REPORTING NON-EMERGENCY INCIDENTS = 101**  
Dial this number and ask for Leigh Police Station. (There is a cost of 1p per minute.)
- Also follow GMP Leigh on twitter for latest updates on activities and reported incidents.



- **Police Gala to be held in April at the Civic Hall.** All members of the community are invited to come along and gain information about the processes involved in policing. It will be an opportunity to network with officers. More details to follow shortly.

Insp K was thanked by ET for his attendance at the LENDF meeting and Insp K promised to take the residents' comments back to his Police team. At this point he then left the meeting.

### **3. Correspondence**

Communication has been received regarding GRANTS of up to £2,000 available to help Wigan and Leigh folk organize their own community events celebrating the 2012 London Olympics. They can be themed around play, heritage, the environment, dance, music, theatre, visual arts, film and digital innovation – celebrating the cultural elements of the Olympics. The events will need to take place between February 2012 and September 2012.

The closing date for applications is Monday 30 January 2012. Contact 01942 486256 or email [grantapplications@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:grantapplications@wigan.gov.uk) to apply for your grant application pack.

Post Meeting Note: Since the meeting LENDF have requested a grant of £2000, if accepted we will be running two events.

Objection to Core Strategy – ET had contacted Mr Peter Sergeant who, before retirement, was a Planning Officer at St Helens and is a Lowton resident. ET requested his advice and comments regarding LENDF's Objection. Mr Sergeant has now provided this and his comments have been taken on board. (The final version was on display at the meeting). The Government Inspector's meeting with Council has been arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> February and it is at this meeting that he will hear all the objections the Council has received. ET will be at this meeting to present LENDF's objection. There will also be a number of Lowton residents presenting their own individual objections.

Andrew Sharrock, The Township Manager for Wigan Council, requested in a E Mail that we inform everyone how Section 106 money has been spent in the area. In Lowton East upgrades were made to the following play areas Pond St, Oaklands Rd and Winton Rd. In Lowton West The Bonk in Golborne - this is the old slag heap and Braithwaite Rd Park.

Andrew also advised that in the New Year we make contact with the person appointed as Operational Partnership & Locality Development Manager so we can engage with the council further.

A resident put a question to the meeting – Is the Council aware that land near East Lancs Road is unstable. Cllr JG stated yes and that they have been aware for some time even before the Kings Avenue estate was built. The Pendleton Fault runs through Lowton.

The Leigh Reporter is now following LENDF Objection to the Core Strategy and has printed an article about our opposition to the housing plans.

### **4. Report on Meeting in Birkenhead**

Item deferred until February meeting.

### **5. General Items**

A resident wanted to point out to the meeting that the swimming pool at Leigh Sports Village does not have a mother and baby facility, even though it was initially asked for during original consultations.

A visitor to tonight's meeting was Scott Lancaster from Groundwork. He was responsible for the organising of activities for the children during Lowton Alive last year. Scott is willing to help LENDF with any projects or issues their members wish to inform him about. Please contact him on [Scott.Lancaster@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Scott.Lancaster@groundwork.org.uk)

Prior to tonight's meeting Cllr P Gillian had updated LENDF with the news that she met with Kerry Tyrrell, 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder, on 16<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the Civic Hall and will be able to give us her report at the next meeting. If ET needs the details sooner she is willing to provide it.

Cllr JG is currently liaising with Cllr Bob Brierley to gain more information regarding the sale of Civic Hall to 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder. It is still on a temporary lease to them and Wigan Council are covering the maintenance costs. It may be that the sale doesn't complete and 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder will remain on a lease. JG will report back to LENDF any further information at the next meeting.

Need to 'designate' local assets to Lowton in preparation for Localism Act which provides communities the opportunity to purchase assets if they come up for sale.

LENDF to ask Cllr PG to find out from Council officers what the costs are for the Civic Hall and its lease.

The Council are not giving information freely !!

Jackie noted that when HMAG was considering a bid for the Civic Hall the condition was to be that staff and wages remained the same as before – but 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder have sacked the staff!!

Various discussions took place regarding Councils in general and the Government, especially the effect of the Localism Act. LENDF hope to be an effective voice of the community.

## **6. Annual General Meeting**

ET reported on the finances of LENDF and a bank activity document was on display.

ET asked that the members vote for the positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The results were:

Chairman = Ed Thwaite  
Secretary = Irene Thomson  
Treasurer = Graham Maskery

ET asked for members to step forward who are willing to be part of the LENDF Committee. Those who volunteered were:

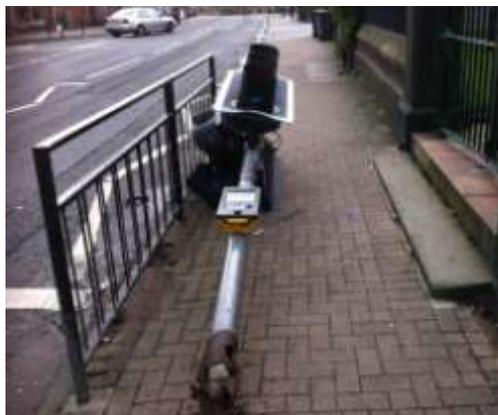
Malcolm Jones  
Ed Houlton  
Graham Maskery  
Dennis Eubank  
Gill Turner  
Colin Sinclair

All were proposed -- seconded and voted to the committee.

LENDF' constitution requires amendments and ET, Stan Walker and Ed Houlton to arrange to meet and review its wording.

**7. AOB**

Following the collapse of a traffic light in Golborne due to rust and poor maintenance by the Council, please check around your area for other similar metal post/poles which may also be in a bad condition.



Stan Walker asked for residents to view the TFL Final Report and to put forward any comments. The report contains detailed statistical information and also contains a presentation. Please view the document on their website. In 6 to 8 weeks it will then go to policy.

If we miss the opportunity to give feedback then it will be a long time before the option of Leigh Rail Station comes round again.

Cllr JG has had difficulty contacting TFL and has not had any of his calls returned. JG requested that TFL attend the next LENDF meeting to answer questions. SW agreed to pass that request on.

JG thought it may be useful to also invite GMT. ET's advice is that we wait until GMT submit their report in the next few weeks and take it up from there.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

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

Irene Thomson  
Secretary  
LENDF