

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on
Monday 11 April 2022 at Lowton Social Club

Covering Chairperson/Treasurer
Secretary
Minutes Secretary

Irene Thomson
Liz Brown
Gill Turner

MP
Councillors

James Grundy
Kath Houlton, Edward Houlton

Apologies

Lesley McGowan (New Chairperson)
Julie Shawcross, Deputy Secretary

No. of attendees = 18

1. Minutes from last meeting

Not read out at meeting but copies have been sent out by email and posted on Facebook.

2. Thank you to the community groups and individuals who submitted responses to the Hs2 Consultation

3. Clean Air Zone – Under review with a proposed start date of 1 July 2022

- Prime Minister called it in at the same time Manchester Mayor did.
- People were asked to keep a look out for any changes in the signages around Manchester and report back to LENDF.
- A discussion took place about the area of the CAZ in Manchester, which councils were included, and which ones decided to opt into it.
- It was suggested that if it was to go ahead in the future the area would need to be reduced greatly. Majority of people would like it scrapped.
- The aim of the changes is for there to be no petrol/diesel vehicles by 2030.
- We will have to see what is put forward in July 2022.
- Better information and consultation processes needed as majority of people were not aware of it until the signage appeared throughout Manchester.

4. Presentation by Lowton and Golborne Traffic Action Group (LaGTAG).

Professor Graham Wardle discussed the presentation (a copy of which can be viewed by clicking [this link](#))

Hs2 – Golborne Spur and house building

- The group sent formal environmental response to HS2 regarding: traffic congestion; sound/air pollution; destruction of local business, sports facilities and woodland in the local area.
- Had previously submitted to Bloor Homes build and Parkside regarding Lowton being in gridlock.
- Wigan Borough Council and Greater Manchester supports Hs2 coming through Lowton even though they acknowledge Lowton will be badly affected.
- Wigan report in 2013 highlighted problems with redevelopment and Golborne and Lowton Infrastructure Plan and stated any new developments would cause severe strain on the existing infrastructure.
- New building plans were passed anyway including at Haydock, Plank Lane Marina and Parkside and will cause a severe impact on the area. The 2013 report was ignored.
- Council and developers do not talk to residents, they are not concerned about increasing pollution and traffic for residents.
- Direct communication with local communities is extremely rare from Wigan and Greater Manchester.
- LaGTAG asked to be notified of any future developments and Wigan Council refused.
- Suggestion of oversight meetings for residents were rejected by the Council.
- Developments are having an impact on all junctions in the area as well as environment, traffic, transport etc.
- GMSF (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework - supply of housing targets) failed because Stockport pulled out. In addition the Government Inspector said a maximum of 1000 houses could only be built in Lowton but a loophole in the law overruled him. The loophole said there are not enough houses actually being build for the 5-year supply so more building applications are being passed than necessary.
- 'Places for Everyone' has now replaced GMSF – Pocket Nook has been ring fenced for housing on these plans. It is being referred to the Government Inspector with a chance of it being overturned. Mr Adamson's land is part of this and he was threatened/told it would be compulsory purchased.
- There should be travel plans for each planning application and information collated. Freedom of Information requests for travel plans across various development sites around the area have found these travel plans are not being enforced! It is the responsibility of the building companies to do this but it is not being done, and the Council are not checking and enforcing it. This is very unprofessional and allows planners to ignore road congestion.
- A local resident was told he could re-open his business, deferred statement. Officially no decision has been made on the Golborne Spur. All HS2 will say are that alternatives are also being looked at.
- Pollution around the area was discussed and the Parkside Development was discussed at the enquiry. It was reported that no air quality reports for Lane Head been available since 2020, even though they have been asked for.

CAZ – Clean Air Zone

- LaGTAG is not in favour and questioned the proposal.
- Introduction of electric vehicles and how is this paid?
- Government has to get taxation in some form once no excise duty on fuel tax.
- Some other form of charges needs to be in place. This could be charged on omissions, weight of vehicle/possible road damage as HGV's do more damage than cars, vehicle axels, mileage as some only travel 2,000 miles and others exceed 20,000 miles per year.
- LaGTAG came up with an equation sheet to charge vehicles. This was submitted to the Transport Committee and Secretary of State Environment Transport in March 2022 and they will talk to them regarding the proposal. The Government wanted a solution by the end of this year.
- Running existing diesel cars for 200,000 miles compare favourably with the carbon footprint of creating an electric car. Also diesels can be recycled 100% once scrapped.
- New electric cars have 500 – 800v batteries not 12v.
- It was reported that an AA Recovery Person said they cannot work on electric cars because of the volts from the batteries. Firemen and Recovery people must be careful because of this.
- Local Public transport needs major improvement so people can travel this way instead of using their own vehicles.
- Speeding data from the presentation can be viewed [here](#).

5. Redrow Meeting – re-development off Bainbridge Avenue.

Liz Brown shared details from the meeting 23 March 2022. Minutes will be sent out once finalised.

- Liz thanked Kath Houlton, Councillor for organising the meeting.
- There had been complaints regarding developments on Hesketh Meadow Lane and Bainbridge Avenue.
- This was the first meeting with 6 people being allowed to attend along with Councillors and 8 other people from the Builders, Planning and Traffic Department from Wigan Council.
- The residents were listened to and this will be the first in a series of meetings.
- Kath Houlton has spoken to the Police regarding excessive speeding around the sites.
- There is damage to highways (Section 38) potholes to get to the site.
- Lorries were entering site before 08:00 so now there is someone from Redrow there who diverts them to park up if they arrive before this time (usually on the Enterprise Business Park or alternative area).
- School children attending J&I Junior School around 08:30-9:00 will experience an increase in dangerous traffic. It was reported this is an accident waiting to happen and the departments will consider this.
- How do they slow down people speeding down Hesketh Meadow Lane towards the Redrow development? Redrow are considering putting in a chicane to slow drivers down. There will be about 300 houses directly

accessing Hesketh Meadow Lane once building work is complete, doubling the number of houses previously there. That's a lot of extra cars.

- Road sweeping was not being carried out sufficiently to clean the roads. It was reported by one resident that the road sweeper also speeds while cleaning the roads.
- Next meeting organised for 26 April 2022 and Liz will report back on any information from this.

AOB

- Complaints around the piling and noise from the development at Oaklands on Hesketh Meadow Lane. It was reported by one resident as vibrations of 1.7 on the Richter Scale. This will continue for 2 to 3 weeks. A structural survey has been suggested by one of the Councillors once the piling has ended. Any complaints should be sent to Paul Barton, Director at Wigan Council.
- Parking around Hesketh Meadow Lane was discussed when the field is being used by the football teams. The visitors are parking on footpaths and outside residents' drives. It was unsure if the gate to the carpark was being opened or whether the carpark was too small for the number of cars. This will be looked into and people contacted.
- Sadly Mr Peter Adamson passed away a few months ago. He was involved in many communications with the Council regarding his desire to protect his farmland from development. We appreciate his stoic attempts to stop his land being taken and put into Wigan's development plans. We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our condolences to his family.

**Next Meeting: 9 May April 2022 – 19:30
At Lowton Social Club**