

# Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

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

Secretary  
Minutes Secretary

Liz Brown (Chaired the meeting)  
Gill Turner

Councillors

Kath Houlton, Edward Houlton, Marie Cooper

## Apologies

Irene Thomson, Covering Chairperson/Treasurer  
Lesley McGowan (New Chairperson)  
Julie Shawcross, Deputy Secretary

No. of attendees = 26

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## 1. Welcome and previous minutes

Minutes not read out at meeting, but copies have been sent out by email and posted on the Facebook page and put on the LENDF website.

Irene (IT) sent apologies as she had been very busy in running Lowton Hedgehog Rescue lately due to the large number of orphaned baby hedgehogs she has to feed around the clock and would not be able to attend the meeting tonight.

New visitors and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

## 2. Presentation by Linda Graham regarding Pennington Flash licencing

- Presentation attached.
- A **blue** paper notification of the licence was initially seen posted on a board at Pennington Flash over the June bank holiday weekend and this person then posted it on social media. There was an official meeting at Leigh Sports Village on 23 May 2022 for stakeholders and the information about the licence application was withheld by LSV! Notices were posted in Leigh Journal but very few people read this paper now.
- There were 198 objections in by the 7 June deadline in spite of the short notice to stakeholders. Only 19 of these objections were deemed relevant despite many people adhering to the 4 bullet point criteria. Only 3 people were invited to the sub committee meeting regarding licencing. Because so many people objected to the blanket application, it was changed to 11-10pm instead of 11-1am, and the area reduced to the café and decking area, instead of a much bigger area, and the amended licence was then passed.

- Details of licencing and the procedure has now been noted for future reference. If people hadn't objected then the unamended application would have been passed without going to a subcommittee! Subcommittee meeting are recorded and minutes taken.
- Eyebrows were raised in the meeting when it was discovered stakeholders were not directly notified about the licence.
- The café opening hours were queried. LVS advised they would *usually* be open until around 6pm in summer and 4pm in winter.
- Private events can be booked at the café and outside decking area and the licence will be until 10pm. The inside capacity for these events is 30 people.
- The café will mainly sell coffee, cakes and snacks and will only sell small bottles of beer/wine.
- A reduced licence (11am-10pm) has been agreed but could have up to 15 temporary events per year. Any temporary events planned (artisan, Christmas, crafts etc) would have to go through normal licensing applications if licensing issues were involved and objections invited. Planned events can have a capacity to up to 499 people. It was stated that all events would now be discussed with stakeholders in advance where concerns could be raised (unlike the original licence application!) People were asked to be vigilant to ensure this actually happened and let community groups know if they see any events advertised on blue paper at the Flash.
- The question about profits from events/café was discussed. It was stated that profits from the Pennington Flash café would be used to improve the nature reserve.
- An observation was made about making licensing applications more visible and changing the law to display applications more widely.
- It was stated there was no intent to play loud music in the nature reserve and only background music.
- Lifebelts around the nature reserve were discussed. It had been reported that existing ones had been vandalised/stolen.
- The tender to run the café was discussed and how did Leigh Sports Village get it?
- The current picnic area in the nature reserve is being turned into a permanent overflow carpark for LSV. People were asked to be vigilant and report any parking issues when events are on.
- It was discussed that on checking, no one is aware of any other Nature Reserve in the country that sells alcohol. This is what comes of allowing an organisation that has no formal environmental credentials, to run a nature reserve.
- Linda was thanked for the presentation.

### 3. Section 106 monies

- This is monies the council receive for allowing builders to build on land.
- The extension of the bypass towards Warrington was discussed again and the council report they do not have enough money for this (*although they do have at least half of it for short term tick box road tweaks*)

- A discussion took place on what the council want to use the money for. It was agreed in the past that money would be used for Lowton St Mary's Church Hall, Judo club, Pond Street Park soft play etc.
- It was asked if there were time limits to use the money and it was reported there is still money from 2008 Section 106 money, which was from the Township Forum time not yet used.
- One of the road improvements the council want to do is to widen the East Lancs Road (A580) opposite the petrol station for vehicles turning left towards Winwick Lane/Newton. This will use the access road from the local houses for vehicles on the East Lancs Road, moving vehicles using the East Lancs Road closer to the houses, causing various risks to people and property. Residents attended the meeting tonight saying the first time they heard about this was in the Manchester Evening News (MEN)! They asked for advice on ways they could object to this. Various suggestions were put forward for the residents. (Attend Lane Head South Residents Group Monday 18 July, contact the press, petitions etc, contact James Grundy with objections to pass on to relevant people)

#### **4. Action points from previous meeting.**

##### **1. Doctors**

- Doctors seem ok after checking.

##### **2. Dentists**

- There are problems with the long length of many NHS waiting lists, many are not taking new people on, others have to wait up to 6 months.
- It was reported that if you do not attend the Dentist yearly or miss two appointments without good notice or reason, they take you off their NHS list.
- A question was asked if there was a legal number limit to each NHS Dentist? Dentists only get paid if you attend appointments not like GPs who get paid per person.

##### **3. Schools**

- There are 338 Y7 children in Lowton and Golborne postcodes and 415 places available. Golborne High School will have additional capacity with the permanent building being built.
- A child from outside the area may get priority if they have a sibling already attending the school.
- There was no information on primary schools but was noted from last meeting there were currently available places at St Catherine's.

##### **4. HS2**

- It was reported the section affecting Lowton/Golborne had been put on hold and was being looked at for alternative options.
- Village Green status was mentioned for the land for the Civic Field.
- It was reported from a very recent HS2 drop-in session that HS2 were trying to take on board the objections. Our land is still safeguarded for HS2 for 2 years, just in case they change their minds.....however it would have to go through parliament as a separate bill.

##### **5. Morris Homes, Atherleigh Way/A580**

- It's at the pre-planning stage. The land is tenanted by farmers but the land owner has chosen to sell. The plans stop just short of Mr Adamson's farm.

- Builders are always looking for land and will pay a retainer to owners so they can have the first offer if the owner chooses to sell the land This could be considered a “Variation of Land Banking”.
6. Speed monitoring Hesketh Meadow Lane, Wiggett and Redrow
- The speed monitoring has been taken away as vandalised twice.
  - A noisy grid outside the access to The Wiggett’s site has been reported many times to the Wiggett’s Site Manager. *If the grid is annoying you then please text Ian, the site manager, on 07738486562.* They have tried to fix it a couple of times but it needs a more substantial repair requiring the road to be closed again. More texts from concerned parties would focus Ian’s mind on this task.
7. Bellway Pond
- It is reported it is dry and grass seeds have been put down.
  - A meeting is to be organised with the council, Ed H and residents to look at a video evidence of unfinished mitigation and to get Bellway to deal with the issue. *(As a result of this meeting the relevant council officer is now chasing this up with Bellway)*

## 5. AOB

- Local allotments were discussed and there is a 5–6-year waiting list in all the Wigan areas. Countrywide the average is 7 years.
- Councils are not giving people spaces to grow their own fruit and vegetables.
- Kath Houlton reported she has been given details of a possible site off Newton Road and has contacted the council about ownership and if it is council owned could it be allocated as allotments.
- If anyone has seen a piece of land locally that could potentially be used for allotments then let us know.
- Wildflower spreading was mentioned and sites for this and planting can be looked at.
- An Environment Officer has agreed to attend a meeting in August/September to give a speech. It was asked for people to come up with suggestions and not to use this to just complain about house building as she has no control over this. Suggestions given
  - Litter
  - Plastic pollution
  - Recycling
  - Dog walkers
- An Engagement Officer at Wigan Council could possibly provide funding for projects.
- There is a drop in coffee morning on a Thursday at St Mary’s and often a councillor and/or Council officer is present.

**Next Meeting: 8 August 2022 – 19:30**  
**At Lowton Social Club**