

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on
Monday 12 June 2023 at Lowton Social Club

Chair	(Currently vacant)
Secretary (Chaired the meeting)	Liz Brown (LB)
Minutes Secretary	Gill Turner (GT)
Councillors	Kath Houlton (KH) Jenny Gregory (JG) Garry Lloyd (GL)
Guest	Abbie Lawton Climate Response Engagement Officer Louise Atherton Waste Services
Apologies	
Treasurer	Irene Thomson (IT)
Deputy Secretary	Julie Shawcross (JS)

No. of attendees = 21

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.
New visitors and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

2. RECYCLING TALK FROM STAFF AT WIGAN COUNCIL

Abbie Lawton and Louise Atherton from Wigan Council attended to explain recycling in the borough

- ✓ AL introduced herself and informed the group that she organises events with parents, youth events in and out of school and eco crafts.
- ✓ LA introduced herself and informed the group that her work involves liaising with the 3 recycle centres in the borough partnered by FCC Environment. This includes Slag Lane, Kirkless and Chanters recycling centres. The council recycling website is <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Bins-Recycling/Waste-and-Recycling-Centres.aspx>

Questions were asked by the group and discussions/points noted:

- How does recycling work? All recycling is contracted out:
Curb side bins – Blue bin: Link at <https://www.linkrecycling.co.uk>

Brown bins - <https://www.suez.co.uk/en-gb> SUEZ

Green bins - <https://brosters.co.uk> Brosters at Diggle Green, Culcheth. Kirkless (enclosed site) is a holding site then full lorry loads taken to Diggle Green - 22 ton vehicles and 6 loads per day.

- ✓ History of past issues with Diggle Green were discussed and the current issues reported (flies and bad smells). AL and LA will pass comments on to Peter Davies. The Dingle Green site is in Warrington Borough.
- ✓ A discussion took place about cutting down food waste: best before dates are advisory and the food is generally still OK to eat. Buy less, for example if you do not want a full bag of apples – just chose a couple of loose ones.
- ✓ The amount of waste from the “fast food industry” was discussed and it was asked if the Council could do more regarding this?
- ✓ The App “Too Good to Go” was suggested for people to buy cheap food products with short sell-by dates to prevent this food going to landfill.
- ✓ Short-dated products are also being passed onto places like the Bridge in Leigh (the Avenue) which is a shop that sells food at a fraction of the price.
- What % of waste is actually recycled? - about 53% of waste collected is recycled and this is reported each quarter to DEFRA by each authority. <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2021-22-overall-performance>
- Contaminated bins were discussed: it is possible to salvage some of the recycling in the recycle lorry but sometimes not (if in the middle of the lorry). Sometimes full loads are contaminated and cannot be recycled.
 - ✓ It is important to only put specific things in recycling bins. Find out here: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Bins-Recycling/Which-bin-do-I-use.aspx>
 - ✓ People are asked to rinse cans/bottles before putting in the bin. Keep tops on bottles and squash the bottle down.
 - ✓ No black plastics in brown recycle bin – use black bin. Trigger plastic/sprays in black bin.
 - ✓ Milk/fruit juice cartons are lined (Tetra Pak) and do not go in the Brown bin – use the black bin.
 - ✓ Pizza boxes – top of the box you can tear off if no food on them and put into blue bin. Leftover pizza – green bin. The bottom of the container put into the black bin.
- If neighbours fly tip in their own garden – report to Councillors. A 7 day/28 days notice can be issued.
- Litter and fly tipping was an issue. It was reported that the council has just started a litter campaign for green spaces. <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Environmental-Problems/Rubbish-and-Litter/Keep-It-Clean/Keep-it-Clean.aspx>
- In addition, up to 5 bulky items can be picked up by the council twice a year FREE from your house: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Bins-Recycling/Bulky-collections.aspx>
- Tie a biodegradable bag to the handle of the green bin to get another roll of them
- Access to local tips: trailers/high top vehicles had not been allowed during Covid but open to them now. There are 3 recycle sites within the Wigan area: Kirkless, Makerfield Way, Higher Ince, WN2 2PR, 01942 825755 Slag Lane, Leigh, WA3 1BZ 01942 261633 Chanters, Chanters Industrial Estate, Atherton, M46 9BP

01942 897949. Driving licences are needed as people out of area were using these sites. Slag Lane site has over 1000 cars per day using it.

- ✓ There is a new site layout for Slag Lane with a last chance saloon on site. <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Resident/Bins-Recycling/Slag-Lane-Visitor-Guide.pdf>.
- ✓ Battery awareness is needed regarding toys, plastics with batteries, electrical, E-cigs. You must take the batteries out before recycling, even tiny ones, otherwise it might cause a fire at the recycle centre. You can return batteries to anywhere that sells them and they have a duty of care to take the old batteries back.
- ✓ The Council would like to set up repair groups, for items like kettles. Some retailers take smaller items back for recycling eg B&Q Leigh
- Allotments – a discussion took place regarding applying for funding to source water to the Bickershaw site. <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Deal-Communities/index.aspx>
- Community litter picks are good for wildlife as it stops them becoming injured. Litter gets into waterways and eventually into the sea. Micro plastic have been found in many fish.
- Refill shops don't use plastic. There is one in Leigh, John Street <https://www.replenishery.co.uk>
- New products (SMOL) for washing tablets and cleaners are now available.
- It was asked what the council were doing to reduce single use plastics as it sounds like it's much better to reduce than recycle. Not much was the answer but we can all help by returning soft plastics (like plastic bags and crisp packets) to supermarkets. The majority of supermarkets do this but it is not well advertised.
- Education on recycling: this should start in schools and asking children not to drop litter etc. Recycling of clothes/uniforms were discussed and this could be pushed within schools.
- Litter around McDonalds and other fast food take aways: The packaging can be found around Lowton (Stone Cross Lane, Slag Lane, Sandy Lane) that have been thrown out of moving vehicles including cans and bottles.
- Vaping waste – gas canister and their batteries were reportedly left in Bradwell Road and other areas.
- Reverse recycling was discussed and returning packaging to retailers.
- Recycling clear plastic bottles better than different colours. Mentioned that recycled plastic is being tested to possibly replace bitumen on roads <https://worksinprogress.co/issue/plastic-roads>

3. Thanks to past and current Local Councillors

- ✓ Thanks were given to departing councillors Edward Houlton and Marie Cooper for their valued input into the community and local groups.
- ✓ The group welcomed Jenny Gregory and Garry Lloyd who are new Lowton East Councillors. We also welcomed back Kath Houlton.
- ✓ Jenny and Garry are setting up their new surgeries as below:
 - Lowton Labour Club – Tuesday evenings 18:30 to 20:00
 - Compassion in Action – first Saturday in the month 10:30 – 12:00

- Bethany Church – third Saturday in the month 10:30 to 12:00
- Church Lane Community Centre – second Saturday in month (TBA).

4. Use of S106 monies to fund inappropriate road changes at Lane Head/Stone Cross Lane (recap)

It was reported the Council have communicated poorly with Community Groups/residents. Main points in chronological order:

- ✓ In 2 separate Teams meetings, S106 monies in Lowton East, Golborne and Lowton West were discussed with the Council. St Mary's Hall and the Judo Club received residents support for funding. There was no support at all for the councils suggestion of road infrastructure ideas for Lane Head and Stone Cross Lane.
- ✓ Despite this, a survey was then written by the council asking for support for their chosen road schemes and sent to all residents in the 2 wards. There was a 2 week window to fill in the survey but no information detail of the road schemes was given to the general public. After local groups pointed this out information appeared on the Wigan council website a week later, but many people had already filled it in without the necessary information. The transport questions design was also biased. The Council then emailed local groups to say there would be a further discussion with them before the final transport decision went to Cabinet. This did not happen.
- ✓ No information from the Council was received by local groups. The Cabinet voted to accept the councils transport plan for Lane Head and Stone Cross Lane despite being based on poor data.
- ✓ These suggested alterations to Lane Head and the access road are now making residents ill with worry. The 20 or so properties have not yet been officially informed of the road alteration. We have been told they will only be informed this summer sometime. The only draft road plan available is dangerous to residents, pedestrians and cyclists.
- ✓ The 5 community groups think the Council has failed the Gunning Principles on this consultation process
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%20Gunning%20Principles.pdf>
- ✓ Currently the 5 Community Groups have signed and officially complained to the Council, this has been rejected "as not a complaint"!!
- ✓ Chairs of groups are working with local residents at Lane Head regarding the suggested changes to the service road. The procedure is to complain via the council to Stage 1, then Stage 2 and only then be allowed access the Ombudsman. The local groups are not allowed to complain to the ombudsman so residents must do this themselves. (Note: Since the meeting many residents have also complained via stage 1 and received a cynical 'this is not a complaint' answer from the council!)
- ✓ The Groups and residents feel they are being "stoned walled". The council are cutting off all forms of appeal apart from expensive litigation.
- ✓ There is a major gas pipe on the residents access road and it would be very expensive to move this.

- ✓ There is a meeting on Monday 19 June 2023 with Mayor Andy Burnham, MP James Grundy, Richard Holden, Minister of Transport, 3 Councils, 3 Lowton East Councillors, representatives from the LHSRG and others regarding extending the bypass. If the bypass gets funded then the Lane Head alteration would be redundant.
- ✓ September 2018 - March 2023 traffic in the area has increased by 15% at Lane Head/Winwick Lane during the daytime and 27% in a 24 hour period. These figures include 3 years of Covid. The figures for air quality have not yet been received.
- ✓ The ANPR camera will be installed on Winwick Lane soon.
- ✓ An ANPR camera was suggested for the Service Road at Lane Head as cars ignore the no entry sign and use the service road to jump the lights.

5. UPDATES

- Braithwaite Road mast – It was placed on private council land without consent. The council are still in discussion with the provider about this, no decision has yet been reached. There has been no notification from operator as to when it will be turned on.

AOB

- **Wigan Local Plan, Places for Everyone Plan:** Options/ preferences will be surveyed around October this year. Pocket Nook land is still allocated for building on, even though land owner has stated on numerous occasions he does not wish to sell. The MP at the time did clarify that farmers did not have to sell land.
- Congratulations to Lowton High School for their outstanding OFSTED. <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report>
- A question was asked of the new Local Councillors JG/GL: would they be working with the local people and actively pushing for the extension of the bypass regardless of council opinion – the answer was yes.

Next meeting: Monday 14 August 2023 at Lowton Social Club

Future meetings will be held every other month and in between Lane Head South will hold their meetings.

LENDF future meeting:

- Monday 9 October 2023
- Monday 11 December 2023