

Minutes to the meeting of LENDF held on Wednesday 23rd February at
Lowton Labour Club as per agenda.

- Welcome to Members, visitors and guests.
- Apologies from James Cowley, Max Atkins, Andrew Sharrock.
Des White

- Correspondence letters re new name for group

Letters that has been sent to Andy Burnham MP and Joyce Redfearn
CEO Wigan MBC was read out at meeting. See link below

<C:\Documents and Settings\Jan\My Documents\lowton east group\Lowton East new name.doc>

WE have new letter heads, business cards and new bank account and a
new website address www.lendf.co.uk.

- Bank Balance and New Bank Account.

Details of current banking arrangements was shared with everyone
present. The new website will cost up £8 per month to run.

- Update Civic Hall – re Wigan Veterans Council, Des White

Unfortunately the Veterans Assoc have pulled out of the bid to run
Lowton Civic Hall due to the presence of Argon gas and asbestos.
Lynne and existing staff are still proceeding with their bid to run the
Civic. Formby Hall and Monaco as they are run now.

- The fields adjoining the Civic Hall have still not been registered as
Public Open Space and there have been no planning applications at
present.

- Environment Project Guest – Sarah Sadler, Wigan Council.

Sarah placed article in “Local” magazine asking for volunteers to
become involved in the work being undertaken on the Braithwaite
Road, Garton Drive area... The residents have got together with
Groundwork Trust, to look at the whole area and about creating more
green space and tackling anti social behaviour in the area involving
youths. PCSO talking to residents want to develop safe play areas and
get match funding.

Malcolm Jones from Oakland’s Road told everyone about the £55,000
they have already been granted and discussion took place on how to
get help with funding applications possibly from Lottery, Viridor.
Look at Brighter Boroughs money from Jonathan Miller.

- Pam Gilligan – Compassion in Action

Pam told everyone the background history to Compassion in Action and about its open door policy providing friendship and support to people in need. They address the needs of anyone and everyone if they are able. Crisis, trauma, homelessness, sickness, isolation.

They have opened a Health and wellbeing centre in Golborne, looking at healthy eating, furniture restoration unit in Atherton, offering skills training to participants, been asked to open in Wigan centre as well.

Furniture is delivered and distributed to needy clients. Garden at the front of offices in Oakland Road, planted with flowers for elderly sick resident who lived opposite. The children, who helped with the garden, went to collect the lady and pushed her across so she could enjoy the garden.

This charity has improved anti social behaviour in the area, provided a much needed support to pensioners in the cold weather, have made Lowton a much cleaner and nicer place to live. The children have enjoyed taking part and receive rewards for their efforts.

- CVS meeting at DW Stadium Wigan

Ed and Jan attended three meeting regarding 3rd Voluntary Sector. And basically it was overwhelmingly voted for that the Borough did not need or did not back the reinstatement of CVS as the link between the Residents and the Council.

- Environment and Heritage Network.

This is the only long standing Community group that works across all areas of the borough and this group could work with other Neighbourhood Forums similar to ours, which would provide the necessary voice for the people and report to Council. 25 Boroughs in Wigan areas and these are formed into groups of between 2 & 3 Borough per group.

- NWCAN conference at Nelson Lancs.

Ed and Jan attended this meeting and were really motivated by how much work is being done for the community, and by the community. We all know that there job cuts and budgets cuts, but that should mean

and we can be more involved in what goes on locally as this is more cost effective for the Council and more rewarding for the local residents.

I have attached a link from Bill Kerry one of the speakers on the day which looks at inequality and its not all about money, if you get time, please open it, you will be surprised. It's about quality of life, contentment and how inequality affects your health and general well being.

- <C:\Documents and Settings\Jan\My Documents\NWcan\Bill Kerry.ppt>

- **TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GROUP**

- Communities, who look after each other, grow together.
- Do what you always do and always get the same result. – CHANGE IT.
- Throwing money at the problem isn't always the answer. – Get involved
- Success depends on who is leading the initiative. Form a committee, and change it regularly as per constitution.
- Don't rely on the same people to do all the work all the time, volunteers can burn out as well.
- Remember the group is owned by everyone, not the usual suspects, who expect to get heard.
- Let the community make its own decisions.
- Get as many representatives from local groups together.
- Involve local youth groups. How do you know what they want if you don't ask them.
- Remember you are not vigilantes. Pass anything illegal over to police.

From Maxine Moare, ex Police now Home Office who led the community groups in Oldham when there was serious social problem and racial disharmony.

- Wigan Partnership Convention Day, DW Stadium

Jan involved in the planning of the above day where council staff and community groups come together.

Very interesting day. Had simulated disaster where electric went off for three days and how would you cope as an area.

Worth talking about this, and how would be coping, how would we look after the vulnerable and the elderly. How would we gain shelter and provide, heat, warmth, and food for the neighbourhood.

- Township Forum meeting.

Township has issued notices that they are changing the way they work and the issues that need to be dealt with. Ed attended meeting on our behalf. These meetings need to led from the bottom up so that we get answers to the questions we want to ask.

- Acceptance of New Constitution and discussion.

The new constitution for new group was passed round and read out. Discussion took placed and a couple of items were added and these will be brought back to new meeting.

- Next Meeting Wed 23rd March. At 7.30 pm Lowton Labour Club

Jan Johnston