

Minutes to the meeting of  
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LEPDF)  
held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, at Lowton Labour Club as per agenda.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman - Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary - Jan Johnston (JJ)
- Welcome to Members, visitors and guests
- Also present and Cllr James Cowley and Cllr Pam Gilligan
- *Apologies from Cllr James Grundy*
- *Apologies from PCSO Jane Tymon*
- *Apologies from Carol Leigh*

1. Minutes from last meeting - Correction regarding Airstrip near to Kenyon Hall Farm. Mr Cliff Mort is not the owner. The owners are Anna Adamson and Todd Bolder. A planning application has not yet gone in. The property on the land is in Warrington BC and the field is in Wigan BC. ET to visit site and request Cliff Mort, attends next meeting.
2. Bank Balance Information - LEPDF account has balance of £959.76 with £40.06 cash in hand. Monies spent = £34 for stamps, ink cartridges, etc. At all meetings we pass round a collection tin.
3. LEPDF Funding JJ to investigate further funding opportunities.

Her original brief was to bring young and old together. Jan described her current projects with Lowton High e.g.

- Mend and make do 24<sup>th</sup> November
- Concert on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at The Rose Centre (up to 300 pensioners and 50 children),
- Christmas memories - difference between the ages. This will include a party plus church service 14<sup>th</sup> Dec St Marys Church
- 'Life Books' - Oct 20<sup>th</sup> - session to bring 'characters' from Lowton to meet the children at Lowton High who will create your Life Book on computer and give to Elderly person. Items such as old photographs, birth/marriage certificates can be scanned into the computer to help build the book. Jan requested that anyone interested in taking part to contact her.

She had also been contacted by an organisation who follow an example in America of running a community group - there would be the need for 6 training sessions for anyone interested in learning about how successful community groups run.

4. Sainsbury's proposal for store at Golborne A presentation was given to the meeting by representatives of Sainsbury's: Mike Morris, Development Surveyor

and Jack Lowe, Public Relations. Plans and artist's impressions of the new store were shown on a screen together with hard copies passed around the meeting. The proposals can also be viewed at [www.sainsburys-golborne.co.uk](http://www.sainsburys-golborne.co.uk) An application has not yet been put into Wigan Council as this is the consultation stage in order to gain feedback from the community. An exhibition had been held at Golborne Library 8 weeks ago which was very successful. Various points of the proposals were then discussed:

- Size of store - 60,000 sq ft (Leigh store is 35,000 sq ft which maybe extended in the future)
- Petrol station
- 480 car parking spaces
- Store will be sustainable with energy efficient systems, i.e. rainwater harvesting and biomass heating
- 4 LCD screens available to local businesses for free advertising
- Current tenants of Millingford Ind Estate will be given help with relocation opportunities within 5 miles
- A water brook will be diverted and enhanced with maintained landscaping
- Construction materials and personnel will be sourced locally
- Sainsbury's are open to working with community and charity organisations.

Concerns from some members present at meeting with regard to proposed roundabout on Bridge Street, Golborne is only a village and the store too big; no fresh bread made in store; most jobs could be part-time only! Mike Morris answered all questions positively and with a view that Sainsbury's will address these concerns during consultations. The Highways Agency are reviewing the roundabout details and this is not yet finalised. A booklet was available at the meeting for people to provide feedback and their website also has a comments facility. If the development does achieve planning permission the final completion date could be in 2013.

5. Winter Flower Boxes - Despite previous letters from Wigan that our winter boxes had been reinstated, this decision was overturned and the winter boxes are not being replanted over the winter/spring season. . This was due to the Joint chairs, of Mrs Pam Gilligan and Mrs Yvonne Gleave standing by the original decision made by the Lowton & Golborne Township Forum on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Most of the Forum members, and residents from L & G were not aware that we were the only ward not having the winter flowers. Discussion took place from members who were present at the original forum meeting, about how this subject was presented to Forum members, and many felt that there was a bias towards, "its either flowers or peoples Jobs". The Chairman Ed Thwaite, asked Mrs Gilligan several times was there a way forward on this, and she said until the joints chairs meeting of the Townships, she is unwilling to assist in this matter and suggested that due to the timescale of the required planting schedule that we obtain external funding. It will cost approx

£50 per box, and we would need approx 20 boxes for Lowton. If you know anyone who is willing to sponsor a box, please contact either Ed or Jan. In the meantime ET and JJ are contacting local businesses to deliver letters seeking sponsorship.

JJ had contacted Andrew Sharrock, Townships Manager, and letter from him was read out in its entirety, and also minutes of this meeting are available. If you require copies, please contact ET or JJ. Ed brought the numerous discussions to a clear conclusion and we moved onto the next agenda item. For this year though the October meeting of the Townships will be too late to organise boxes for this year if the decision cannot be reversed within the next week or so.

6. Wigan Council - Assets Website <http://publicassets.communities.gov.uk/> Ted had been reviewing the site and discovered the fields around The Rose Centre are labelled as 'Sport England'. This is good news as Sport England is designated as a society and this hopefully means that facilities will be improved.
7. PCSO Jane Tymon had sent a report to Jan stating that St Thomas Church in Leigh and also St Mary's Church, Lowton had both suffered loss of lead from their roofs.
8. Greenheart Ed complemented the work being done by Wigan Council to improve the borough's green environment. There is now 70% of the borough which is 'countryside'. <http://www.visitgreenheart.com/>

*"Greenheart stretches from Leigh all the way up to Haigh Hall, and includes plenty of beautiful parks, woodlands, wetlands, canals and green spaces for you to visit. There is plenty to enjoy, whether you want to spend a whole day exploring with the family, or an hour having a quiet, leisurely stroll.*

*There's plenty going on in Greenheart to get involved in - from events and activities, to projects improving access and facilities. We want to make sure that more people can get involved in what is happening in the countryside around them and we're working to make Greenheart an even better place to visit and discover the countryside on your doorstep."*

9. Lowton Alive This year's event took place on 21<sup>st</sup> August and was very successful at its new venue The Rose Centre and a good time was enjoyed by all.. Ed said thanks to all those involved and that the Steering Group has submitted a report to Compassion in Action with comments on the event and suggestions for making next year's event even better. As well being CEO of Compassion in Action, Pam Gilligan, in her role as a Councillor, was able to obtain monies (£500) from the Brighter Borough Fund (as did Cllr Cowley - £500) and Mr. James Grundy (£500)

to help with the cost of providing this 'event' for the community. Majority of items were donated. There was comment amongst the group that the leaflet distributed to residents was viewed as having a political bias.. This point was accepted by Pam and the leaflet will be redesigned next year.

10. Drinking in Public Places Police 'powers' used in Wigan and Leigh Town Centres have now been extended to cover more areas of the borough. Therefore any individual(s) drinking in the street can be reported and have their alcohol confiscated on the spot. The police also have the authority to challenge anyone suspected of proxy selling. This new law came into force on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The maximum fine is £500 if the individual resists or refuses to give up their alcohol. The Police Officer will make the decision on how to proceed with each individual.

11. Any Other Business

- Letter to Insp Kennedy - Not sent yet. Ed will invite him to LENDF's next meeting.
- Letter re Kenyon Lane Junction - Not sent yet.
- Freedom of Information - Re: Civic Halls - not received as yet.
- Freedom of Information - Letter sent to Wigan regarding cost of signage on East Lancs Road promoting 'Rugby'.
- Libraries - Atherton to be moved to Fletcher School, Hindley to be possibly moved to space underneath Museum (listed building), Golborne to be run with reduce staff and hours.
- Heritage Weekend - to take place nationally this weekend (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- Transport for Leigh - Stan Walker thanked those who had visited the website [www.transportforleigh.org.uk](http://www.transportforleigh.org.uk) Comments from residents of Croft and Culcheth were against Kenyon Lane therefore the preferred option was now Pennington as this serves Leigh better anyway. A recent article in the local newspaper reported that a new rail link may encourage the line to be used for freight - but it was then agreed this article was mis-representing the proposals. Ed Hulton questioned if the rail link would only be to the station and the land would not be open for development? Cllr Cowley asked about the closing of Atherton and Newton? Stan reported that Greater Manchester Council want opening up of areas and the guided busway still to proceed.
- Oaklands Road Pam reported that the drainage works are complete on the play area and that £22,000 funding had been obtained from a Virador grant. The 'Tots Park' is still being decided by the Council.
- American Circus on the left of the A580 though concerns were voiced as to the limited parking spaces in this vicinity so suggested that families who want to attend might consider making arrangement to walk to the venue

## 12. Next LENDF Meeting

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30 prompt.

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Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes, please let me know and I will do my best to rectify any errors.

Many thanks to Irene Thomson who took the minutes at this meeting and typed them up for emailing out to all members and the website.

Jan Johnston  
Secretary  
LENDF