

Minutes to the Meeting of
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
held on Monday 6th February 2012, at Lowton Labour Club as per agenda.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
- Also present: PCSO Anthony Colne, Cllr James Grundy (JG) and representatives from Transport for Leigh
- *Apologies received from PCSO Jane Tymon*

No. of Attendees = 37

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1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.

Some members do not have computers and paper copies are delivered to those individuals. In the case of a meeting date change, or police alerts, it would be useful to have mobile numbers so that 'text messaging' can be used. Please contact ET.

2. **Synopsis of Correspondence and Information Received**

3.

ET gave a brief outline to various items received by LENDF since the last meeting:

- AF Brideoak Trust is a charity which works within the Church of England to help the poor. They have land on Pocket Nook for selling to builders.
- Wigan Life Centre cost £217 Million.
- String of e-mails about Lowton Civic Hall. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting in March.
- Groundwork – Scott Lancaster reported to the meeting that Groundwork have a surplus of trees which are available to anyone who has a project which could benefit. They are small 'whips' approximately 2ft in height and are of various species. ET has a full list and Scott can be contacted on Scott.Lancaster@groundwork.org.uk

ET asked those present for feedback on the new website. Many had viewed it and thought it was an improvement. Work will continue to make it as user-friendly as possible.

4. **Police Updates**

PCSO Anthony Colne reported on incidents recorded in January/February:

- There had been burglaries on Newton Road and also at the Lucky Chippy.
- On Lindisfarne Avenue a motorcycle was stolen but this was later found by the Police and returned to its owner.
- Two Lowton men have been arrested in Leigh for 'going equipped'.
- Another Lowton man was arrested for selling counterfeit goods.
- An individual has been caught stealing metal from a house on Newton Road.

PCSO Colne warned residents about the dangers of defrosting cars in your driveway unattended as this gives 'opportunity' to thieves.

A resident of Oaklands Road reported that a number of youths had started 'gathering' in the area and were actively damaging shops, road signs and streetlamps. The resident had a description of one of the youths which was passed to PCSO Colne outside of the meeting.

A second resident reported a problem with a cold-calling incident on the same estate by a man with a ladder claiming to check if you were eligible for a 'winter grant' !! He had asked Cllr Gillian to report the incident, which she did, but he had not had a visit yet from any police officers. The issue of cold-callers was discussed again by the meeting and the scheme 'Nominate a Neighbour' was put to the resident as a possible solution. PCSO Jane Tymon's details passed on to the resident.

[PCSO Colne asked for all incidents to be reported to the Police using the 101 telephone number.](#)

A question was raised regarding the actual number of officers which 'patrol' the Lowton area. PCSO Colne said the Neighbourhood Police Team consisted of himself, PCSO Jane Tymon and Constable Christopher Clarke.

ET asked that the situation in Oaklands Road with regard to the youths be 'nipped in bud' and that the Police Team monitor this area in particular in order to prevent further criminal damage.

The issue of police visibility was raised because some residents had noticed that the police presence in the area seems to have reduced. PCSO Colne acknowledged that he patrols the area on a pushbike (which is his choice) and PCSO Tymon uses public transport, and that both of these methods should help to make them visible and accessible to residents. Any serious incidents would be responded to by officers in cars if both PCSOs were too far away.

PCSO Colne announced that the police wish to set up 'Lowton Cadets' activities in the Youth Club on Newton Road on Friday nights. Funding is available to support these activities and even though the police will initially be involved they are calling for volunteers from the community who could use their skills and spare time to help and get involved with the children. The age range will be 8yrs upwards. CRB checks will be necessary if not already held. For more details contact the Neighbourhood Police Team on leigh.ap@gmp.police.uk

At this point PCSO Colne left the meeting to 'patrol Oaklands Road' 😊

5. Transport for Leigh

A presentation was given to the meeting from Jed Tyrol and Neil Prescott from Transport for Leigh. This organisation is run by volunteers and they have a passionate desire to see a Rail Station for the residents of Leigh and surrounding area. They have presented their various reports, surveys and findings to Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) and asked for LENDF members to support the principle of a rail link by writing to Councillors, MPs and local media. As improvements to the local infrastructure is a key issue in the

area, the building of rail link will help to alleviate congestion. TFL have been in discussion with Wigan Council on its future planning of infrastructure improvements and currently this may be the only opportunity for some time to put the rail link into those future plans.

Councillor James Grundy and Andy Burnham MP are engaging with all parties to keep this project moving through to the next stage.

A final report by TFGM is expected soon which will review the proposals put forward, together with its conclusions, and this is eagerly awaited by TFL.

Image from Transport for Leigh's Presentation.



Jed Tyrol then invited questions from those present:

Question	Response
Who will fund the project?	TFGM
Will trains run both ways?	Yes. They will commute to Manchester and Warrington (there is a problem with journeys to Liverpool)
Is there a conflict with the Council's plans for housing?	Not willing to discuss at this time.
Could TFGM enforce compulsory purchase orders?	The Secretary of State already owns part of the land.
Andy Burnham's views?	He has mentioned that housing development may need an element for rail development.
Is there a plan B?	4 other sites have been viewed but are not suitable for various reasons.

ET thanked both Jed Tyrol and Neil Prescott for attending tonight's meeting and for providing a presentation and further information regarding TFL's proposals.

6. Wigan Council's Core Strategy – Examination by Government Inspector

Peter Sergeant who is a resident of Lowton and before retirement was a Planner at St Helens Council, gave a report to the meeting of his attendances at the sessions so far of the Examination. For example at today's session the subject of development off J25 of the M6 (Wigan South) was strongly represented by 10 residents who objected to the use of land and the audience contained over 70 residents who wanted to hear the discussions.

Peter asked that anyone who could attend, with LENDF, at Tuesday's meeting to please come along.

ET will present the views of the Lowton East residents as per the statement already submitted. It is understood that we will have to accept a certain amount of building but hopefully we can get improvements to 'our' area through the process. ET will highlight the potential conflict of housing and rail line.

Participants for Tuesday 7th

Wigan BC, Edward Thwaite, Barry Hodgkinson, Peter Sargeant, A F Brideoake Will Trust (JASP Planning), Colin Sinclair, Taylor Wimpey (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners), Peel Investments (Barton Willmore), Wainhomes (Emery Planning Partnership) Persimmon Homes (Mosaic Town Planning).

7. Date of Next LENDF Meeting

Monday March 12th 2012

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on lendf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson
Secretary - LENDF