

Minutes to the Meeting of
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
held on Monday 4th June 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: Cllr James Grundy (JG)
- *Apologies received from Cllr Pam Gilligan, Cllr Cowley and PC David Mayo*

No. of Attendees = 18

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. **Bank Balance**

LENDF current balance details on view at the meeting for those present.

Ed reported that all three councillors were giving a grant from their Brighter Borough fund to the Lowton East Fun Day. We would like to thank them for this.

3. **Correspondence**

Following last month's meeting Gill Turner emailed Andrew Sharrock regarding the play area on Pond Street. He has responded that he is no longer the correct contact for this matter and has passed on Gill's enquiry to the department who deal with S.106 monies. Reply awaited.

Andy Burham MP has responded to a resident's query regarding housing on Church Lane – this has been uploaded to website.

4. **Chairman's Meeting with PC Mayo**

PC David Mayo met with Ed and Malcolm Jones to discuss policing (or lack of) in the Lowton area. GMP have been undergoing a reorganisation phase and many officers have changed location and/or shift pattern. PC Mayo himself is new to this area and from the 7th of June will be able to dedicate his time to Lowton. His supporting officers are PCSO Jane Tymon and PSCO Anthony Colne. He has already set in place a programme of 'visiting' known offenders and hopefully this will reduce their inclination to re-offend !!

It is still important to report any incidents or suspicions by dialling 101.

5. **Lowton East Fun Day – Saturday 18th August**

The LENDF sub-committee have had 2 meetings and have now secured The Rose Centre as the venue for both the afternoon Fun Day and the evening Last Night of the Proms. Ed gave those present an overview of the activities planned which include:



Fun Day

Puppet Show
 Children's Crafts
 Face Painting
 Groundwork Team
 Live Bands
 Dance Troupes
 Disco and DJ
 Zumba
 Bouncy Castle for the smaller children

50ft Inflatable Assault Course and a Pillow Bash for the older children



(we shall need volunteers to help 'man' these activities)

Invites sent to Local Police Team and Fire Service to come along with equipment/fire engine and personnel

Local businesses contacted and asked to provide support i.e. a show of 'motorbikes, trikes and choppers', etc.

Mr Adamson to provide a tractor for the children 'to view only'

East Leigh AFC to be contacted re 'Beat the Goalie' sessions

Many more ideas coming through and its all free (except the ice cream and food van)

Last Night of the Proms – Saturday 18th August (via a free ticket)

Mayor of Wigan to open the proceedings

Golborne Brass Band to be the main performer of the evening

Contacts to be made with Lowton-Golborne-Newton Community Choir, and Lowton Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hot Pasties – donated by Cllr Gilligan

Raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and individuals

Flags and bunting and balloons ☺



6. **St Catherine's Church**

The issue of St Catherine's was discussed and Ed T has spoken to various people who have been trying to get the church re-opened - nothing seems to have changed so far. LENDF have offered their support if needed.

7. **BUFFS Club**

Ed Houlton asked if LENDF could provide some webspace for the BUFFS club in a similar format as produced for the Lane Head Group. Ed and Irene agreed. Irene will prepare a draft format for consideration.

8. **LDF – Suspension for 6 months**

The Government Inspector has decided to suspend Wigan Council's Core Strategy for a 6 month period. This is to allow them to recalculate, re-evaluate and re-examine their data and evidence base especially for the number of houses to be built over the coming years. This letter has been uploaded to our website for you to view.

The Council are required to consult with the public and so we expect a period of consultation to begin in July and as soon as we get information of the method the Council proposed to use to gain resident's views we shall inform as many people as possible. We shall request that a consultation session is held in a Lowton venue as well as Golborne Library.

The Examination is expected to recommence in January 2013. In the meantime LENDF will invite Wigan Council's new Chief Executive, Donna Hall, to come to one of our meetings and observe how we operate and hear for herself the varied topics we discuss as a community.

9. **Any Other Business**

Lowton Bridges have organised the following events in association with Lowton High School:

- Wednesday 20th June and Wednesday 27th June 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Do you have an hour to spare? Come along and spend time with the children and tell them about life when you were younger compared to life now. Many children do not have or meet up with their own grandparents for many reasons, so these opportunities are very popular with both the visitor and the students. 15 places available at each session.

- Tuesday 10th July Afternoon

The children will prepare light refreshments and entertainment in form of songs, dance routines and drama. Places are limited due to the size of the drama room but well worth it. 30 places available. Previous event recorded and uploaded to 'youtube' - just search for Lowton Bridges.

If you wish to take part in any or all of these events please contact Jan Johnston on 01942 603436 or by email on janjohnston86@hotmail.co.uk

The Rose Centre (Civic Hall) It was reported to the meeting that there was a 'rumour' that the sale of the venue had now completed! Cllr Grundy recapped on the original sale

details, the extended lease arrangement, and the unclarified situation with regard to the other venues in the package bought by Rose Leisure. JJ to submit a Freedom of Information to the council regarding The Rose Centre.

Olympic Torch

Discussion then revolved around the fantastic show of support by Lowton residents, local schools and churches along the route taken by the Torch. Everyone agreed it was a brilliant afternoon.

The 'good atmosphere' continued with various Diamond Jubilee celebrations taking place. Lime House garden party was once again a success. Also congratulations to LHSRG for the 'street party' in Lime Grove. Both these events were provided through the diligent efforts of Fiona Whistlecroft, Gill Dickinson, Ann Lowe, Kath Hurst and Kath Houlton.

Blue Bins

The new blue bins for paper are generally viewed as a good thing – but it was reported to the meeting that they are not always emptied by the 'collectors' and there are some bins which have never been used and are still awaiting 'pick up' by the Refuse Department. If any residents of Lowton are experiencing similar problems please report it to Wigan Council.

Litter Picking and Improving Green Environment

Irene reported her recent communications with a resident from Mather Avenue regarding investigating the current situation for reporting litter, arranging litter picking and also ways to improve parcels of land throughout Lowton with flowers, bulbs, trees, etc.

Previously the 'Community Payback' lads were based in the offices of Compassion in Action but they have now been moved back to Wigan Town Centre. They were a useful resource for litter picking but Wigan Council will respond if contacted regarding areas suffering from litter. Irene reported that she had taken photographs of areas which she then attached to her emails and the council always responded quickly.

With regard to green issues Ed Houlton recollected the planting of bulbs some years ago along Newton Road and the logistics of organising such a task. It does require planning and therefore Irene volunteered to research land ownerships and create a map of suitable locations. Irene asked if anyone else had notice the appearance of a bed of yellow flowers near the traffic lights/Toby Carvery. Some residents said yes and that it was possibly done by the management of Toby Carvery !! Whoever it was – thank you. They look great.

If you know of any areas of concerns or if you are willing to volunteer your help and/or knowledge please contact Irene Thomson.

10. Next Meeting

Monday 9th July

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