

Minutes to the Meeting of
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Held on Monday 9th July 2012, at Lowton Labour Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
- Also present: PC David Mayo, PCSO Jane Tymon, PCSO Anthony Colne, Cllr James Grundy (JG)
- *Apologies received from Cllr Gilligan, Cllr Cowley, John Walmsley (Chair-OMRA), Rev Tim Demore, Jean Colwell, Norman Parry*

No. of Attendees = 30

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 Ed or Irene.

2. **Bank Balance**

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

3. **Lowton Neighbourhood Police Team**

PC David Mayo attended tonight's meeting together with his team members PCSO Jane Tymon and PCSO Anthony Colne. PC Mayo is the new officer in charge of the Lowton area, He gave the meeting a short report on crime statistics for the area where the evidence has shown a drop in the number of thefts and burglaries. No vehicle crime had been reported. Recently 5 males had been arrested for 'going equipped'. Four were from Earlstown and one from Golborne. The GMP website shows statistics for all areas in the borough.

Those present were then invited to ask questions.

When police presence is low does crime go up?	No because the presence is always the same, as officers are sometimes in plain clothes or unmarked vehicles.
Police presence is not 'visible' on Friday nights and weekends – is this because Lowton is a 'quiet' area even though we are close to the East Lancs and two motorways?	Each area has a team of officers who respond to 101 reports usually within 24 hours. During their 'down time' they will patrol their area. General patrols continue 24/7, though they do cover a large area from Atherton through to Astley.
What are the shift patterns?	3 days on and 2 days off in a 14 day period. This is for the team which means all 3 officers will actually be off on the same days. There is also a 4-1-4 pattern which runs for 3 weeks and is on a rota system. Again this gives 2 days when the team is not together. The Golborne shift is the same as Lowton.
Who is responsible for these shifts.	Acting Inspector Simon Monks.

Those present then expressed their concern over these shift patterns and suggested to the Chairman of LENDF that Acting Insp Monks be invited to a meeting to question why we do not have any police cover on occasions.	
The question then arose 'Can a PCSO makes an arrest?'	No but they can detain and call for a response team to complete the arrest.
How do you make a 'Citizen's Arrest'?	You inform the culprit that you are making a Citizens arrest and then proceed to apprehend them.
When and where are the next Police Surgeries?	St Mary's Church Hall – every 3 weeks on a Thursday morning. Lowton J & I School – every 3 weeks Compassion in Action – every 3 rd Wednesday afternoon Co-op car park – evenings PCSO to supply exact dates and links to Irene for upload to the LENDF website.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The police team have recently been active in contacting residents on the Oaklands estate. They handed out leaflets to advise people that the situation is being monitored and asked for residents to give team support and assistance by reporting unacceptable behaviour. The leaflet contained useful contact numbers:

- Wigan and Leigh Housing, Neighbourhood anti-social behaviour unit, Unity House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HE. Tel 01942 705040 asb@walh.co.uk
- Wigan Council, Leigh Neighbourhood Team, Leigh Town Hall, Leigh. Tel 01942 404364 reportasb@wiganmbc.gov.uk
- Greater Manchester Police, Leigh Police Station, Chapel Street, Leigh. Tel 0161 872 5050 or 101 (non-emergency/reporting) or 999 (emergency)
- Crime Stoppers Tel 0800 555 111
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Tel 0161 736 5866 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency).

Thanks were passed to all three officers for this initiative.

4. Public Phone Box

The deteriorating condition of the phone box on Kings Ave (opposite Londis) was reported to BT with a request that it be given some attention even though it does actually work.

BT responded that a maintenance team would fit a new door, clean, repair and repaint the box. ☺

5. Lowton East Fun Day – Saturday 18th August

Cllr's Cowley, Grundy and Gilligan requested Brighter Borough funding for the Lowton East Fun Day & Last Night of the Proms. The total amount to be granted is £1,010 and LENDF wish to thank each of the councillors.

The LENDF Sub-committee for the organising of these events has now secured and agreed the majority of the activities and performances. A site visit to the Civic Hall took place Monday morning (9th) and the condition of the building was noticed to be in a deteriorating state! It appears that very little maintenance; repair or carpet cleaning had

been done since Rose Leisure took a lease on the property. LENDF will write to Rose Leisure to complain.

LENDF Environmental Group



A sub-committee has been set up to address environmental issues in Lowton East. A new page on the LENDF website has now been created to accommodate the documents relating to minutes, file notes, plans, etc, and hopefully photos of 'volunteers at work' once we get going. Ian McMurran will be the Secretary of the group and we already have the involvement of Lynn Kay (Locality Development Officer – Wigan Council), Damien Jenkinson (Wigan in Bloom Co-ordinator), and Scott Lancaster (Groundwork). The first area identified as requiring some attention is Lane Head and Cllr Gilligan has arranged for the 'Payback Team' to make a start on tidying up the area for us. A plan was circulated to the meeting.

Irene has already received offers of help from residents and if anyone else would like to volunteer then please contact Irene or Ian on lendf99@gmail.com We shall also be approaching local businesses and organisations to help sponsor flower planters, etc.

6. LDF – Suspension for 6 months

The public consultation period for the proposed land for housing will commence in August. Previously these types of consultation have been held at Golborne Library and Compassion in Action shop on Oakland Road.

Recent email received from Kathryn Brindley, Planning Policy - Technician, Wigan Council, T: 01942 489231 E: k.brindley@wigan.gov.uk

“The proposed consultation dates for the Options of the Core Strategy are expected to begin on noon Tuesday 31st July to noon Tuesday 11th September 2012, with public drop in sessions likely to be held in the week commencing 20th August.

Please note that these dates have not been set in stone as of yet and may change, however the consultation will be publicized in accordance with the Planning Regulations and notices will appear in the local press as well as various other forms including the Wigan Council website.”

Residents at the meeting expressed a desire to have better consultations rather than just venues. It was agreed to ask for a full referendum to every house in Lowton if the council try to build over 600 units. Cllr Grundy agreed to check the new Localism Act to find its affect on referendums.

Post Meeting Note:

Irene rang Kathryn for an update and there will be three drop-in sessions ONE of which is in Lowton:

Wednesday 22nd Aug from 2pm-8pm at Compassion in Action, Oaklands Rd, Lowton.

LENDF Fun Day is on the 18th August and this would be a good opportunity to publicise the consultations. If possible we will also try to obtain copies of the plans. Letters of objection are more effective if done individually rather than a proforma letter.

7. Any Other Business

ROAB (Buffs Club) – 13th July

The Buffs Club are holding a fund raising night to support St Mary's school in their pursuit

of a new surface for their playground. Venue Lowton Labour Club at 7.30pm. Acts also include a 'children's entertainer.

East Leigh AFC Annual Tournament – 4th and 5th August

Annual football tournament on the Hesketh Meadow fields starting at 10.30 each morning. Teams coming from as far away as Coventry this year and it should, weather permitting, be a very enjoyable day for the children and spectators. The tournament is for age groups under 6 to under 14's playing 7 and/or 9 aside dependant on age. Upto 250 children expected for each day.

LENDF Fun Day and Last Night of the Proms – 18th August.

Details given to the meeting of the events and promotional material handed out to help in distribution.

Newton Park

Irene was contacted by Peter Astles, who is a resident from Newton, and he asked that the following information be circulated to Lowton residents.

"I live in Newton Le Willows but bird watch on Highfield Moss / Parkside / Winwick probably twice weekly and have done for many years so I have an affinity with the Lowton countryside and so do many of my friends. It struck me that here is a lot of information that local people might be interested in. People may understand the wildlife but not the history or the other way around, they may know of an odd walk or two but not all the rambles around Newton / Winwick / Lowton or what to look for when they are on them. So I thought there might be a need for something easy to read that has these things in one place. By marketing it we might protect it and the character of our towns or at the very least mitigate any damage. I have long thought if people don't know what they have then they are less likely to act and we know the local authorities play the long game. So the Newton Park concept is just a basic idea at the moment - thoughts are informal and non political e.g. not an action group. I thought of starting with a basic website and Facebook page and see whether there is any interest out there? The Facebook page will be called Newton Park Forum the word forum rather than society or friends of because it will be just a place where people can discuss the Park its nothing more than that. The aim of the forum is to educate and promote.

There is already one ramble on the website but we have ongoing ideas for a few more to go on covering Lowton, Winwick to Croft. Although a lot of the history is at the Newton end the wildlife and walks are at the Lowton end. The website is still being added to and people still sending photos in. I wonder if I could forward the Facebook page to LENDF and if there are any of your members who might be interested in helping with this concept please let me know."

<http://newtonpark.snappages.com/>

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Newton-Park-Forum/391447070918985?ref=tn_tnmn

8. Next Meeting

Monday 6th August.

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