

Minutes to the Meeting of  
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012, at Lowton Labour Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
- *Apologies received from Cllr James Grundy, Norman Parry, John Walmsley.*

No. of Attendees = 22

---

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. **Kenyon Airfield**

LENDF have created a new page on our website under Current Issues. This page will be used to hold evidence, etc, of the activity of the Airfield. Here you will find various documents including a report by another Airfield, residents' concerns, photograph of the recent aircraft which crashed.

A planning application was submitted by the Lancashire Aero Club to operate 365 days a year, however this has now been withdrawn.

4. **Dog Fouling**

Signs have now been erected on park land down Langfield and Springmount and stencils on the pavement have been done on part of Rowan Ave estate and on Newton Road up to the Texaco Garage.

5. **Gypsy site opposite Bulls Head**

Owner submitted application for permanent site – St Helens Council refused. Owner appealed – awaiting result.

6. **Speeding Newton Road and Kenyon Lane area**

Police to take action with speed checks.

7. **Recent OMRA meeting** reported an increase in anti-social behaviour on and near to Oaklands Road. Residents close to the play park to be asked to start to record these incidents as 'evidence' for both the Police and Wigan and Leigh Housing Association. LENDF will support OMRA in any action that is required.

Inspector Monk will be invited to LENDF's next meeting to discuss this, and also the desire for 20mph limit to be enforced as soon as possible as the estate suffers from drivers using it to queue-jump the traffic on Newton Road.

Borough Life magazine has reported the new 20mph zoning will be done throughout the borough [Click here for the magazine](#)

## **8. Fun Day and Last Night of the Proms**

LENDF have received numerous comments of 'well done' 'brilliant' 'excellent' and also comment that the Fun Day needed more elements for the older children (and more volunteers). A few people attending the event were surprised that they had to pay for burgers or ice cream (even though everything else was free).

Short video clips of both events are now on You Tube.

[Lowton Fun Day](#)

[Last Night of the Proms](#)

It was suggested that LENDF should repeat the Last Night of Proms event next year as it was such an enjoyable experience for both the audience and performers. Many thanks to Golborne Brass Band the Lowton Golborne and Newton Community Choir for putting the programme together, and giving us a very entertaining evening.

All bills have been paid - just enough in the grant and councillors' support.

A suggestion was made that LENDF could organise a Christmas Carol concert. This is being considered but we would not want it to clash with the MENCAP concert

## **9. Housing**

Central Government has introduced new laws which 'relax' building and planning permissions. See LENDF's website for a synopsis of Cameron's 'Planning changes'.

Wigan Borough Council have reported that so far they have received 6,000 comments and expect more by the end of the consultation. This figure is borough-wide.

A general discussion then took place between those present regarding the targets originally set by the council and their new target set prior to the submission of the Core Strategy to the Planning Inspectorate.

A recent Needs and Demand Study showed only 18% of residents can currently afford to buy new homes – therefore 400 out of every 1,000 built needs to be for rent

Another recent survey showed that Wigan has 5,000 empty houses in the borough.

Re: Mr Adamson's land mentioned in LENDF's email to Council and in their reply they state they have both written and spoken to Mr Adamson. He told the meeting that no conversation took place.

Save Our Borough campaigners regarding North Leigh development, have recently instructed solicitors to assist them. LENDF invited to attend their meetings and will monitor their progress/situation.

During the Public Drop-In Session at Compassion in Action on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Council handed out an information document to all those who attended. This

document states that Lowton would need 3 new junior schools in order to cope with new housing developments!

Following the Consultation Period (6 weeks) the Council will be collating the evidence in readiness for presentation to the Planning Inspector. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for more evidence that LENDF could use in our case against the proposed number of houses, then please get in touch via [lendf99@gmail.com](mailto:lendf99@gmail.com)

Wigan Council will have a meeting with the Planning Inspector, possibly in January 2013, and all those who have indicated an interest in the Core Strategy, including LENDF, will be able to attend and hear the debate/decision with regard to Wigan's plans.

#### **10. Civic Hall**

Ownership of the building is still unknown – current information is that it is still on lease to Rose Leisure which would indicate that it is still a council asset!

Jan Johnston wrote to Rose Leisure to express concern over the condition of the interior of the Civic Hall. Jan' emails and their reply is on LENDF's website on the Civic Hall page.

Prior to the Fun Day, Irene Thomson asked for the car park to be swept with a road sweeper as there were a number of areas with broken glass. The Council replied that Rose Leisure was responsible and they passed on the request.

Last week, Irene asked the Council to arrange for the bins on the car park to be emptied as they were overflowing, and the Council replied that Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust were responsible.

Therefore responsibility and ownership is divided between different organisations!!

#### **11. Any Other Business**

- Event: Macmillan Coffee Morning – 28<sup>th</sup> Sept Lowton St Mary's Church Hall.
- Mount Tabor (land on the right between Lane Head and the Travellers Rest) LHSRG are trying to identify land ownership.
- Question: What has happened to the Railway Station behind Pennington Fire Station – it has all gone quiet?  
Looks to be dead in the water, the Transport Survey reported that a new station at Pennington would cost over £60 Million and to open Kenyon Junction would only cost £12 Million. The report concluded that at this time it was not viable to do either.
- Main prize of Fun Day Raffle – rocking motorbike – was returned to LENDF as winner didn't actually want it. Suggestion that LENDF donate it to Sure Start. Contact to be made with them to ask if they would like to accept.

#### **12. Next Meeting**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October.