

Minutes to the Meeting of
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Held on Monday 1st October 2012, at Lowton Labour Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (ET), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
- Present: Cllr Grundy, PC Mayo, PCSO Colne, PCSO Tymon
- *Apologies received from Kath Houlton and Cllr Gilligan*

No. of Attendees = 23

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. **Police Matters**
LENDF had invited Inspector Monks to the meeting but he had responded that he was unfortunately unable to attend. He did though promise to ask the Local Police Team to attend and he will also look into the various issues reported by LENDF.

The Local Police Team attended tonight’s meeting and these issues were discussed:

Oaklands Park

The police have checked their records and 9 reports have been received since January in relation to incidents at the park. This is a low number compared to other areas in the borough. Residents present mentioned numerous issues occurring recently regarding youths on the park late at night, riding scooters at speed and across the grass (sometimes their pillions not wearing helmets), and general disturbance to other users of the park. The police asked if these had been reported using the 101 number – but they hadn’t as some residents didn’t want an actual police officer at their door as they feared there could be reprisals. The 101 facility does allow the caller to remain anonymous. Also residents can call Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

The Police will accept reports via a third person and also even if the incident occurred a few days prior to reporting it.

Officers have been patrolling the park and have been speaking to youths. They will continue to patrol but they need residents to please either report incidents or to

keep a log/diary which could be used at a later date. Also if a resident gets the details of a number plate – please pass this on.

It is now policy throughout the borough that no alcohol can be consumed in public and the police can seize any cans/bottles found on any individual.

The new 'stop and search' procedures enable an officer to use his radio link to report the details of anyone stopped for acting suspiciously. This new process enables details to be taken quicker and is recorded directly at the station. Therefore reducing paperwork, enable more time 'on the beat'. Data is readily available for quick analysis of an area by Inspectors and any 'patterns' can be given more attention.

Homewatch schemes are being set up on Oaklands Rd and Elm Tree Road. Awaiting delivery of packs stickers and signs. Cllr Grundy offered to contact the council department responsible and speed up the delivery of these packs.

PCSO Tymon passed to Irene the dates for the October surgeries which are:

- 3rd Oct - Compassion in Action - 4-5pm
- 12th Oct - Co-op - 6-8pm
- 17th Oct - Lowton J&I - 10-12noon
- 24th Oct - Compassion in Action - 4-5pm

The 3 officers then left the meeting at this point. LENDF thanked them for their attendance.

4. Wind Turbine, Kenyon Lane

LHSRG had attended the planning committee hearing for the decision on an application for a wind turbine by the farmer at Johnson's Farm. This application was granted but the farmer has decided to postpone the installation of the turbine (for now).

5. Civic Hall

Wigan Council has still not responded to the Freedom of Information request for details of the lease with Rose Leisure. Jan Johnston has again requested this information (see LENDF website).

6. Housing

Cllr Grundy reported that he had asked the Council why they prefer Lowton for house building. The response was that builders do not want to build affordable housing because they can't afford to!! They are not cost effective. If builders were allowed build prestige houses then they would be able to afford to build a proportion of affordable ones.

Another option would be to ask builders to give money and land to the Council so that more council housing could be built. There is a shortage and a high demand for council housing.

A resident questioned a rumour that land owned by George Moss on Sandy Lane (between Bodden St and Brook St) was being prepared for houses. Cllr Grundy

confirmed that an Expression of Interest had been submitted for the building of 52 bungalows on this parcel of land. We will keep our eye on this.

7. Kenyon Airfield

Irene reported on an informal meeting which occurred on the site of the Airfield. Present were 6 members of LHSRG and Cliff Mort. An application had been submitted to the council to increase the number of flying days to 365 per year. The application has been withdrawn due to insufficient noise data. Cliff Mort confirmed that a noise consultant has now been appointed to provide this data. Once completed the application will be re-submitted.

Other elements of the application are for a new structure (possibly similar to a log cabin) which would be a control room and a new access point from the road. Cliff Mort did though state that they do not intend to store fuel on the site or create a clubhouse.

Future aspirations of the club may include a storage hangar for members' planes. They would be dovetailed during storage and this would reduce the size of hangar required.

He invited anyone who wishes to attend a flying day to telephone 07895 441676 (message service when club is not open).

The general feeling of those present was that the club may get bigger and bigger, though only in small increments. Therefore it was agreed to object to any future application.

8. North Leigh

Ed attended a meeting with the North Leigh Group. They are in a similar position as Lowton with regards to objecting to the council's housing proposals.

North Leigh have appointed solicitors to act on their behalf and intend to take the Council to court to question its planning proposals.

9. Environmental Group

A meeting was held on Tuesday 25th September with Lynn Kay and Damien Jenkinson. A review was taken of progress so far and of barriers encountered. Lynn reported that Lane Head had been given priority as it was agreed that this is a gateway into the borough. LENDF will prepare a package of landscape/features/sculptures ideas – local artists and schools to be contacted. Grant funding will be applied for from Viridor. The proposal to apply for a grant from Viridor was put to the meeting and all were in favour.

Lowton Youth and Community Centre had been contacted by the Environmental Group as information had been gained that Sellafeld support local community groups with projects. The youth club desperately needs a new roof due to it containing white asbestos. The area of Lowton is covered by the Coalfield Regeneration Challenge Area and meets the criteria for funding. LENDF to pass on application forms for both Sellafeld and Coalfield Regeneration to Sandy Franzen who runs the youth club.

On Friday 28th September Lynn Kay and Ed made site visits to two local areas:

- Land known as The Orchard, Hesketh Meadow Lane. This area contains native and unusual trees and needs to be protected if possible.

- Mount Tabor, Newton Road LHSRG have been trying to ascertain land ownership as local residents want to protect it and enhance it for the community.

10. Any Other Business

Jan Johnston asked people to visit <https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/CCG-petition> to protect our NHS Services.

Cllr Grundy reported on a recent Full Council Meeting where changes to the constitution were announced. One significant change is that for a councillor to propose a motion they now need 4 people to second it and it must be in writing 1 month before the meeting. Also if one of those 4 can not attend the meeting then the motion can not be heard and will be thrown out. How bad is this? Not very democratic.

11. Next Meeting

Monday 12th November 2012.