

Minutes to the Meeting of
Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Held on Monday 12th November 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
- *Apologies received from Derek and Margaret Tetlow, Jan Johnston*

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.

The bank account currently has two signatories – Ed Thwaite (Chairman) and Graham Maskery (Treasurer). Ed proposed that Irene Thomson (Secretary) be added. This was put to those present and the motion was seconded and agreed.

3. **Short Notices**

Kenyon Lane: A lot of residents are already aware that Wilton Lane (continuation of Kenyon Lane) is currently closed due to bridge repairs. There have been concerns over the final purpose of this action with activity possibly being increased by the Recycling Plant at Diggle Green, ICI storage, even rumours of Eddie Stobart is looking into rail access and also road access to the East Lancs Road. Information had been gained that over 5,000 vehicles a day currently use Kenyon Lane and the next bridge to be done is the one at the bottom of Wilton Lane

St Catherine's: The church is now officially closed. Father Ron Johnson is now conducting services at All Saints, Golborne and St Lewis Croft. The cremation plots on the site will still be maintained

Tree Planting: Saturday 17th at 10am – Mount Tabor. 150 saplings are to be planted to create a new wood. Volunteers welcome – bring your own spade.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears: Lowton Operatic and Dramatic Society (LOADS) 21st Nov – 24th Nov. Lowton Civic Hall. Please support.

Carol Service: Lane Head South Residents Group – Carol Service on 3rd December around the Christmas Tree they planted on Newton Road/Winton Road junction. Please support.

Lowton Civic Hall – Freedom of Information: LENDF (via Jan Johnston) have received replies to enquiries regarding the agreement between the Council and Rose Leisure. 'Apparently' there is no lease existing between the two organisations ! See Web site for Wigan's reply.

A&E Units: Health Authorities are preparing to possibly amend or reorganise arrangements for A&E services. Need to be vigilant and act if necessary to keep the services available for this borough. Visit 38 Degree Website for info.

Phone Box: The phone box at the junction of Newton Road and Kings Av has now been restored to original, with a new door and a fresh coat of paint. Many thanks go to Irene Thomson for contacting BT to arrange this.

4. Cllr Pam Gilligan's Report

- *"Survey for the (rat run) on Oaklands Road is schedule for w/c Monday 26th November. Once completed a meeting will be arranged with the residents who attended the first meeting at CIA with officer. A full report will be sent to LENDF once received.*
- *The intervention team are continuing to work well with the local youth on a Thursday evening. Cllr Cowley and my self have attended by invitation.*
- *I requested a costing for new street lamps in Fir Tree which proved to be very expensive. By request of Mr Malcolm Jones a further request has gone in for the painting of the lamp standards to improve the appearance – I am waiting a costing on this and will liaise with my ward colleague.*
- *Securing of the litter bins have been requested due to the number of bins uprooted!!*
- *The Beat It team have completed litter picks in various areas in Lowton.*
- *I am currently awaiting a date for the commencement of the new bus shelter on Newton Road."*

5. Oaklands and Meadows Residents' Association (OMRA)

Malcolm Jones reported that they had approached Wigan and Leigh Housing for funding towards the street lighting works. Enquiries also made regarding Oaklands Park and if W&L Housing could help provide a seating area for the older youths which would hopefully discourage them from using the junior play area which is aimed at the under 8s. The Police have reported that they have spoken to these older youths about using the play area but as there are no signs to indicate the age range the police are unable to move them on. The police will though continue to patrol the area. Other areas in the borough (Hindley, West Leigh) have Dispersal Orders and it is felt that this is contributing to the number of youths gathering at Oaklands Park.

6. New Freedom of Information Requests by LENDF

Core Strategy – Report to Cabinet, Page 92

Coal Authority ---- claim that there is no coal mining legacy appertaining to option B Lowton and Golborne. This is questionable we have subsidence in many areas. Please explain?

United Utilities ---- makes a number of general technical points. We want to know what problems there are in getting a water supply to the land east of Stone Cross Lane. Will it have to cross the main West Coast Railway line and if so at what cost?

What other problems are they concerned about? We have sewer problems throughout this area.

Land at Pocket Nook --- United Utilities have two bore holes on this land and they will take regular gas and radiation readings around them. What are they reporting the levels are?

7. Footpath Crossing – A580

This issue has been added to the LENDF website with a number of documents available to view. LENDF has written to Wigan Council and Cllr Gilligan.

8. Wind Turbine at Johnson's Farm, Kenyon Lane

Permission has been granted by Wigan Council but the applicant, Mr Tom Rigby, has indicated that he will not be proceeding. Situation to be monitored.

9. Planning Application submitted by Mr White, White's Farm, Kenyon Lane

Application submitted to Warrington Borough Council, No. 2012/20697 This application is for the use of land off Kenyon Lane (just past Kenyon Nurseries) as a training site for CPCS (Construction Plant Competence Scheme). LENDF to contact the applicant for more information.

10. Housing – Council Cabinet Meeting

Ed attended this meeting. The discussion re Lowton/Golborne housing took approximately 8 mins !! The Council agreed to leave all the Lowton/Golborne sites in the Core Strategy. Five of our local councillors voted for the housing and Cllr Grundy voted against.

Thank you to all those who sent comments to the council during the consultation period. Approx 1,200 objections were received from Lowton residents.

The Government Inspector will review Wigan's Core Strategy next year, possibly February 2013. He may still reject it.

Wainhomes – Some residents from Rutland Ave and Upwood Rd brought a pamphlet to the meeting which has been posted through the doors of residents adjacent to land off Stone Cross Lane. Wainhomes intend to submit an outline application for 400 houses. Public exhibition of the plans on Tuesday 20th November at Golborne Sports and Social Club 2pm till 8pm. LENDF to write to Wainhomes to raise concerns over these plans. (see LENDF website 'Latest News').

LEDF also to produce their own short and small leaflet for distribution to those residents directly affected and unaware of these plans. Wainhomes have only given approximately 12 days notice of the exhibition.

Neighbourhood Planning

Once the Core Strategy is final, LENDF will investigate the Government initiative called 'Neighbourhood Planning'. This is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work.

A general discussion then ensued covering topics such as: infrastructure, public transport, mis-guided busway, schools, doctors, dentist, pharmacy, post office. All services viewed as inadequate for current residents – additional housing will make it worse.

11. Any Other Business

Lowton Labour Club: is due to change its name. As of 1st December it will become Lowton Social Club. All welcome to join.

RAOB: members will be holding a 'Santa's Grotto' in the Lowton Social Club on each Sunday in December from 2pm till 4pm. £1 per child.

Lowton Environmental Group: Ian McMurrin (Secretary) has been liaising with Wigan Council regarding the guardrail planters. Due to complaints from some schools during the summer of the planters causing an obstruction to the view of traffic, these planters will be distributed elsewhere in the Ward. Funding for projects has been applied for from the Co-op and Northern Agricultural Society.

NCB Fund and Sellafield have a grant scheme for community projects and LENDF have passed details to the director of Lowton Youth Club.

12. Next Meeting

Monday 10th December 2012 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club) ☺

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