

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LEPDF)  
Minutes held on Monday 6 September 2021  
at Lowton Social Club  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Chairman – Ed Thwaite.  
Cllrs - Kath Houlton, Marie Cooper  
Apologies – Ed Houlton.

No. of attendees = 44

1. Minutes from last meeting:

Not read out at meeting but copies have been sent out by email and posted on Facebook. There have been no meetings since 9 March 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

2. It was with a sad heart Ed informed people that Malcome Jones, who had been involved in various local issues has passed away in May. He had been poorly and had been Ed's buddy and they had worked together for 12 years. He will be missed.

3. Discussion regarding Wigan Borough Councils (WBC) Plans to built 600 houses on Pocket Nook land

- The owner of the land in question is owned by Peter Adamson is not selling the land to WBC. Questions were discussed regarding why they have put this land in the plan with Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- Gordon Moon owns the land towards the bypass that is also in the plans but people are not sure of his views on the plans.
- If Hs2 goes ahead in our area they will compulsory purchase part of the land Peter Adamson owns and it was suggested that the land is leased and not sold as once Hs2 was complete, after using part of the land as a compound it would end up being sold to WBC and end up for building either houses or industrial units. The land had been taken out of Greenbelt/protected years ago without consultation. If the land is leased it could protect from future development.
- In 2011 Ed, James Grundy MP (at the time local Conservative Councillor for Lowton East) and Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester (at the time MP) attended a meeting with the Government Inspector. WBC told the Government Inspector said they had to build 1000 per year and the Inspector told them 500 per year and for their 5 year plan. WBC has a system that if they cannot provide a 5 Year Development Plan they can give permission to

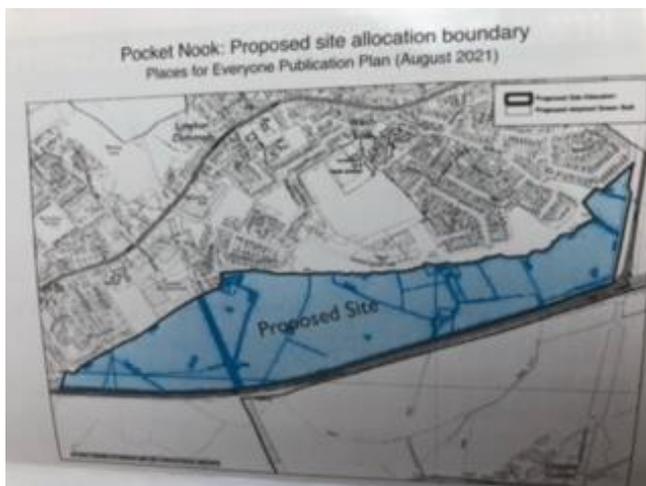
others to build houses. They have already given permission for 1300 builds and the numbers are climbing.

- LENDF objected to Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Plan and Andy Burnham told the Government Inspector that Lowton could not accept 3000 houses built around the area and only 1000 should be built in Lowton. At the public meeting in Leigh regarding the land passed the bypass towards the Greyhound Island owned by local farmers it was discussed that they did not want to sell their land and they were worried that their land would be compulsory purchased. Andy Burnham (this was videoed) stated that no one would have to sell their land if they did not wish to.
- Car Brook was mentioned and it not being suitable for building.
- All the new developments at BICC, Leigh and Plank Lane – the majority of traffic will travel through Lowton to gain access to motorways.
- Email sent out regarding objecting to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority plan that has the land on Pocket Nook in it with a link how to object. Continue to the bottom of each page and only answer what is needed as the questions are leading. CUT OFF FOR OBJECTIONS IS OCTOBER 2021

<https://www.gmconsult.org/communications-and-engagement-team/pfe/consultation/subpage.2018-12-21.3212104467/>

This is the place to object. attached is a list of items to include in your online objection.

Find Wigan and when you click on look for Pocket Nook and don't agree with anything in the list's tick section then scroll down and fill box in with your objection carry on scrolling through you don't have to answer all the questions that follow:



Items to include in your online objection.

Three generations of Adamson's family have farmed this land.

Since 2013 several letters have been sent to the council stating the land is not for sale. However, they insist on including it in their plans.

The land is top grade farming land and provides crops every year. It is also home to red leg partridge and field hares.

Andy Burnham at a public meeting in Leigh library stated that there would be no compulsory purchase of land for housing if people don't want to sell other arrangements would have to be made. Mr Adamson dose not want to sell.

There are many places in Wigan that is not good farming land, for instance land between Golborne and Abram untouched for years.

Please remove these plans and rethink where to build. The government inspector told Wigan council to only build 1000 house in Golborne and Lowton to date 1300 have been given permission. What's the use of having government inspections if the council just ignore him?

Andy Burnham stood by our side at the at the 2013 inspection stating that Lowton could not take the 3000 houses Wigan had planned for our area. The government inspector agreed.

- It was suggested a letter to be sent to Andy Burnham MP asking about support or not for the objection as he had supported the objections previously.

#### 4. Graham Wardle from LAGTAG spoke about traffic and other issues around Lowton/Golborne.

- There has been a lot of houses built in the area. Traffic and congestion is an issue and discussions have been ongoing with WBC. They suggested looking at the infrastructure. The infrastructure should have been improved before the houses were built.
- In 2013 it was highlighted to WBC regarding the Bloor Homes Development and 600 houses on the site. A 54 page report was given to planning but it was still passed. All proposals are being passed by the WBC.
- The group have reported with congestion the average speed at busy times is 3 mph.
- At other times there is a lot of speeding. A survey asking residents to report areas of high speeds and they had 200 plus responses, which 43 areas were identified in our area.
- Over the next 9 months radar guns will be used to fact find on speeds and Enforcement Officers may join in and also Police may use speed cameras and prosecute people.

- In a 20 mph areas the average speed reported was 40 mph. 25 – 40% of people do speed.
- The group are looking to set up Neighbourhood Traffic Response Groups around our areas and Police Officers have offered to be present.
- GP face to face appointments not being offered was discussed and this is borough wide. The group will be meeting Councillors, James Grundy MP, CDC and CCG. Graham is going to have discussions with local GP's around Lowton, Golborne and Ashton to see what the problems is.
- With the amount of new houses being build the question was asked about access to new GP surgeries and schools.

### AOB

- 6000 letters have been posted to houses in Lowton regarding Marie Cooper being elected as your local Conservative Councillor – congratulations on the massive majority.  
On the rear of the letter there is a letter to WBC objecting to the proposed site at Pocket Nook for people to sign and send back to WBC – PLEASE, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN.
- CCTV has been allocated on Winwick Lane to monitor traffic and LGV vehicles using it when restrictions do not allow this.
- Planning application for 600 houses running parallel to A580 and access road to the bypass was discussed. If Hs2 goes ahead the road accessing this build will go over the Hs2 line. Another entrance will be near the Enterprise Park onto Newton Road. Access to schools and GP's were discussed.
- A discussion took place regarding Parkside and Peel Holdings plans to build units along the A580 at Haydock and St Helens. Ongoing discussions between Councils and planners.
- A Police website has been set up to highlight areas of issues with high speed.  
[Speedcomplaints@GMP.police.uk](mailto:Speedcomplaints@GMP.police.uk)

**Next Meeting 4 October 2021 at 19:30  
At Lowton Social Club**