

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP

A.G.M. Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.15 pm

Conference Room, The Travelodge, Lane Head, Lowton.

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence have been received from Gareth Edwards, Howard Cooper, Graham Wardle and Jeanette Reffell, Terry Hewitt.

Minutes of the last AGM held in May 2023 which had previously been circulated were proposed, seconded and approved.

Financial Report: This was made available at the meeting.

Annual Report: read out by Kathleen Johnson is as follows:

'As we regularly state, we are a non-political group of local people wanting to address environmental and practical issues affecting our residents. It is now twenty plus years since our first meeting. We aim to present a mix of discussion of local issues, sharing of information and interesting speakers.

This year, like previous ones, we have been fully occupied by the threat to and loss of local farmland; the quality of our air; traffic issues – quantity, speed, road noise; heavy vehicles not using the infrastructure designed for them (A580/M6/M62); the consequent road surface damage; the developments which generate these conditions. All of these have brought about a major change to the basic nature of our area which was historically an agricultural one served by a network of lanes.

We have campaigned for an ANPR camera for Winwick Lane, to deter its use by vehicles in excess of 7.5 tons weight and this is now promised but not yet installed. We are still hoping for Warrington's co-operation regarding a weight restriction for the north-bound traffic on Winwick Lane as this is thought to be the most damaging as it waits at the lights, idling then accelerating away.

The use of S106 monies has been regularly and energetically discussed, especially in respect of the planned widening scheme at the Newton Road/A580 and service road junction.

We have had meetings with officers of Wigan Council, the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, and more recently including Transport for Greater Manchester, which this year have seemed to be much more productive. TfGM have recognised the part which a by-pass could play in reducing (although not completely solving) our traffic woes and agreed to study the feasibility of a by-pass. The matter is now in their hands.

Although not in our immediate area, we have attended meetings on the subject of a railway station at Golborne. Plans for this now seem well advanced. We have also attended meetings to discuss/contribute to the local plan. These were organised in a series of small groups, which enabled all to express opinions and make suggestions which were noted by the group leader and would be seriously considered.

Whenever possible we have invited officers of Wigan Council to come to our meetings. They have answered our questions and listened to concerns, explaining matters from the Council's angle.

The Parkside Link Road is now almost complete and presumably the development of distribution facilities will follow and it remains to be seen as to how much or if we feel the effect of the associated traffic.

Other topics which have been discussed and appropriately acted upon include:

- The Kenyon airstrip and attempt to extend their facilities. Now settled.
- Concern over use of Green Belt land at "Dolly's Bridge Stud"
- Vandalism and inappropriate use of land and pathways at the woodland next to Highfield Moss.
- Plans for some refurbishment of the Winton Road playground.
- A new flower tub has replaced the destroyed old one at the entrance to Winton Road, thanks to the much appreciated efforts of Councillor Houlton.
- The formation by LaGTAG of a Community Speedwatch has now taken shape and is supported by all the Lowton Residents' Groups.
- 400 crocus corms given by the Rotary Club of Newton-le-Willows were planted in the grass verges of Lane Head South to mark Rotary's support for the 'End Polio Now' charity.
- Latterly we were given a presentation by Phil Mellor, Commanding Officer, Leigh Fire station, explaining the planned changes there. At the same meeting we also listened to Steven Riley from Wigan Council who updated us on traffic and air quality; weight restriction and by-pass.

The matter of social events is a much happier one!

Our usual Litter Picks have taken place and some residents keep a litter picker at home and use it at their discretion. Terry Hewitt is again 'champion litter collector'.

Our 'Carols Round the Tree' was again highly successful – there seemed to be even more singers in spite of it being rather a wet evening. Our thanks go to the Epiphany Brass Band and to the Rotary Club for the loan of Santa's Sleigh and to all who came and sang so heartily – and of course thanks for the generous donations which were sent to Wigan and Leigh Hospice. Thanks and congratulations also to the special attraction which rounded off the celebrations, of a visit from Leigh Leopards with their wonderful trophy – many memorable photos taken.

February brought our late winter Darts and Dominoes Evening which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Money raised including the raffle was £120 which with additional donation enabled us to send £150 to the Heart Transplant Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham which is where ten years ago our good friend and a founder member of LHSRG, the late Peter Hatfield, was given a new heart. This donation was sent as a memorial to him.

This brings us to the end of our year and our AGM and appointment of representatives for the group:

Chair	Kathleen Johnson
Secretary	Gill Dickinson
Minutes Secretary	Marie Cooper
Treasurer	Howard Cooper
Technical Officer	Gareth Edwards
Committee Members	Heather and Andy Lomas