

## MINUTES OF LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP

Meeting Mon. March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023

Travelodge, in the Conference Room

7-00 for 7-15pm

### AGENDA

1. Kathleen welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the new members. The 20 members present introduced themselves. It was explained that we continue to work closely with the other 4 Residents Groups in the area -LENDF, Lowton West, Golborne and Lowton West Voice and LaGTAG.

2. Apologies for absence from 3 people.

3. The minutes of the last meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> '23 was approved as a correct record.

4. Financial report. Marie Cooper on behalf of Howard Cooper reported a balance of £1,789. Several charities have been supported including the DEC for Ukraine and Children in Need. LHSRG Newsletters for residents of the area purchased. A Wildlife sign for Mt Tabor had been installed courtesy of Brighter Borough at a cost of £1,560.

5. Local Issues.

a) Air quality Winwick Lane.

(i) Wigan have applied to the DoT to grant "Moving Traffic" powers for an ANPR camera to monitor traffic on Winwick Lane. One of only four moving traffic powers requested in the Borough. It will provide funding in the prosecution of offending drivers. It is hoped that this will improve air quality.

(ii) CAZ. It is estimated that more than 1,200 premature deaths are a result of poor air quality each year in Greater Manchester. Manchester. The Government withdrew its original direction for a charging Clean Air Zone but have requested that Greater Manchester improve air quality by 2024. The proposed Clean Air Plan will be targeted without hurting jobs and businesses and will not include a charge system.

(iii) We await an update on the Clean Air Zone Action Plan from Wigan due in April. The NOx level data from DEFRA will be available in late spring.

b) Newly erected cameras on poles. These were erected on lampposts in the area for a week including Newton Road, Winwick Lane, Winton Road, Heath Lane. They were collecting traffic data "to inform the development of Lane Head strategic outline Business case." Wigan to be asked if this in relation to the bypass.

c) Speed Gun use and current traffic speeds. Several volunteers have been informed that they will be trained by GMP in their use. Graham Wardle gave a comprehensive summary of the work done to date via LaGTAG and Councillor Kath Houlton. Our thanks to them both.

Residents have been asked to nominate speeding hot spots at specific times. 40 roads have been monitored to date. Whilst there is obviously a wide variance of speed, it would appear that the perception that vehicles are speeding is not borne out in reality.

e) Access road East Lancs. Rd.) – Current situation. Residents of The East Lancs. Service Road were requested to write as residents to the Council and communicate with the Ombudsman. Also, to write to Emergency Services who will have difficulty in accessing properties once extra lane is in place. A generic letter being prepared by a resident. Whilst the 5 Residents Groups have made every effort to object to the £5.2 million S106 money allocation, any further objection must be made by those who are directly affected.

f) S106 monies. Meetings and a series of letters to Wigan Officers and the Chief Executive were outlined stating concern over the failure to consult by Wigan; the lack of information pre cabinet approval; the detrimental effects on residents and a lack of benefit to the community - given the criteria that it is to mitigate the effects of housing developments and not to improve traffic flow for those outside the area. Letter to Chief Exec. requesting a rescinding of approval has been rejected. The only avenue left open is to make a Stage 1 and 2 complaint to the Council or to seek media publicity through press or TV.

g) By-pass progress. A meeting about its feasibility is to be held in June with Mayor Andy Burnham, James Grundy MP, Warrington, St Helens and Wigan Councils, National Highways, TfGM and representatives of Community groups.

h) Progress on Tunnel Tops/ Kenyon Lane. Despite a request by Marie Cooper, Wigan Council rejected her proposal for a mini roundabout at the junction of Kenyon Lane and Wilton Road at a cost of £30,000. This could have been funded by a New Homes Bonus of £1.3 million allocated to Lowton and Standish. This would necessitate a speed limit reduction from 40 to 30 mph. There will instead be a right-hand turn waiting area to Croft. The Five Acres development will require a new access road

i) Report on Darts and dominoes. An excellent evening raised £110 for the Ukraine (DEC)

j) Report on Litter Pick. Very well attended. Request for Council support to ensure safety of volunteers on Winwick Lane not responded to, but the hedge has now been cut enabling rubbish to be removed more easily.

k) A request to Wigan to remove out of date signage.

6. Confirmation of revised draft Constitution. This will be confirmed at the AGM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Changes from 2014 constitution include bimonthly meetings and fundraising for charities.

7. Ideas for Coronation Celebration. There are no other events planned in the area. Suggestion of a Street dressing competition. Possibly Delamere/ Winton with use of field for activities Sunday 7th or Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Possibility of road closures. Anyone who would be interested in helping to organise please contact us.

8. Pedestrian Crossing Lane Head. Concern about difficulty in crossing at Winwick Lane/Kenyon Lane. Council previously refused because of delay to traffic flow. We will try again to gain Council support given the scale of the problem for residents.

9. Golborne Station closed in 1961 because of lack of use not through the Beeching cuts which came later. £15 million funding now available but still at preliminary stage awaiting business case to be approved by Government. GMT plan it to be a station serving pedestrians and cyclists. The car parking will be limited. Concern expressed over dangerous cycling routes in and around Lowton and Golborne.

Next Meeting will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May preceded by a short AGM. We would like nominations for Committee Members prior to the meeting. Please don't be shy. The tasks are not onerous!