

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP MEETING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2019

- Chairman – Kathleen Johnson, Deputy Chairman – Denis Eubank, Secretary – Gill Dickinson, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees : 18

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES: The Chairman welcomed new members to the meeting and especially to our guest speaker Shaun Ali, Traffic Engineer, Environmental Services, Wigan Council. Apologies for absence received from: Councillors Grundy and Houlton, D.Eubank, A.Lowe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: An amendment to the minutes which had previously been circulated by email was tabled – 'Bowling Green restoration of hut – Brighter Borough monies have been requested for a lawnmower and new hut'. This amendment was proposed and seconded. The minutes were also subsequently proposed seconded and approved.

GUEST SPEAKER: Shaun Ali gave a brief resume of his role as Traffic Engineer and that he took over from Kenny Strode in September last year. He commented that he is well aware of the traffic issues in the area as he lives in Lowton. Members were asked to put questions to him on the following topics:

Weight Restriction Winwick Lane - A report will be produced regarding signage and the results of the experimental weight restriction on Winwick Lane. The air quality monitoring is now complete and the results will be included in the report which will then be issued for approval by the Director and Assistant Director of Services. Warrington's objections were discussed and all objections will be included in the report.

Questions were raised regarding HGV sat navs and Shaun explained that once the Lane has a permanent weight restriction the company that inputs information to sat navs will be informed. Signage will also be changed to direct HGVs to stay on the A580 in order to access the M6 and M62.

Traffic Newton Road – A discussion ensued regarding the poor quality of the road surface from Heath Lane to Stonecross Lane. Unfortunately this does not come under Shaun's department it is the Asset Management division. Mention was made of the speed monitoring sign which does not appear to be working. Comments were also made on the amount of traffic turning right from Newton Road into Kenyon Lane at the traffic lights. A request was made for a filter to be implemented there as only one or two cars can turn once the lights have changed due to the large amount of traffic travelling down Newton Road from the A580.

Kenyon Lane – Two residents reported the size and timing of lorries accessing Diggle Green composting site. These lorries are huge and there are instances when two are passing the lorries mount the kerb in order to pass each other. The pavement is already very narrow in Kenyon Lane and children and residents have to walk along there. The residents were advised to send their complaints along with photographs to Warrington Council's Planning Enforcement Team as the lorries were contravening their working time. Reports can also be sent to 'Wigan Report It' app.

Delamere Avenue/Winton Road – A request was made for a second sign to be erected at the entrance to Delamere along with a picture of a camera. Shaun agreed to organise this. It was generally felt that the number of cars using the area as a rat run had decreased but one resident reported that he counted 30 cars on one morning travelling at speed through the roads when children are walking to school.

Service Lane off Newton Road: Complaints were raised of cars using this instead of waiting at the traffic lights. Shaun reported that the whole junction is being looked at and he is aware of cars jumping the kerb in order to use the Service road as well as turning in off the A580.

Closure of Newton Road/A580 connection – Shaun reported that Newton Road would be closed at the junction with the A580 over the Easter holidays in order for works to be carried out. This will

obviously cause a lot of congestion. Letters will be issued to local residents informing them of the diversion which will divert traffic to Haydock Island.

Thanks were expressed to Shaun for answering all the questions raised and giving of his time.

Anyone wishing to contact him can do so at networkmanagement@wigan.gov.uk

UPDATE OF LOCAL ISSUES:

Parkside: A request was made for residents to put notices in their windows or gardens objecting to the proposed development at Parkside. (see attached) The group has written objecting to the planning application and urged residents to do the same. If enough objections are raised the project could be called in for the Planning Inspector to examine.

St. Helens Local Plan 2020-2035: The Chairman reported that it is even more important to write to object to this Plan as this is where the Council is proposing to take large amounts of land out of the greenbelt for development. The group have already sent a letter with the backing of residents but individual objections are also required. Meetings are being held with representatives of Warrington Parish Councils, Parkside Action Group, LENDF and Golborne.

St. Catherines: Still awaiting the outcome of the planning application. It was reported that an underground water pumping facility is being built on the site.

Winwick Lane: It was reported that the air quality monitor which has been on the Lane for twelve months now shows that the air pollution average for Nitrogen dioxide is 65.6. In July the figure was 76.5. This is, however, a real cause for concern as the upper safe limit is 40. **Note:** This data is provisional and requires 'bias adjustment' which is more accurate and subject to stricter quality control and quality assurance methods. This typically reduces reported levels by ~10% compared with uncorrected results.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Treasurer read out the monies in the bank. The recent Darts and Dominoes evening was well attended and raised £96.80 it was agreed to make a charitable donation of £50 to Lime House.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Monday 25th March Curry Evening at the Raj in Culcheth in aid of the Epiphany Trust 7.00 for 7.30pm
Sunday 30th June Garden Party at 9 Winwick Lane raising funds for Epiphany Trust and Heath Street Methodist Church.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Litter pick in the area – Bags, pickers and gloves will be provided. Date to be announced.

Councillor Houlton reported that she had requested hoops for the bags and these should be available soon.

Mount Tabor: Trimming will be required soon and a date to be announced, volunteers are very welcome.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Monies for Local Facilities: This will be raised at the next meeting due to the absence of Councillor Grundy.

RHS Bridgewater: The RHS are to announce dates in the future for groups to be shown round the site which is still being constructed but will open officially next year. The groups are to be of approximately 20 people – anyone interested in a visit is requested to let Marie Cooper know (tel: 01942 609226 or email mecooper@hotmail.co.uk) once we have 20 people and the dates are announced a group visit will be organised. (old clothes and wellingtons are required it is still a building site and very muddy!).

Andy Burnham Question Time meeting: Questions were raised regarding the reciprocal arrangement for using bus passes on the train from Newton to Manchester. The station at Kenyon Junction was also discussed along with the proposed extension of the Atherleigh Way to the

Junction. It appears that Andy Burnham was not aware that the HS2 trains will not be stopping at Wigan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20th May at 7.30pm in the Red Lion pub.