

LANE HEAD RESIDENTS' GROUP MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2019

- Chairman – Kathleen Johnson, Deputy Chairman – Denis Eubank, Secretary – Gill Dickinson, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees: 27

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Megan Elliot the guest speaker from the charity Relay for Life. Megan represents the charity in the Warrington area and described her experience of cancer and how she became involved with fundraising for the charity. The event takes place at Victoria Park on 7th and 8th September. The Relay for Life has grown from small beginnings and now takes place in 27 countries round the world. All funds raised go to cancer research. More details can be found on their website which is cruk.org/relay or by ringing 0300 123 1026. The Chairman thanked Megan for her very informative talk.

Apologies were received from C.Lowe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of 18th March which had previously been sent out by email were proposed and seconded as a true record.

UPDATE OF LOCAL ISSUES:

Parkside: A document by PAG which summarises the Parkside Phase 1, the link road and the relevant parts of the St. Helens Local Plan, was read out to the meeting. All site access will be via the A49 for Phase 1 however Phase 2 which will be located on Parkside West adjacent to the A49 will be dependent on the link road. Phase 1 is entirely in the green belt and the link road will also take greenbelt land. Huge tracts of productive farmland will be lost. Objections have been sent from this group and a newsletter has been distributed to local residents requesting them to send objections to St. Helens Council and also Warrington Council. Wigan Council's response was to ask the question would their local roads be affected and Highways England has also requested further information regarding the traffic modelling used in the Planning applications. Councillor Grundy is to send out a circular to all residents informing them of the impact this could have regarding excess traffic, air pollution and the massive loss of greenbelt and productive farmland in the area.

St. Helens Local Plan: The Parkside developments are part of the Local Plan and will be examined by a planning inspector, a process called 'Examination in Public'. LHSRG has sent a letter asking for the St. Helens Local Plan to be examined by a government inspector. The question of using a Barrister or professional planner to represent community groups and public issues at the 'Examination in Public' was raised.

CPRE: A meeting was held with Jackie Copley from Campaign to Protect Rural England. She would be prepared to represent local groups at the Examination in Public when this takes place. The question of taking land out of greenbelt is a key issue and if this can be stopped the Parkside project and the subsequent link road would not be able to take place. She is to write back to the group giving information of other agencies that can help in compiling objections. She also suggested contacting local MPs and ultimately ministerial bodies.

Winwick Lane: The report by Shaun Ali is still awaited and will be put to the Director of Environmental Services at some point during the next few weeks. Some residents reported on the increase in HGVs starting to use other local roads especially Newton Road and going through Golborne. The speed of the traffic on Newton Road was also mentioned and the impact of lorries making some houses shake when they pass, also the noise levels. Councillor E Houlton said he would try to get a weight restriction put on Newton Road. If the permanent weight restriction is put in place on Winwick Lane the sat nav companies will be informed and updated, which may help to stop traffic turning off the A580.

St. Catherines/Elan Homes: No planning application has been received as yet.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The treasurer read out the new bank balance as monies had been donated to Lime House and also newsletters and posters have had to be paid for.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Sunday 30th June, Garden Pary at 9 Winwick Lane raising funds for Epiphany Trust and Heath Street Methodist Church, tickets £5 to include refreshments and live music.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Litterpick: Saturday 1st June at 10.00 meeting at the Red Lion car park. It was suggested that residents choose where to do the litterpick but to finish at 11.00 am bringing litter back to the car park where the Council will take the black bags. Coffee and refreshments will be available afterwards at 350 Newton Road.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Local Burglaries: A newspaper cutting was produced showing the number of burglaries in Greater Manchester areas and Lowton East are tenth on the list. 62 burglaries were listed with 58 suspects. Councillor Grundy reported on a couple of recent incidents and one at the Co-op which was raided and cigarettes stolen, however the Police have apprehended the criminals.

RHS Bridgewater Visit: Unfortunately the RHS site cannot accommodate large groups as had been reported at the last meeting, this is due to safety issues, they have therefore gone back to having groups of 10 to 12. A new list of dates has been issued and two dates were suggested either Thursday 27th June or 4th July. Anyone wishing to book their own tickets can do so through the website www.rhs.org.uk/garden/bridgewater.

Monies for Local Facilities: Councillor Grundy reported that monies have been made available to the bowling club for a new shed and lighting. Monies are to be put aside for reconditioning the pavilion. A new lawnmower was also requested and local groups are being asked to contribute towards this purchase.

Air Quality: Wigan's Environmental department have produced figures showing that the air quality is almost double what it should be on Winwick Lane. A leaflet has been produced by a member of PAG and distributed to parents outside St. Peters school, Newton. It was felt this was a good punchy way of bringing the problem to people's attention and it is also connected to the Parkside warehousing development.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th July 2019 in the Red Lion Pub **at the later time of 8.00pm.**