

Minutes of Lane Head South Residents' Group Monday September 20th 2021 at 7- 15 p.m.

Meeting held in the Conference Room, Travel Lodge, Lane Head,

14 members present

Apologies for absence Counc. Kath and Gerard Houlton, Peter Hatfield, Terry and Pat Hewitt, Colin Lowe, James Grundy MP, Counc. Ed Houlton

1. **Minutes** of last meeting (already circulated) approved.

2. **Update of local issues.**

a) Parkside. Application decision overdue. Was due by end of August.

b) Winwick Lane

Air Quality. NOx levels now published for 2020. 41.9 micrograms per cubic metre. 2020 contained several periods of lockdown. With adjustments made the level is still over legal maximum of 40 ug/m³

Wigan have refused a Freedom of Information request to release the 2021 figures until the whole year is recorded and bias adjusted.

CCTV Camera has been in place on Winwick Lane since July. Police are monitoring with little success as yet due to lack of manpower. Residents have given lists of offending vehicles and times, but to date these have not been used. No prosecutions have been made. There appears to be some reduction in HGV's southbound. Suggestion that a camera warning HGV drivers might work as a further deterrent. Wigan are supportive and it is hoped that with new legislation the Council can "self - police" the camera.

3. **S106**

Kathleen outlined the involvement of local Residents' Groups in the Council Plans for use of **S106** monies. £8.4million available. Whilst monies have been set aside for education and community facilities, the main purpose is to mitigate the negative impact on traffic of housing developments over recent years. Graham Wardle (Lowton and Golborne Traffic Action Group) produced a 'Likert' Survey which gave a clear indication of the real opinions of residents on the spending by the council of S106 money. This was not used by the Council in their survey sent to all houses in Lowton and Golborne. Results of survey revealed no real consensus. Council modelling does not appear to have taken into consideration the effect of changes at junctions to current local roads.

LHSRG believe there is little evidence that changing Golborne roundabout for traffic lights at huge cost will have any positive effect on congestion through Golborne,

although it is considered that the extra lane at Stone Cross Lane will ease congestion at that junction.

Further meetings with residents showed the strength of feeling against most of Wigan's proposals which were considered to do little to mitigate the negative effects of the housing developments. Residents were unanimous that the proposals were not related to house building. The obvious mitigation solution being a by-pass which is being considered at Greater Manchester level via Andy Burnham. We continue to work with LaGTAG on the traffic and congestion problems locally. Residents believe that the S106 proposals, to "tinker" with East Lancs junctions, is an inappropriate use of S106 money which should be spent to benefit Lane Head residents not speed up traffic flow for commuters.

The results of the survey will now go to Wigan Council Governance which will set the criteria before a decision is taken by the Council.

4. **Places for Everyone** (formerly Greater Manchester Spatial Framework) This contains plans to develop Pocket Nook with a further 600 houses and 15,000 square metres of employment space. Mr Peter Adamson has consistently told the Council that he does not wish to sell the land. It can, however, be compulsory purchased as a last resort.
Need as many people as possible to make their objections through the Greater Manchester website by 3rd Oct.

Objections need to show

- a) that the development is not needed
- b) establish that the plan is based on a false premise ie it is not sound

Other suggestions:

Challenge the number of houses, with reasons. A climate emergency but still continue to build houses for commuters.

Traffic generated by new developments will necessarily commute, as little local employment adding further congestion and poorer air quality. In 2013 the Lane Head junction was already deemed over capacity

Infrastructure currently inadequate, needs to be in place before development (schools, shops, medical/dental facilities, meeting places, library)

Water pressure

Flooding

Include reference as to Stockport opting out.

Objections should be completed on the following Greater Manchester site <https://www.gmconsult.org/communications-and-engagement-team/pfe/consultation/subpage.2018-12-21.3212104467/>

5. **Financial Report**

The Treasurer reported the current balance of £2,167. Our grateful thanks to James Grundy for his £1000 donation

Dates for Diary

Mount Tabor Tidy up day to be arranged. N.B we have new memorial tree for a local resident. A bench, it was suggested, would be an asset. Our grateful thanks to Colin Johnson for his daily maintenance of the paths

Lights and Carols round the Tree – Winton Road 5th Dec. (Hopefully mulled wine, Brass Band and Father Christmas will be in attendance)

Walks around the Lane Head South boundaries - to be arranged

Darts and Dominoes to be arranged

A local Charity to be identified

5. **Environmental Issues**

Litter/Litter Picks tba. Our grateful thanks to Terry Hewitt for all his litter picking efforts in the area

Public Rights of Way. Need to ensure that any paths are returned to pre-development status and they remain clear and walkable

City of Trees – tree maintenance day – Lightshaw Wood on 22nd Sept

6. **Any Other Business**

Kenyon Hall Airfield

An application to build 4 temporary hangars – 14 x11 x 5 metres. There are no plans for fuel or any further development. Concern expressed over low flying over houses and lack of duty officer

Kenyon Lane absence of planters and an abundance of vegetation. Hedges require cutting in height and cutting back – encroaching on pavement which is a danger to pedestrians. Councillor Cooper to request drains to be cleared.

Newsletter to be produced before Christmas.

A huge thanks to Ann and Colin for all their hard work and input over the past 10 years as they move to pastures new. We wish them well and will miss them.

7. Next Meeting 15th November 7.15pm Travel Lodge Newton Road.

NB If we want to stop the development of a further 600 houses and 15000 square metres of employment space adjacent to the East Lands, please object to Greater Manchester using the link above.