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## MINUTES OF LHSRG MEETING

HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT THE TRAVEL LODGE CONFERENCE ROOM

APOLOGIES: G.Dickinson, E.Houlton and M.Smith

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting including newcomers and especially PC Reid who has given up his time to come along this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> November which had been previously circulated by email were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT: There is currently at balance of £1640.00 in the bank.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES:

Traffic Considerations:

**M6/Diversion Routes:** Leaflets have been distributed from National Highways informing of night-closures on the M6 and diverted traffic using Newton Road and Winwick Lane. Currently these are scheduled to be 2,5,6,7,14,15,16 and 28<sup>th</sup> February with further disruption from southbound traffic on 20,21,22,23 and 29<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March. However, these could be subject to change because of work moves and weather.

**Air Quality:** No further information.

**Solutions for Congestion:** A number of meetings have taken place with the GM Mayoral Working Group on local traffic and transport plans for Lowton and Golborne. Outstanding items from previous meetings remain which include Wigan Council engaging with residents/community groups regarding road 'highways' infrastructure; S106 funding; Discussions with Warrington re weight restriction northbound on Winwick Lane. The key objectives from the latest meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January are Golborne Station and the completion of Atherleigh Way Bypass extension to the M6 at junction 22.

Andy Burnham encouraged input to the various transport and traffic reviews which are ongoing within Wigan Council and TfGM. These are being led by Peter Boulton TfGM re weight limits on local roads through Golborne and Lowton as well as funding for the Bypass. Councillor Houlton commented that James Grundy MP has raised this issue of funding in Parliament in view of the extra monies which are available due to HS2 being cancelled.

**Re Golborne Station:** Professor Wardle is arranging a meeting with Dame Sarah Storey (GM cycling commissioner) and Andy Burnham to look at bus and cycling routes to Golborne Station.

It was felt that it would be useful to gain data from residents in the new housing estates to establish where people are travelling to within the borough.

**Local Plan:** Information needs to be collated to be sent for inclusion in the Wigan Local Plan (Traffic and Transport) and the draft Wigan Transport Strategy.

**Service Road:** There is no update on the service road, this has been delayed for the survey consultation. Letters have been sent by the residents to the Council clearly stating their objections to the planned junction alterations.

**Transport Issues:** Cllr Lloyd has been in contact with the Council to try to install a crossing on Newton Road outside the Red Lion. A petition has been submitted to Wigan Council for a crossing at this junction by Cllrs Lloyd and Gregory. Cllr Houlton is meeting with Kenny Mather regarding a crossing by the school on Church Lane.

**Community Speedwatch:** Professor Wardle from LAGTAG has undertaken a survey of speeders and has identified 45 hot spots. Speedwatch now comes under GMP not the Council and five volunteers have currently come forward to undertake training in the use of cameras.

**Highfield Moss:** A number of petrol and electric scrambler bikers have been seen travelling from Leigh and gaining access to Highfield Moss. The bikers are using the public rights of way. The section 59 signs have not yet been erected and these are to be chased up by Cllr Houlton. PC Reid said he would also pick up on this subject and look into it.

**Dolly's Stud:** An enforcement action has been issued by the Planning Inspectorate and an Appeal has been put in which as yet has not been answered. This problem has been going on for a considerable time and an update is to be requested.

**Winton Road Play Area:** The refurbishment has not yet started.

**Byrom Hall Wood:** Three dates have been put forward for volunteers to help carry out maintenance of the area. The first date was 10<sup>th</sup> January and proved to be a successful day working with Forestry England staff. Anyone interested in taking part on the two following dates 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March to contact Linda Graham. The maintenance courses are being run by Forestry England and need to be booked on.

**Crocus Planting:** Currently there are three sites where crocus has been planted; around the Christmas Tree, under the Notice Board at Lime House and in Lime Grove. It is proposed to plant more on Newton Road when the weather improves. Kath Johnson to announce when this will take place.

**Christmas Carols round the Tree:** The night was very successful with a large number of residents attending. Gordon Nash was Father Christmas and he also called at Lime House. The Challenge Cup won by Leigh Leopards was also brought to the event and lots of residents had their photographs taken with it. Donations went to Wigan and Leigh Hospice. (After the meeting we received a letter from the hospice to say that the monies raised amounted to £138.18p)

#### DATES FOR DIARY:

**Darts and Dominoes:** It is proposed to hold our annual Darts and Dominoes evening at Golborne Sports and Social Club at the end of February or beginning of March. Kath Johnson to organise a date and this will be sent out via email. Thirty-two tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. There will be a raffle and pasties will be served on the night.

If there are any suggestions for forthcoming events please let Kathleen Johnson know.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

**Planning applications** have been approved by Warrington Council to build 354 houses on three sites in Croft, Winwick and Hollins Green on what was greenbelt land. This land has been taken out of greenbelt via Warrington's Local Plan. It is therefore important to study carefully and make comments on Wigan's Local Plan in case there is any land to be taken out of greenbelt in their plan.

**Probation Service:** Angela Addis has requested suggestions from local residents where bushes could be cut back or footpaths need reinstating from overgrown vegetation. These suggestions can be passed on to the Probation Service for use in the Community Service program for offenders. Please pass suggestions to Cllr Houlton.

**Defibrillator:** Lowton East Councillors were thanked for their contribution to a defibrillator which has been placed on the corner of Garton Drive and Lane Head Avenue. This has been paid for out of Brighter Borough funding.

**Sensors on Lampposts:** Sensors have put up as part of a pollution census monitoring particulate matter from wood burning stoves.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00 for 7.15 pm in the Travel Lodge Conference Room.