

**MINUTES OF LHSRG MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2024 AT THE  
TRAVEL LODGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and a vote of thanks was made to Kathleen Houlton for all her hard work as our local Councillor for the past nine years. A welcome was extended to the new Councillor for Lowton East, Mike Smith.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Gareth Edwards, Graham Wardle, Heather & Andy Lomas, Howard Cooper, Jeanette Reffell and Terry Hewitt.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 previously circulated by email were proposed, seconded and approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Total money in the bank and including cash in hand is £1600.34.

**LOCAL ISSUES:**

The planned update on Air Quality by Michaela Guest, unfortunately postponed as the NOx figures for 2023 have not yet been released. A brief resume of the toxicity of Winwick Lane was described which in the past has consistently exceeded the legal maximum. At the last meeting Steven Riley from Wigan Council made reference to a business case which is being put forward for the area to try to solve the problem of air quality. There will be a public consultation. We still await this.

An ANPR camera has been ordered which will track speed and weight restrictions of passing traffic. The current speed limit is 30 until the five houses are passed and then derestrict up to Dolly's bridge. The proposal is to place a 40mph limit from the end of the houses to Dolly's Bridge.

There has been a large amount of extra traffic using Newton Road and Winwick Lane as Parkside Road has been closed due to the roadworks which have been taking place on the junction there. There have also been night closures on the M6 and traffic has been diverted into the area. We have written to National Highways asking why traffic is not diverted down the A49 which is a primary route rather than using Winwick Lane and Newton Road. There have been over 100 night diversions over recent months causing sleepless nights to residents.

The noise from the surface of the road on Newton Road was also mentioned. Since the road was resurfaced a few years ago it is now very noisy.

The number of lorries using Kenyon Lane to access Diggle Green was referenced. These are lorries travelling very early in the morning. They should not be going to Diggle Green before 8.00 am.

There is a large number of cars that jump the traffic lights on red at the Kenyon and Winwick Lane junctions. It was suggested that a police car be parked some mornings and evenings to deter drivers from going through the red lights.

**UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS:**

Cllr Garry Lloyd responded to a question on 106 monies for the area. There have not been any announcements by the Council. As a result of all the building of new houses approximately £8million has been raised between Golborne and Lowton.

**The Our Town** initiative will take place for Lowton between the 28<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. This is an opportunity for residents to inform the Councillors to report any areas that need improvements. The improvements to Winton Road and Pond Street play areas will be taking place soon.

There have been a number of complaints from residents regarding ebikes being ridden on footpaths. Ed Houlton has spoken to a PCSO who has said she will not ask cyclists to move off the footpaths as the roads in this area are too busy and dangerous for cyclists.

Enforcement: PCSO Jane Dagger is standing down after many years. There are no plans to replace her at the moment. We are very grateful to her. She will be missed.

Cllr Jenny Gregory reported that First Direct are applying for new licenses to run trains from Rochdale to Newton and Warrington then onto the West Coast mainline to London. They are requesting six services a day by 2027.

- A resident reported that most of the footpaths in our area are now becoming narrower as a result of the grass not being cut back to where the pathway starts and finishes, thereby allowing the grass and undergrowth to spread onto the pathways. This needs reporting to the Council.
- A resident also reported that due to the number of dogs which are exercised on the Winton Road parkland it is requested that a doggy bag bin be put in place there.
- Another request by Les Bagshaw for the Cllrs to follow-up was a request for a local bus to do a circular trip from Leigh down through Pennington to Lowton and turn up Kenyon Lane to go to Culcheth on to Bents and back into Leigh. This would be very useful for local people who have to travel by car into Culcheth for shopping or to go to work and would cut down on car use in the area.
- A further request was made for planters to be put on the railings on both Winwick Lane and Kenyon Lane.

**Community Speedwatch:** Graham Wardle sent a report from LAGTAG in which he stated that no comments have been received from the Council regarding new consultations on borough-wide travel plans also no comments regarding cycling issues after the meeting with Dame Sarah Story and Andy Burnham. We are still awaiting news regarding Atherleigh Way bypass extension, the draft Wigan Transport Strategy/Local Plan, the service road modifications and any proposed new housing developments in the area.

Recent volunteer traffic speed measurements have been analysed and updated. GMP as part of the Community Speed Watch initiative have recently fully trained 2 Police Support Volunteers along with three Police Officers. Lowton East currently have four volunteers who are being vetted/trained to carry out speeding checks.

**Litterpick:** It was again reported that in Winwick Lane the footpath is becoming very overgrown and the grass and undergrowth needs cutting back and soil removing. Discussion ensued regarding how to request that the footpath be continued in the form of a “permissive path” along the edge of a farmer’s field so that residents could walk to Kenyon Hall without having to step into the road.

**DATES FOR DIARY:** It was suggested that a Bowling Event could be held at the Red Lion bowling green. The bowling competitions held there finish in September so it was suggested that a date during that month would be ideal.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A boundary stone** has been removed from Newton Road by Civils Engineering and is being refurbished and replaced shortly. There is also a mile stone being replaced on Parkside Road.

**Burglary:** It was reported that three motorbikes have been stolen from a house in Kenyon Lane.

**The pathway on Kenyon Lane** is also becoming very overgrown and needs clearing.

**Dolly’s Stud:** This appeal is still with the Inspector and no decision has been made.

**Lowton’s Assets:** A list of Lowton’s Assets was read out which included Pennington Flash, Pennington Golf course, Sailing Club, Mount Tabor and Highfield Moss. These should be listed as Community Assets.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7,15pm Travel Lodge Conference Room.