

## MINUTES OF LHSRG MEETING

HELD ON 18th MARCH 2024 AT THE TRAVEL LODGE CONFERENCE ROOM

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting by welcoming Mr. Phil Mellor, Commanding Officer of Leigh Fire Station and Mr. Steven Riley from Wigan Council Team Leader - Transport Policy.

Mr. Mellor talked to the changes which are taking place at Leigh Fire Station and assured everyone that the changes to the way the station is operated and the vehicles will not affect the fire cover in Leigh and Lowton. The station in Leigh is to hold two fire fighting vehicles one is the technical response unit and the other is the standard fire service vehicle. He explained the difference between the two vehicles and that the staff at the unit will be trained to man either one. There have been a number of new recruits at the station and all are being fully trained to use either vehicle. In the Greater Manchester area there are currently 48 fire appliances and 2 technical response vehicles. There is also currently at Leigh a hydraulic platform, this may be moved to Wigan fire station. Mr Mellor explained that the number of primary turnouts for house fires has dropped but the secondary fire turnout is the largest number in Leigh and Leigh West ward. These secondary fires are wheely bin fires and rubbish fires usually antisocial behaviour related. Mr. Mellor reiterated that there will be no alteration to fire cover in the area. Kathleen Johnson thanked Mr. Mellor for his very informative input to the meeting.

Mr. Steven Riley was introduced to the meeting and spoke to the following Agenda items:

**AIR QUALITY:** A business case is currently being put together and is about to be issued. The aim of the plan is to take the issue of air quality away from the area with funding from GMC. Mr Riley apologised that he could not talk to the details of the plan yet but would be able to explain more after May when there will be public consultations. The issue of the north bound weight restriction with Warrington was raised and Wigan are in dialogue with Warrington. The question of the ANPR was raised but Julie Middlehurst will be able to respond to this at a future meeting.

**M6/DIVERSION ROUTES:** The question was also raised regarding the number of night closures which have taken place with motorway traffic using Winwick Lane and Wigan's roads over 20 in the past month alone. The lane is a primary route and is part of the statutory diversion chosen by National Highways. It was felt that the A49 is also a primary route yet this has not been chosen as a diversionary route for traffic from the motorway to the A580. Could Wigan not put pressure on St. Helens?

**BYPASS:** There have been ongoing meetings between St. Helens, Warrington and Wigan Councils and James Grundy MP has been instrumental in raising the question of funding for the bypass in parliament. It has currently been passed to the Department for Transport and the question of using HS2 funding has been raised. TFGM are putting together a three-stage business case. From Wigan's point of view they are supportive of the TFGM led scheme. It was generally felt that the Bypass had real momentum although these projects take years to come to fruition and cost a great deal of money.

**S106 MONIES:** Mr. Riley spoke of the Council's proposed highways improvement scheme at the junction of the A580/Newton Road. A further stage of consultation with residents and

stakeholders who are directly affected will take place in May. The detailed design process is being looked at with the least impact on residents. It is hoped that the new lane can be incorporated into the current lanes on the A580. A question was asked if this project could be cancelled and the monies put to the Bypass. Mr. Riley replied that the cabinet has made a decision to go through with the Service Road changes and the final design will be available for everyone to have a say shortly via the public consultation.

The question of speed limits on the A580 was raised as well as the ANPR camera on Winwick Lane. Mr. Riley said these are questions for Julie Middlehurst. Once the air quality business case is finalised in May or early June he will be happy to come back to the meeting to talk through this project.

Kath Johnson thanked Mr. Riley for his very informative input to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Jenny Gregory, Liz Brown, Graham Wardle and Howard Cooper.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the 15th January which had been previously circulated by email were proposed, seconded and approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** There is currently a balance of £1637.09 in the bank. The darts a dominoes raised £109.00. It was suggested that a donation in memory of Peter Hatfield be made to Birmingham Hospital's heart transplant unit. A cheque will be raised for £150.00.

**WINTON ROAD PLAY AREA:** Plans have been received showing the refurbishment proposals and these have been displayed online for residents to make any suggestions. One suggestion was to widen the proposed footpath so that prams or pushchairs can cross each other comfortably.

**TRANSPORT ISSUES:** Councillor Houlton raised the issue of the Number 10 bus and has requested that this bus cross the A580 to serve residents on the Lane Head South side of the A580. The final paperwork for Golborne Station has been signed by James Grundy MP.

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH:** This is now not part of the Council's remit but has been passed over to the Police. The first volunteers have had their induction in the use of the speed cameras which will take vehicle registrations and speed of the car. The volunteers will be accompanied by a Police Officer and the speeding people will be identified.

**HIGHFIELD MOSS;** No signs have yet been installed.

**DOLLY'S BRIDGE:** The appeal is still with the Planning Inspectorate. Councillor Houlton is trying to get a drone to go over the area and take photographs of the building which cannot be seen from the road due to the high fencing.

**BYROM HALL WOOD;** Some further dates for working parties with Forestry England have been issued. Kath Johnson will find out what the dates are.

**CROCUS:** The crocuses issued by the charity No Polio Now are flowering and can be seen round the Christmas Tree in Winton Road, under the notice board at Lime House and on some of the grass verges around the area.

**DATES FOR DIARY:** It was suggested a Litter pick take place on Easter Saturday meeting at the Red Lion where pickers, yellow jackets and bags will be issued at 10.00am.

NOTICE BOARD: It was suggested that part of the notice board at Lime House should be used to promote the Group and inform residents of the work that we do.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Condolences to Derek Walkden on the loss of his wife Olive