

## **MINUTES OF LHSRG MEETING ON 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT THE TRAVEL LODGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

APOLOGIES: Howard Cooper, Edward Houlton, Jeannette Reffell, Gerry & Jackie Finch

23 present

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming especially Martin Smith from the Corporate Land Department of Wigan Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 which had been circulated by email were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The current bank balance is £1791.00

### UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES:

WINTON ROAD PLAY AREA: Martin Smith spoke regarding the Council's new play area strategy and the proposal to upgrade the play area. He felt that the play area was currently in good repair but suggested that an access pathway should be laid so that prams and wheelchair users have better access to it. The area also would benefit from resurfacing with a new safety surface. A swing will be installed for less mobile children along with a new roundabout that can be accessed by wheelchairs. He also suggested an outdoor gym for older residents together with perhaps a trim trail if residents felt these would be useful, new benches and waste bin. The installations will be carried out in the Spring.

LOCAL POLICING: Inspector Adam Wall, (Golborne and Lowton West) has moved on and the new Inspector was unable to attend. The following report was received from Jane Tymon PCSO at GMP police regarding the current issues:

'Apologies for not being able to attend in person, however, the main issues covering both beats are county lines, we have two lines running through our area and involving some of our residents. They also make up an Urban Street Gang which we have in Golborne. This is made up of local youths and cross border into Platt Bridge. These are part of the gang that are involved in the off-road bikes and theft of said bikes.

Off road bikes are our priority on the division. We have made several arrests and warrants at properties on our areas and cross border all relating to these crimes. Five arrests have been made and investigations are still ongoing. The difficulty we have is restrictions around pursuit of the bikes, we are unable to give chase in vehicles.

We have had a spike in burglaries over the weekend, young males have smashed patio doors and conducted messy searches throughout the properties taking small items such as jewellery and cash. Items have been recovered in Hindley.

I have been into local primary schools and Cubs giving input on personal safety and online safety as again we have seen a rise in grooming and possible recruiting. The neighbourhood team are working closely with the local schools and hopefully a regular meeting will take place between heads of both High and Primary schools to monitor and tackle this rising issue and safeguard our children.

ASB in general we are not having many calls for. We are likely to see an increase over Halloween and Bonfire night, but extra patrols relating to OP TREACLE will be in place to try and combat this. The Lowton team is PC Reid and PCSO Petty the Lowton/Golborne SDF PCSO Dagger (mobile 07393467414).'

AIR QUALITY: the 2022 figures are now available for Winwick Lane show an increase to 45.3 from 44.26 which was the figures for 2021. This is concerning and correspondence has been sent to Wigan Council. It is hoped that the ANPR camera to service the new Moving Traffic Powers which

will be implemented in the New Year will deter HGVs above 7.5tons from using the Lane. Discussions are ongoing between Wigan and Warrington Councils regarding a weight restriction north bound.

**SERVICE ROAD:** Objection letters have been sent by the residents to the Council. So far no response has been received.

**BYPASS OR ALTERNATIVES:**

Discussions have taken place with other local groups and farmers regarding the bypass. A further meeting is to be held tomorrow evening with Councillors to discuss the issue. Further meetings are planned with Wigan, Warrington and St. Helens councils together with officers from Transport for Greater Manchester and chaired by Andy Burnham to look at the proposed options which eventually could be put together for the Department for Transport. This meeting will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**DOLLYS STUD:** The appeal to the planning application is currently with the Planning Inspectorate.

**HIGHFIELD MOSS:** The Police have been informed of the illegal use of off-road motorbikes using the area. It is suggested that Section 59 signs could be applied for from the Council which means if the Police see these bikes using the area they can be confiscated immediately and destroyed.

**AIR STRIP:** The Planning Inspectorate have rejected the request for four hangers to be built on the site.

**LOCAL PLAN:** Planning for the future of Wigan Borough to 2040. This plan is under discussion and the Options and Preferences will be issued next week. The plan supports the Places for Everyone document. Workshops are being set up where local residents can have their say, our local one is on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.00pm in Golborne Parkside Club, but a place has to be booked. Any written comments have to be made by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**NOTICE BOARD:** This has now been placed outside Lime House to announce public events. The notice board has been provided by National Highways in compensation for all the extra night traffic from the motorway which the area has experienced because of the roadworks. The notice board can be used by everyone.

**BYROM WOOD:** Linda Graham (Chair of Lowton Residents) explained to the meeting the history of the wood and the problems with HS2 which was to go straight through the area. However the wood has been saved and Wigan Forest Plan and Forestry England have a 25 year plan which proved contentious for Byrom Wood. The consultation on the plan closed on 14<sup>th</sup> October and Linda and volunteers have put their proposals forward. A grant may be available and Linda thanked those who have participated in the response to the consultation.

**BULB PLANTING:** The Rotary from Newton-le-Willows have donated 400 purple crocuses to be planted in our area in support to the eradication of polio from the world. These need planting by 24<sup>th</sup> October which is Polio Day. Suggestions for sites were requested and volunteers to plant them.

**TRANSPORT ISSUES:** were discussed regarding public transport in our area.

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH:** A neighbourhood speed watch is being set up. There are currently a number of volunteers (12) who are in the process of being vetted by GMP police who are in charge of the community speed watch. It is hoped in the next couple of months this will be completed and volunteers can accompany the police in enforcing speed measurements. Anyone wanting to volunteer please contact Graham Wardle and he will put their name forward. Speed watch cameras will be made available.

**CAROLS ROUND THE TREE:** This will take place around the Christmas Tree in Winton Road on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.15 in the Travel Lodge Conference Room, Newton Road.