

MINUTES

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP

Meeting held at the Travelodge, Lane Head, Lowton

Monday July 18th, 2022, at 7-15 p.m.

1. Kathleen welcomed all regular members, new attendees and Michaela Guest, Wigan Council Regulatory Services (Air quality) - on a very hot evening.
2. Apologies for absence 12 members. 18 present.
3. Minutes of last meeting – May 16th 2022 previously distributed by email - approved.
4. Financial report £3,531.77

£259 raised for Ukrainian refugees at the Platinum Jubilee event on Mt Tabor. Live music, Gemstone dancers, Pimm's bar, Jubilee cake, tombola, raffle. £100 donation from 'Forever Manchester' covered costs.

5. Update on local issues,

a) Winwick Lane-Newton Road

Response from Warrington Council re Freedom of Information (FOI) request - as to the reasoning behind their decision not to weight limit Winwick Lane northbound. They cited a lack of consultation by Wigan as one issue. Also, Warrington residents' complaints of increases in traffic on Warrington Road (A574) through Glazebury were attributed to the Winwick Lane weight restriction.

LHSRG believes that unfounded assumptions were made for this increase which was not created by the weight limit on Winwick Lane -but led Warrington to ring fence their area with weight restrictions.

Warrington have agreed to reconsider the northbound weight restriction when the Parkside link Road is complete. The roundabout will give HGV vehicles the option to avoid Winwick Lane by returning to M6 Junction 22.

Warrington's response to the FOI and LHSRG letter in reply attached.

b) **Cameras.** Police state they do not have resources to monitor the CCTV camera on Winwick Lane. No significant prosecutions. An Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera is proposed in the Air Quality Action Plan presented by Michaela Guest using software which can automatically send out warning/ prosecution letters. Danny Orrell, Traffic Management Wigan Council to liaise with TfGM to this end.

c) **Parkside traffic** utilising Newton Road/ Winwick Lane to access link road site. Awaiting response from Balfour Beatty as to whether construction traffic have been told not to use Newton Road/ Winwick Lane to access the site. (post- meeting – Construction companies have been advised not to use Newton Road/Winwick Lane as a short cut)

d) **M6** closures planned for Monday 18th - Thursday 21st July 9pm -6am. Traffic diversion via Newton Road/ Winwick Lane. (post -meeting this did not happen)

6. **Michaela Guest**, air quality officer for Wigan Council presented a draft Air Quality Action Plan. Lowton and Golborne have the highest number of NOx tubes in Greater Manchester. The tube on Winwick Lane is the only tube to register in excess of legal limit which is 40.0 ug/m3. In spite of southbound weight limit, the NOx level for Winwick Lane is 44.6 ug/m3. This is a specific issue to Winwick Lane because of the ‘canyon’ effect of properties so close to the road and standing traffic. This is a commuter route with cars/vans etc contributing to dangerous NOx levels. Michaela has asked that this area be considered an Air Quality Area. The latest Survey showed a reduction of 1,203 HGV’s southbound but an increase of 1,409 northbound.

Danny Orrell, Wigan Council will apply for ‘Moving Traffic Offence” powers by the end of 2022. This would enable the Council rather than police to prosecute HGV drivers who ignore the weight limit. It is hoped that this will improve air quality.

Michaela agreed to pass the meeting’s comments on to Wigan officers and accepted the need to enter into proactive discussions with Warrington over air quality. The Environment Act ‘21 states that Warrington as an air quality partner have a duty to cooperate with Wigan to reduce dangerous NOx levels. If necessary, this should be taken to the Secretary of State.

c) **S106 monies.** (money from developers to compensate the local community for the negative effects of new housing developments.) It appears that the Council is going to follow its original plan as presented at the first consultation meeting with all Residents’ Group representatives. Many of these plans, especially the junctions altering ones were unanimously rejected as being inappropriate and wasteful. There is a time limit to this money. Unspent, it would be returned to the developers. It was suggested that the £5million would be far better spent as seed funding for a by-pass. A promised meeting with Andy Burnham to be sought. Community Groups and residents of the East Lancs Road, directly affected by widening the East Lancs to enable a dedicated left turn into Newton Road, expressed deep frustration. The extra lane will reduce the current service road by 1 metre. Whilst consultation took place with local residents, they felt their responses were ignored in the final decisions. Community groups and residents heard Wigan’s decision to go ahead in principle with the extra lanes at Stone Cross and the East Lancs in the press. Residents stated there would be increased pollution, vibration, noise - music and HGV’s loudly declaring “This vehicle is turning left.” Far more openness from Wigan was requested.

d) Aircraft hangar. Status is Planning application “registered.”

AOB

- Visit to Parliament Friday 16th September. There are still some places left on this tour of Westminster. Members make their own way to London. Contact LHSRG if interested.
- Bliss supplies and the expanding development at Dolly’s Stud Winwick Lane - Cllr Ed Houlton reported that he is awaiting Planning Enforcement to visit/take action.

- Julie Middlehurst and Danny Orrell to attend 19th September LHSRG meeting when they will elaborate on some of the points raised back in January. Michaela will give an update of the Air Quality Action Plan. Residents' Groups to contribute to this.

(webpage located at www.lendf.co.uk via Community Links tab)