

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Minutes of Meeting held on 9 March 2020, at Lowton Social Club

<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chair – Ed Thwaite
- Cllr Edward Houlton
- Apologies, (MP) and Cllr James Grundy, Cllr Kath Houlton
- Minutes taken by – Gill Turner

No. of attendees - **18**

Minutes from last meeting – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email, posted onto Facebook and paper copies were available.

Welcome to Guests and New Visitors

1. **Andy Burnham Call-in letter regarding Parkside**

- Andy Burnham has sent a Call-in letter objecting to the Parkside Planning Application 127 February 2020. He is supporting the call-in and mentioned the planning criteria, significant affects over cross-boundary traffic with the proposed 7.5 ton limit to the access of Parkside, highways, air quality, this being a major impact on surrounding areas, etc.

MANCHESTER

Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

31 January 2020

Ref: AB/ AM

Dear Secretary of State,

ST HELENS PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- (1) P/2018/0048/OUP Parkside Phase 1 Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the construction of up to 92,900 m2 of employment floorspace (Use Class B8 with ancillary B1(a)) and associated servicing and infrastructure including car parking; vehicle and pedestrian circulation space; alteration of existing access road including works to existing A49 junction; noise mitigation; earthworks to create development platforms and bunds; landscaping including buffers; works to existing spoil heap; creation of drainage features; substations and ecological works | Land Site Of Former Parkside Colliery Winwick Road Newton Le Willows St Helens
- (2) P/2018/0249/FUL Formation of a new link road between A49 (Winwick Road) and M6 Junction 22 including the re-alignment of Parkside Road and other associated works. | Land Between A49 Winwick Road To A573 Parkside Road, Including A Portion Of The Former Parkside Colliery Site And Then Land From A573 Parkside Road To A579 Winwick Lane Connecting To M6 Junction 22.

I understand that St Helens Borough Council was minded to grant planning permission for the above applications at its meeting on 17 December subject to the Secretary of State deciding not to intervene. I am writing to inquire whether you have made a decision about intervention, and if not, to add my support to the case for call-in made by local residents.

I understand that you are selective about which applications are called in, however I believe these particular planning applications meet the criteria you have set out in planning practice guidance, namely that they:

- (i) could have significant effects beyond their immediate locality;
- (ii) give rise to substantial cross-boundary or national controversy.

I support the residents of Lowton, Golborne and Ashton-in-Makerfield and share their longstanding concerns about the impact of traffic from these developments on the roads and environment in the neighbouring borough of Wigan. As the Mayor of Greater Wigan (and formerly MP for Leigh) I have made representations to the St. Helens Local Plan Submission Draft in respect of the impact of development. Wigan Council made similar representations to the local plan requesting that policies for sites adjacent to the Wigan border acknowledge this proximity and to protect the amenity of Wigan residents, particularly in terms of traffic and air quality.

The planning applications submitted do not address the concerns raised in relation to the impact of the development (in terms of highways, air quality and noise).

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

Significant effects beyond their immediate locality

In my opinion that the impact on and implications for neighbouring areas, have not been properly considered by St. Helens in coming to its decision to grant planning permission for these planning applications

The main route from the proposed development site to the A580 East Lancashire Road would be via Wigan's highway network and involve the use of Winwick Lane and Newton Road. These roads form part of the Greater Manchester Key Route Network and as such could have a major impact on Wigan's road network. Even with the proposed link road, Winwick Lane forms part of the shortest route to the A580 and as such represents significant savings to businesses (operating both light and heavy goods vehicles) which are extremely cost and time sensitive. There is no information on where deliveries to and from the site will be made, however the A580 may become a gateway, as it provides easy access to Golborne, Lowton, Leigh and the wider Greater Manchester area. In addition, the development will attract commuter traffic to Winwick Lane which also needs to be factored in when ascertaining the impact of the development.

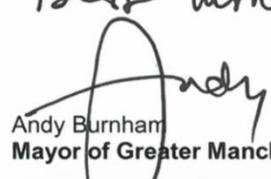
It has not been demonstrated what detrimental impacts there will be on Wigan's road network, or what mitigation measures may be put forward to overcome these. Wigan Council is of the view (which I support), that In order to reduce the potential impact the introduction of a northbound weight limit on Winwick Lane is necessary as part of any mitigation package.

An equally important concern is the potential impact on Air Quality. Greater Manchester is working hard to tackle air pollution, which is damaging the health of our residents. The government has instructed Greater Manchester authorities to develop Clean Air Plans to bring levels of NO2 on local roads within legal limits as soon as possible and we are now working together to produce a single approach for the whole region. Wigan Council is currently proposing to designate Winwick Lane an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) under Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995. Wigan Council requested that additional modelling take place specifically around the Winwick Lane/Newton Road area however this has not taken place. There is therefore insufficient information available to properly assess the impact of the development on air quality, particularly in the neighbouring authority of Wigan.

Give rise to substantial cross-boundary or national controversy

Proposals at the site have generated significant concern within the neighbouring authority area of Wigan. Representations have been made by residents, Wigan Council and myself (as either MP or Greater Manchester Mayor) at all stages of the plan making process and planning application stages. The impact of the development on the roads and environment of Wigan has not been given proper consideration, and there is a very real concern that development of this scale will generate significant traffic which will be displaced onto the Key Route Network within Wigan Council and will have a negative impact on air quality in areas already in exceedance of harmful Nitrogen Dioxide levels.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best wishes,

 Andy Burnham
 Mayor of Greater Manchester

2. HS2 updates

- MP James Grundy has been involved and it was reported that Grant Shapp, Secretary of State for Transport has questioned the Golborne link spur passing through Lowton, Culcheth and Lymm. This will cost 2-3 billion pounds with very little return. A decision on this spur has been promised in months not years.
- There are no drawings supplied on this in our area and wonder if this is a strong indication of it being withdrawn?

- We are asking should Wigan Council withdraw its support for HS2 (the Golborne Link spur) as no station is planned in Wigan now and should they actually support their residents of the area?
- It was reported that recent plans for HS2, there are 8 bridges to be built and 4 of these have been awarded to a French Company.
- Article in Warrington Worldwide published on 13th February:

End of the line for HS2 Golborne Spur?

SECRETARY of State for Transport Grant Shapps has cast doubt on the future of the controversial HS2 Golborne Spur which would have a devastating impact on areas of Warrington including Culcheth, Lymm and surrounding areas.

Warrington South MP Andy Carter and fellow Conservative MP for Leigh, James Grundy, have welcomed a statement by the Secretary of State for Transport that casts doubt on the future of the HS2 Golborne Spur.



Pictured: Andy Carter MP for Warrington South and James Grundy MP for Leigh meeting Grant Shapps to discuss the Golborne Spur.

In response to questions from both MPs, both of whose constituencies are heavily affected by the Golborne Spur of HS2, Mr Shapps stated: “The Golborne Spur is currently projected to cost between two and three billion, but delivers very little for that sum. The writing is on the wall as far as the future of the Golborne Spur is concerned. We expect to make the final decision on it in months, not years.”

In response, James Grundy MP stated, “I welcome the strong indication by Mr Shapps that the Golborne Spur of HS2 is to be cancelled. I have been campaigning against this poorly conceived idea for over seven years now, and it will come as a great relief to thousands of my constituents in both Golborne and Lowton, including members of my own family, that this saga is finally coming to a close, and people can again have certainty when it comes to investing in their homes and local businesses.”

“It is now time for Labour-run Wigan Council to withdraw their support for the misconceived HS2 Golborne Spur, and end the uncertainty and blight they foolishly inflicted on local residents by supporting it in the first place.”

“We need instead to concentrate on re-opening local stations like Golborne and Kenyon Junction in order to reconnect Leigh back to the national rail network, and I fully intend that to be my next task.”

Andy Carter added: “I’ve been clear that we need investment into local transport infrastructure to help with journeys to and from work or between town and villages. The £5bn investment in buses and cycling is excellent news and to hear that consultation on Northern Powerhouse Rail between Liverpool And Manchester will start soon is very welcome.

“I’m also really pleased to hear from the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps that the HS2 Golborne Spur is being revisited. This section of HS2 track is currently projected to cost between two and three billion, but delivers very little for that sum. The writing is on the wall as far as the future of the Golborne Spur is concerned. I expect the Government to make the final decision on it in months, not years.”

“I’ll continue to push for better links on Northern Powerhouse Rail so that Warrington residents have easier journeys for their daily commute.

3. Wigan Leader seeks clarification on Bamfurlong Link

- Cllr David Molyneux, Leader of Wigan Council is asking for clarity over the Golborne Link Spur even though Grans Shapp has suggested it may no go ahead. Wigan Council welcomed HS2 plans for Wigan Station and gave long term support and it could have a beneficial impact.
<https://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/18235947.council-leader-calling-clarity-hs2-route-doubts-cast-golborne-spur/>

4. LaGTAG (Lowton and Golborne Traffic Action Group) Christine Lewis gave an update

- LaGTAG are collecting and collating evidence for the presentation at the Council Planning Meeting against the proposed planning application on the piece of land off the East Lancs Road where the bottle . This could be on the 17th March but could be next month. It was mentioned sending all the information to the Planning Committee before the date.
- LaGTAG has spoken to the CCG regarding patient travel issues. There is an online survey that can be completed, and this is an opportunity to report travel stories about traffic delays etc. to get to and from hospital/Doctors for appointments.
- LaGTAG are in discussions with local schools regarding pollution etc. and this will be kept anonymous with respect to SH.

- Another proposed planning application – 69 houses on the triangle piece of land in front of the Wainhomes new estate/Boarding Kennels.
- There are Facebook pages you can join to report issues:
 - **Lowton and Golborne Traffic Action Group** to report traffic issues within our area. These are being collated (dates and times) to report to the Council and other agencies.
 - **People vs Wigan Council House Building Madness** to report any planning application and other issues.

5. Feedback from Golborne Station meeting

- This was a well presented meeting and positive. This is a Trans Pennine line. The feedback from the meeting is that Golborne Station has a good chance of re-opening. This line runs from Manchester to Carlisle/Barrow.
- James Grundy is still chasing the possibility of a station at Kenyon.

6. Winwick Lane

- The signs on approaching Winwick Lane with 7.5 ton restrictions have been covered up. It appears Wigan Council got the legitimately timings wrong. These will come into force again on 13 March 2020.
- Part of the process to make the restrictions permanent is to go to Committee. Once this is done and becomes permanent then the Police can be contacted to prosecute offenders.
- It was reported that when the 7.5 ton restriction is in force legally then more signs will be erected with correct wordings.
- *Post Meeting Note:* Winwick Lane now has a permanent 7.5 ton limit.

7. Plans submitted for 87 dwellings in Plank Lane on the old Fairways Nissan Garage.

- It appears to be a retirement area, possible flats/bungalows. It was discussed it may have limited impact on traffic for the area.

8. Volunteers required for Byrom Woods

- Healthy Living Walk Leaders from Parkside Social Club Local teams required 3 to 4 hours a month.

9. Any Other Business

- ✓ Complaints have been reported about children breaking into Oaklands Children Service old building on Hesketh Meadow Lane. It appears the access gates and buildings are not secure. Advice given was to contact the Chief Superintendent to report this. MP, James Grundy, will write to the Council and report these issues. There is possibility of it being burnt down or people (homeless) accessing and living

in it. Emails have been sent regarding possible security companies to monitor through the Council.

- ✓ Lane Head South Residents Group are organising a meeting through North West Ambulance Services. This is to show people how and when to use the defibrillator. This is on the 30 March 2020 at 17:30 at Lowton Social Club. All welcome.
- ✓ It was reported there have been more attempted burglaries along Newton Road. Two men were dropped off in a silver Audi A3. Number plate details have been passed onto the Police.
- ✓ The Mini Market on St Helens Road was raided and the shop was ransacked, leaving it not able to open for customers. A neighbour a few doors away reported it to the Police, who attended very quickly.
- ✓ There have been reports of other places around the area being robbed, Newbank Garden Centre, NLW (old Trebaron) and Food for Thought, Lowton Road, Golborne. The crime report for the area shows zero but this is due to computer system errors.
- ✓ It was discussed that out of area gangs know we have no Police backup 24/7 and we are an easy target.
- ✓ It was reported that a Vauxhall Astra Estate knocked on a homeowner's door off Sandy Lane asking to use a hosepipe to clean the mud off the bonnet of the vehicle. CCTV of the person and vehicle was uploaded to Facebook to warn people. The same vehicle was seen on St Nicholas Road and Bodden Street looking at houses. Again, the same vehicle has been seen behind Lowton Social Club off Oaklands Road.

NEXT LENDF next monthly meeting:

All Meetings Postponed Until Coronavirus is clear.