

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LEPDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite, Secretary – Irene Thomson
- Cllr Ed Houlton, Cllr Kath Houlton, Cllr James Grundy

No. of Attendees = 29

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email, posted onto Facebook, and paper copies were available. LENDF currently has a healthy bank balance and this is for major issues which would require the appointment of a professional person to assist the Forum.

2. **Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the meeting would start with the AGM.

Election of Officers

Chairperson: Ed Thwaite – proposed and seconded (all agreed)

Vice Chair: **Vacant position**

Secretary: **Vacant position**

Minutes Secretary: Graham Maskery – proposed and seconded (all agreed)

Treasurer: Graham Maskery – proposed and seconded (all agreed)

Website/Facebook: Irene Thomson – proposed and seconded (all agreed)

Sub-Committee

Used for specific projects:

Gill Turner

Malcolm Jones (not present at meeting and will be contacted asap for clarification)

Eustace Collier (not present at meeting and will be contacted asap for clarification)

Dennis Eubank (not present at meeting and will be contacted asap for clarification)

More residents are welcome to join – please contact Ed Thwaite on lendf99@gmail.com
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3. **HS2**

Issues with contractors has stalled the progress of HS2 and Raj has sent his apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting. Raj will hopefully be able to attend the meeting in May when he will have a clearer picture of the project's status, especially in relation to the compensation schemes. Following the May meeting he will organise 1 to 1 meetings with individual residents who still require his assistance.

LEPDF are not proposing any further objections as there are many major organisations who are putting together packages of documents for submission to HS2. LENDF will concentrate on the mitigation aspects which need to be addressed on behalf of Lowton residents.

4. **Police**

The minutes from the recent meeting between the Police, Lane Head South Residents Group and local councillors have already been circulated to members. Cllr Kath Houlton addressed tonight's meeting to say that all local councillors had written to GMP and secured a meeting with the Chief Inspector who did admit that the police had not responded as they should have. The Chief Inspector promised to rectify the issues faced

by PCSOs with training and transport so the responses can be quicker in future. The councillors were invited to maintain contact with the police to give feedback on any incidents which may occur from now on.

At tonight's meeting a couple of questions were put forward for the Councillors to respond to:

Could Lowton have CCTV on certain areas?

Unfortunately not via GMP due to the cost. There are areas in Wigan Borough which have a much higher crime rate and this means money is spent on these areas. Lowton is classed as a low crime area and serious incidents are rare.

Could the police use a property in Lowton as a point of contact similar to the arrangement in Culcheth?

The police do attend the Coffee Mornings held at Lowton St Mary's Community Hall each Thursday morning 10 till 12. Local Councillors are also present so that residents can come along and discuss any concerns they currently have. There is 1 police officer and 2 PCSOs which cover Lowton and during times when they are off duty the area is covered by the Neighbourhood Response Team.

When there is a high profile incident in other parts of the Borough all officers are called to attend which can occasionally mean less cover for Lowton.

Ed Thwaite stated that once the Mayoral vote has taken place in May and Manchester has a new Mayor, LENDF will contact him/her for a meeting to discuss the numerous issues in Lowton.

5. Florida Farm, Haydock

Mr Paul Parkin from a group called Residents Against Florida Farm was present at tonight's meeting and gave an update on the Application.

The Secretary of State was asked to 'Call-in' the application for review but the reply from the SoS was:

"The Government remains committed to giving more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues, and believe that planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible. The call in policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively.

The Secretary of State has decided, having had regard to this policy, not to call in this application. He is satisfied that the application should be determined at a local level."

6. Haydock Point

An application for Haydock Point has recently been submitted to St Helens Council by Peel Holdings. This is now available to view on the St Helens website and members of the public are invited to put forward their comments before 26th April. You can write to Mr Alan Kilroe, Town Planning, Town Hall, Victoria Square, St Helens WA10 1HP and quote Ref P/2017/0254/OUP.

More details available on the Our Local Voice website <http://ourlocalvoice.co.uk/olv-news>

7. Brighter Borough Grants

Each local councillor has an allotted portion of money for spending in their ward during the course of a year. LENDF helps to facilitate this by assisting local groups to complete the paperwork for their application for money and submitting it to the Council. Payment comes through the LENDF bank account which creates the ability to monitor these monies and their recipients. This set up has been so successful in that it helps to simplify the procedure

for both local groups and the council, that LENDF Chairman Ed Thwaite has been invited to speak at a meeting of the council about the benefits of the grant system.

8. Successful Litter Pick

Last Saturday's litter pick was a great success with a good turn out from local residents. So many bags of litter were collected we lost count – plus lots of fly-tipped rubbish also collected and taken away by the Council.



9. Housing Developments – Stone Cross Lane + Poplars

Recent activity on these sites shows that the builders are having to create 'balancing ponds' as both areas have drainage issues.

10. Winwick Lane

Gill Dickenson gave an update with regards to the de-priming of Winwick Lane and that road signage has now been amended, however it may take a few years before the maps and satellite navigation systems change.

Gill and other members of LHSRG had a meeting with Andy Burnham which took place on 7th April. Croft, Culcheth and Winwick Parish Councillors also attended. Surveys of traffic in the area are to be carried out in early Summer. It was suggested that data on traffic flows can also be obtained from the mobile phone companies and information on how this can be accessed will be given to Gill. It is proposed to implement a Permanent Traffic Order on the Lane which will enforce a weight limit for HGVs. Wigan Council is currently consulting with Warrington/St. Helens and the Police and a notice explaining the PTO will be placed in local newspapers.

11. Any Other Business

- Lowton Civic Hall. There are currently 2 interested parties who have put forward proposals for the Civic Hall. Wigan Council's Planning Committee are still reviewing these proposals.
- St Catherine's Church. Still no news on the proposed demolition which was granted nearly 2 years ago. Any future development of the site would encounter access issues and this is the probably reason for the delay.
- St Mary's School. New fencing is to be installed which will safeguard the children from cars on the car park. This will help with the parking issues during 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' times – the Community Hall Car Park will be available for parents to use.

- WASPI – Women Against State Pension Inequality. This is a group specifically formed for women born in the 1950s and could be affected by the changes to the State Pension Law. The group hold drop-in sessions every Tuesday (1-3pm) at Trust in Leigh, 18 Market Street, Leigh.

Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

8th May @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club – *Upstairs Room*)

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact us on lendf99@gmail.com and the errors will be rectified.