

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2017, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman - Ed Thwaite
- Cllr Ed Houlton
- Apologies – Cllr Kath Houlton, Cllr James Grundy.

No. of attendees = 26

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – Not read out at meeting but copies have been sent out by email and have also been posted onto Facebook and Website.
2. **Civic Hall** – The hall is due to be demolished in the near future. LENDF have been promised a receipt of the original commemorative plaque and a decision will have to be made as to where it should be sited.
3. **Rothwell Farm** – Work has started on the site with possibly 400 houses to be erected.
4. **St. Catherines Church** – It is expected that demolition is due in approximately 4 weeks. There will be a memorial garden on the site and the site will be protected against possible occupation by travellers.
5. **5 Acres, Kenyon Lane** – The owner of the site wishes to develop it. Their original thought was to have a certain number of luxury houses built but this would not produce the required profit. The current proposal is to build a retirement village project with houses, shops, etc. It would be built to attract people who wish to downsize and would be a gated community. The present owner wished to see if any objections would be forthcoming before seeking planning permission. No objections came from the meeting.
6. **Winwick meeting** – LENDF's chairperson, attended the meeting, which was called to discuss the plans of St. Helens Council who have large schemes of industrial development on Parkside and Florida Farm. The argument is that a case should be made to come out of green belt land. 3,500 objections were made against the plans but the Government Inspector wasn't interested. The latest proposal is Haydock Point which is land adjacent to Haydock Park racecourse owned by Peel Holdings. Wigan Council are concerned over traffic movements. LENDF have written to Andy Burnham about passing plans before land is out of green belt. The time period for objections to the end of July 2017. The spokesperson for the Protection of Rural England was very scathing in his address to the meeting. A demonstration is planned on the 12th of July at 5:30pm in front of the Town Hall in St. Helens.
7. **Oaklands Road Chemist** – Following the complaints from local residents and comments posted on Facebook, Ed Thwaite (LENDF's Chairman) had a meeting with Rowlands Pharmacy (the chemist).
Rowlands Chemist, Oaklands Road - Monday 12th June
Ed Thwaite met with two senior managers from the Rowlands Group, Mr Riz Ali and Mr Iain Fulton.

These are the key points from the meeting:

- *They accept there is problem and are working to sort them out, however it is going to take several weeks. In the meantime they apologise and ask that people give them time. The staff are under a lot of pressure, they are two people down and in need of a permanent pharmacist who will be the shop manager.*
- *Interviews are taking place.*
- *They have had to restructure due to Government cuts in the funding for prescription work. These cuts hit them hard as they are not a general store and their main business is prescriptions.*
- *The new electronic prescription system is causing them extra problems; however when they get it sorted, on completion of your prescription a message will be sent to your phone informing you to collect. They currently have a backlog of 400 prescriptions and have been working Sundays to get them cleared.*

Residents still need to give the doctor 48 hrs to issue a prescription and then, at the moment, the chemist will need three further days to process it. So please try and give them this time. Currently they spend over a hundred hours a week packing drugs in blister packs. Within the next few days a new automatic machine will start doing this on a site in Warrington, releasing the staff at the chemist to attend to getting the service back to where it was. They have given an assurance that the shop will not close and that improvements will be seen in the coming weeks.

Ed Thwaite, Chairman

December 17, 2015, is a date burned into the memories of many of England's community pharmacists. Seemingly out of the blue, the government announced that it would slash the global sum of pharmacy funding for the sector by 6%.

Ten months, one record-breaking anti-cuts petition and a change of pharmacy minister later, the Department of Health (DH) unveiled its final funding plans for the next two years: the equivalent to a whopping 12% cut to funding between December 2016 and March 2017, with a further 7.4% funding drop (on current levels) the following financial year.

To say that the announcement last month was met unenthusiastically by the sector would be an understatement. The National Pharmacy Association pledged that its battle against the cuts was "far from over", the Royal Pharmaceutical Society expressed "dismay", while the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) showed its distaste for the proposals by unanimously voting against them.

8. **Last Night at the Proms** – This will be held on the 14th of October 2017 at Lowton Social Club. Due to the limited amount of space the choir will be from

The Three Towns Operatic Society and Golborne Band will also be appearing on the night.

9. **Local News**

- Red Lion – free crown green bowling sessions each Friday 3-5 pm.
- New cafe opened in the Youth Club building and is called Lowton Community Café.
- Coffee mornings are held at Lowton St Mary's Hall each Thursday 9:30am-12:00 noon. Local councillors attend this event and on some occasions the Police as well.
- A further meeting between local councillors and the Police is proposed in the near future.
- Problems on Oakland's Road Play Park with late night revellers.

Next LENDF monthly meeting – 14th August 2017 at 7:30 pm
(Lowton Social Club-upstairs room)