

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2017, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite, Secretary – Irene Thomson
- Cllr Kath Houlton, Cllr Ed Houlton
- PSCO Donovan Plunkett

Apologies – Cllr James Grundy, Ann and Colin Lowe, Kath Johnson

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.

2. **Future LENDF Meetings**

Future meetings will be held in the upstairs room of Lowton Social Club. This is because Golborne Brass Band are now using the venue for their band rehearsals and require the space which the Concert Room can provide.

LENDF's Secretary, Irene Thomson, has indicated that she will not be able to volunteer for the position following the AGM in April. A 'call-out' has been done via email to LENDF's circulation list and also posted on LENDF's facebook page to invite interest in the position. There will be a slow transition of the duties to the new Secretary and it is not necessary that it needs to be a person who has attended meetings – many residents just get involved 'electronically' and this is all that is required for the website and facebook duties. The monthly meetings do need to be minuted and this could be done by a separate individual i.e. Minutes Secretary.

LENDF's Chairman, Ed Thwaite, stated that there is also a need to encourage someone to be the Vice Chairman in order that the duties of management can be shared. Again volunteers for this role have been requested.

3. **Police Matters**

PCSO Donovan Plunkett attended tonight's meeting and reported on the recent spate of burglaries which have been occurring in the Lane Head area. The offenders are not of this area and are using 'getaway cars' to flee the scene. The police have deployed plain clothes officers who will be in the area to hopefully catch them.

PCSO Plunkett also reported on the high number of ASBOs occurring around the Oaklands estate and the Civic Hall. The police have spoken with, and taken the details of, a number of youths and information has been passed onto the Council. Major suspects of crime are to be interviewed by Constable David Mayo and a 'home visit' will be made in order to speak their parents. Some of the youths are from Lowton but a few are from Golborne.

[Lowton East Policing Team.](#)

4. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

A new page for this particular subject has been created on LENDF's website <http://www.lendf.co.uk/GMSF.html>

The current report issued by Greater Manchester Combined Authority is in a DRAFT format and has just gone through a public consultation which ran from 31 October 2016 to 16 January 2017.

The [GMSF website](#) contains links to all the maps and associated documentation.

All 10 councils within the boundary of Greater Manchester have been involved in the development of the Spatial Framework.



Transport for Greater Manchester has also issued a 'Transport Strategy 2040' LENDF's Chairman has extracted 5 pages from this report that will show you what our future holds. This has already been circulated to LENDF's contacts and is available to view on LENDF's website on the new page for GMSF.

To read all the documentation produced by Transport for Greater Manchester please visit their website <http://www.tfgm.com/2040/Pages/strategy/index.html> (scroll down to the bottom for all the links).

The meeting then developed into a discussion about the issues faced by Lowton residents when trying to use public transport and the lack of connections and direct routes to specific destinations.

- For example, Ring & Ride to Wigan Hospital will only take you so far, then you have to catch a bus for the remainder of the journey !
- Evening connections between trains and buses is very poor, with very few options after 6.30pm !
- Some journeys have to be made via 'circular' connections i.e. you have to catch a bus going in the opposite direction to your destination so that you can catch a bus which will be going to your destination (eventually).
- Which is better – buses or trains? Neither, actually – especially for Lowton residents.

There is an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns over transport issues, as well as any other issues i.e. lack of school places, litter, etc, by visiting The Deal Bus on Monday 27th February – 9am to 12 noon – with Councilor Kath Houlton and Wigan Council officers.



Please drop in to my open surgery on The Deal bus on Monday 27th February between 9am & 12pm at Lowton Social Club, Newton Road, Lowton.

I will be joined by officers from the Council and we will be available to answer any of your questions on local ward issues.

Please look out for The Deal bus. I look forward to meeting you.



The Deal
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www.wigan.gov.uk

5. LENDF's Letter to David Molyneux, Deputy Leader, Wigan Council

On 18th January LENDF wrote to Mr David Molyneux regarding the GMSF. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

A reply has now been received though not from Mr Molyneux himself but from Mr Karl Battersby, Director Economy and Regeneration, who was cc'd into the original letter.

[Click here](#) to read the response.

6. Parkside, Newton-le-Willows

For up to date information on these proposals please visit the website created by Parkside Action Group <http://parksideactiongroup.org.uk/>

7. Civic Hall, Lowton

No further news on the proposed development of the site.

8. SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment)

Details in the current SHLAA document produced by Wigan Council in relation to housing building in Lowton/Golborne is as follows:

SITE NAME	SHLAA No.	No. of dwellings	Owner
The Bungalow Pocket Nook Lane Lowton	204	38	Ashhurst
Pocket Nook Lane Lowton	266	150	Persimmon
Pocket Nook Lane Lowton	326	119	Bellway
Pocket Nook Lane Lowton	8	92	
Civic Hall Hesketh Meadows Lane Lowton	49	30	
St Catherine's Church	243	23	Diocese
Fir Tree Avenue Lowton	345	6	
Land off Stone Cross Lane North	7	362	
Land off Stone Cross Lane North	269	215	
East Lancs/Wensley Road Lowton	316	6	
Total in Lowton		1041	
Rothwells Farm Golborne	6	453	
Land off Barn Lane Golborne	240	53	
Land off Edge Green Lane Golborne	102	14	
Land on High Street Golborne	309	18	Flats
Former Linc Centre Worsley St Golborne	333	6	
Land on Ashton Road Golborne	331	10	
Land on Ashton Road Golborne	150	18	
Land adjacent to Haydock Park Race Course	289	75	
Total in Golborne		647	
Total in Lowton and Golborne combined		1688	

The Government has just published a '[Housing White Paper](#)' which gives details of numerous ways that the Government wants to help both local authorities and developers get projects underway.

A summary of these are listed here:

- Provide greater certainty for authorities that have planned for new homes and reduce the scope for local and neighbourhood plans to be undermined by changing the way that land supply for housing is assessed
- Boost local authority capacity and capability to deliver, improving the speed and quality with which planning cases are handled, while deterring unnecessary appeals

- Ensure infrastructure is provided in the right place at the right time by coordinating Government investment and through the targeting of the £2.3bn Housing Infrastructure Fund
- Secure timely connections to utilities so that this does not hold up getting homes built
- Support developers to build out more quickly by tackling unnecessary delays caused by planning conditions, facilitating the strategic licensing of protected species and exploring a new approach to how developers contribute to infrastructure
- Take steps to address skills shortages by growing the construction workforce
- Hold developers to account for the delivery of new homes through better and more transparent data and sharper tools to drive up delivery
- Hold local authorities to account through a new housing delivery test.

9. **HS2**

The HS2 Community Engagement Team are once again holding a consultation event at Culcheth:

Friday 24 February	Culcheth	Culcheth Sports Club, Charnock Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SH	12pm to 8pm
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LENDF and the local councillors for Lowton East have requested a joint meeting with Mr Raj Chandarana (HS2 Engagement Manager, North West Region) and sent some suggested dates. We are still waiting for a response.

10. **Any Other Business**

Street Lighting. Cllr Ed Houlton recently spent some time checking that street lights in the southern portion of Lowton were operating correctly and found a few which were not. These have now been reported to the Council and should be fixed soon. He will check the northern portion of Lowton next week. If in the meantime you wish to report a particular issue with street lighting, then please contact him with both the name of the street plus the number of the lamppost itself. Send these details to e.houlton@wigan.gov.uk

Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

13th March @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club – *Upstairs Room*)

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on lendf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF