

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9 May 2022 at Lowton Social Club

Secretary
Secretary
Minutes Secretary

Liz Brown (stand in Chair for this meeting)
Julie Shawcross
Gill Turner

Councillors

Kath Houlton, Edward Houlton

Apologies

Lesley McGowan (New Chairperson)
Irene Thomson (Covering Chairperson/Treasurer)
Marie Cooper (Councillor)

No. of attendees = 28

1. Minutes from last meeting

Not read out at meeting but copies have been sent out by email and posted on Facebook.

ACTIONS

- LENDF emailed Danny Orrell, Traffic Management and Development Manager, regarding Extension to Atherleigh Way. No response received yet.
 - LENDF FOI request sent to Wigan Council regarding Extension to Atherleigh Way. Council requested clarification which was sent. No further responses yet.
 - LENDF applied to be part of the Traffic Speed Watch scheme. No response received yet. Professor Graham Wardle discussed further action points later in the meeting (seen notes below in AOB)
 - Two Brighter Borough Grant Applications successfully completed on behalf of Lowton Social Club (energy efficient lighting system) and Lane Head South Residents Group (information board for Mount Tabor).
 - Brighter Borough Grant Application submitted on behalf of Lowton Social Club for an evening of celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June
2. East Leigh Football Club: James Ridyard (Chairman of the Club) discussed its background, current plans and issues with parking on Hesketh Meadow Lane to access the pitches on the fields there:
- This will be the 37th season for the club. James has been Chair for over 10 years.
 - Pre-Covid they had 320 children and now they have over 500 children in the club with an increase in girls joining. There are 30 different teams.
 - Lowton area has shown a massive growth but the club are aware of the different issues from residents.
 - They are in 3-4 different leagues (including Bolton/Bury and Warrington) the club have asked the leagues for games to be split with equal numbers of home and away games and staggered kick off times. The window for games have to be either 09:00 to 12:00 or 09:30 to 13:30; these are league rules.
 - The Club has use of three different sites in Lowton and Leigh.

- They are in discussions with HS2 and the club have been holding back on improvements/investments/changes as potentially the HS2 track will run directly through their pitches. Despite this, they are now looking at different funding pathways to improve facilities as drainage and changing facilities are now critical to the club's growth.
- They have approached the Enterprise Park regarding parking and this was refused (close barrier/gate due to threat of Travellers).
- Funding an extension to the car park on Hesketh Meadow Lane is not as critical as changing facilities, and drainage. They also need to know about planning/ building regulations/funding for the carpark, and need to discuss with HS2 as to whether it is worth building to tear down again if HS2 goes ahead.
- Toilet/changing facilities are essential as from September girls aged over 14 years old have to have access to these by law. They are currently looking at issues around planning and building regulation. To achieve this from funding sources the club needs to be sure the field will not be destroyed by HS2 in a few years as the funding will not be accessible again for another site.
- The team has funding of around £100,000 for bring the pitch up to scratch over a number of years. This includes pitch maintenance, broken posts, net replacements, cutting lines for pitch, weed/feeding and irrigation etc. There are other things that cost money like repairing damage by horses using fields and cleaning dog muck off pitches. Pitch maintenance costs around £10,000 to 12,000 per year. There are issues with flooding and investigation regarding drainage has been carried out and found a drain has been emptying into the field.
- In November/December during bad weather, they could have 20 to 30 games cancelled (as a last resort) because of flooding on the pitches. These games have to be carried over and played before the end of the season, hence more congested parking, as more games than the carpark can cope with are played at the end of the season. Hence fixing the drain will improve the pitches and will help with the parking problem.
- The club have repeatedly asked parents of home and away players to consider residents and to be thoughtful in where they park. Away parents are potentially the ones more likely to park in a rush as they might arrive late as not sure where they are going and be unfamiliar with the area. There are about 10 weekends a year where parking is potentially an issue.
- The club also have issues as last weekend someone had their car keyed all down one side.

Questions to James and answers:

Q Use of the stoned car park and reported problems opening the gates.

A The club do open the gates. The car park is not large enough and was put there by Wigan Council. They don't like the stones as dangerous.

Q Double parking and vehicles overhanging resident's drives.

A The club have asked home/away parents not to do this when each fixture is sent out. The club will support any valid suggestions to improve this situation. Parking attendants were ruled out as the club hasn't got enough volunteers.

Q Could away Team Managers be contacted regarding issues.

A All people with the clubs are volunteers and have a lot of work to do but any obvious issues with badly placed cars: please get time, registration, photograph of vehicle/person, team of player and send to LENDF who will pass on to James. He will then report this to away team managers or talk with his own players parents.

Q Use of Section 106 Money from building sites in the immediate area eg Wiggett and Redrow – where is this going?

A Discussion around different funding to improve the car park and the Club would welcome any suggestions. Redrow refused the club £500 funding opportunities as they were perceived as ‘neighbours’ and would get special treatment – so far this has meant being ignored.

- An alternative/equivalent site will have to be offered to the club if Hs2 goes ahead. 3G pitch was mentioned as they can play every day on these and do not have to leave the grass to recover. Fields off Sandy Lane were mentioned but James said these are not big enough. They are also on a hill/incline.
- It was suggested approaching Lowton Social Club regarding possibility of using the rear car park and suggesting the small car park at the side of the Chemist for parents to use.
- It was suggested asking to use parking/facilities near the Youth Club next to J&I School as Sport England are looking to providing a football pitch there with toilets and changing facilities. This could be discussed further.
- James did mention during the months of June and July, when there is no football, the field could possibly be used for community events. This could be looked at in the future.

The Group and attendees thanked James for his information and input.

3. Meeting with Redrow from Oaklands Fields off Bainbridge Avenue.

- There is a Redrow person monitoring HVGs using Hesketh Meadow Lane before 08:30. It was reported that another person needs to go to Oaklands Road as the drivers are using this road instead! Wagons are parking opposite the football field on Oaklands Road and damage is starting to be seen on the footpaths. The vehicles should be parking and waiting on the Enterprise Park. It was reported at the meeting that some Tachographs have been checked and Drivers spoken to by their companies when the HGVs had come down the lane outside official times.
- Redrow have asked for people to provide photographs of vehicles parked up outside allocated times and parked in wrong place. They will speak to the Companies of the vehicles.
- Speeding - HGV's and residents. There will be Police presence at some point for 7 days/24 hours. This is being used as a “rat run”. It was said there was a need to get rid of the “rat run”. This is something that the Council are looking into and considering use of Section 106 money. Redrow have offered to put a chicane in to help.
- Road Sweepers - some say this is ok and others say not. The majority of residents reported there has been a vast improvement and wheel wash is being used on site.
- Anyone with specific issues can contact Paul, Site Manager and his contact number is on the gate of the site. He is just asking for proof and evidence of any issues.
- There will be 117 houses on the site. There with 29 social houses taking **25% of their Section 106 money.**
- There are still 40+ houses to be piled but we don't know when. So residents should be aware that the loud noise issue will return at some point. The site will be there for 3+ years before all houses are completed.
- From 1 August 2022 the first showhouse will be open, which will lead to more vehicles accessing the site and there will be a short-term car park for this.

- It was reported vehicles are going down Horncastle Close then having to turn around. This is a dead end and it was asked could signage be put up to stop this? Currently there is no dead end sign on the road.
- Redrow are putting up bird and bat boxes. It was mentioned about asking for a hedgehog highway in the Environment Plan.

4. New Planning proposal – Morris Homes – 250 Houses

- Morris Homes are seeking views on design, layout, materials, and following a consultation will collate and discuss finding. They will welcome community involvement/support and responses by **22 May 2022**. The potential site is at the corner of the east lincs and the Atherleigh bypass with an access road onto Atherleigh way. All reports are currently being prepared by the builders regarding drainage, environment, roads etc. See attached for the leaflet sent out to some of the existing houses off Pocket Nook Lane (and since the meeting, further info from the building firm)
- Morris Homes will submit a full planning application regardless of what we say to Wigan Borough Council. Once submitted, the neighbourhood can oppose with further comments.
- Suggestions were, Wigan Council already over quota on house builds as directed by Government inspector. Drainage system is not coping and there is flooding in the area from water and drains, which never happened years ago (only since new builds), Drainpipes are 9.5 inch and not 12 inch as needed. School places, GP access and infrastructure are currently woefully inadequate.
- Who owns the land? – this will be checked (having now asked the builders they say it belongs to them and Mr A's land is adjacent to the planned new builds) On the plan, the new road stops and ominously states that it will be extended with further developments at a later date. All the land along this stretch of East Lancashire Road, regardless of who owns it and whether they want to sell it, has been put on the 'Places for everyone' document by Wigan Council as available for housing. This document has yet to be ratified. This was seen by the meeting as cynical bullying tactics by Wigan Council. The meeting noted local people and Groups would support Mr Adamson and help him in any way to stop his land being compulsory purchased in the future.
- Responses to this planning proposal should be sent to manchester@bartonwillmore.co.uk or phone 0161 8174900. Your responses will be used so the builders can modify their plans to try to ensure the actual plans are passed first time!! It was suggested that we should respond by *paraphrasing all or part* of the following, the bit in bold is the key sentiment: **We don't want yet more housing in Lowton as we are currently well over our quota for the area. There is not adequate infrastructure to cope with any further building works. Most importantly, the Lane Head bottle neck need addressing immediately by extending the Atherleigh Way towards Warrington. You also need to know that Wigan Council want HS2 to pass very close to your plans.** No additional infrastructure of any kind has been put in place since excessive house building began over 5 years ago. The East Lancashire Road feeds into the Lane Head bottle neck and pollution hot spot and your proposed site will make it worse. We have been campaigning for years to extend the Atherleigh bypass for this very reason. A significant number of other building sites and plans are already in progress in the immediate locality and any traffic surveys you do will be soon out of date and not reflect the real congestion and pollution levels at Lane Head. The West Lancs Road

as stated on your leaflet doesn't actually exist and implies you don't know the area well. In addition to this the drainage of existing housing is at breaking point due to existing new house builds and old 9.5 inch drains. GP surgeries, schools and dentists are full. You imply further housing plans will follow onto land you don't own. These are cynical bullying tactics. If you are insistent on yet more housing with very, very poor infrastructure then at the very least, all new houses should be built to include their own solar panels and suitable insulation to ensure they are as energy efficient as possible. Porous driveways should be mandatory as well as hedging and suitable trees.

AOB

- Bellway Homes estate and planning permission. Crompton Way field/recreational ground are still fenced off. There are ducks on this area as very wet ground. Bellway Homes said it will dry out and will be ok. This is not a recreational area at the moment as agreed. There is a maintenance charge of about £150 per house but people have not paid as yet, as site has not been completed as requested. It was reported that the Bellway Homes have signed off as complete for the site. But it is not complete.
- Lack of NHS Dentists was raised as a big issue – any one needing an emergency dentist out of hours was advised to call 0161 476 9651.
- Gathering of any issues – these will be carried over and discussed at the next meeting. Included Doctors, Environmental issues
- **Queen's Jubilee**
 - **Lane Head South Residents Group** have organised an event on Mount Tabor on Sunday 5 June 2022 at 15:00. There will be live music, saxophone, guitar, children's dance performances, environmental activities, crafts, face painting etc. Bring your own barbecue items, bunting and drink.
 - Kath Hulton said there will also be an **event at Lowton Social Club** and date and time will be sent out to notify people, but probably the 3rd June.
- Councillor Edward Houlton was congratulated for being re-elected for Lowton East and commiserations were offered to Gary Lloyd.
- Follow up on actions from LENDF meeting 11th April 2022 [please refer to GW's LaGTAC presentation linked to LENDF's minutes of 11th Apr.]
ACTIONS from Professor Graham Wardle
 - Speed Enforcement
 - E-mailed Insp Andy Smith (GMP Neighbourhood Policing, Leigh) in respect of future Traffic Speed Enforcement (Copied to James Grundy MP). This concerns LaGTAC and the community groups undertaking speed measurements in tandem with GMP neighbourhood police and RTU (Enforcement) officers.
 - Drafted briefing note for James Grundy to discuss with senior GMP/GMCA officers) which details meetings and issues that LaGTAC and GMP have discussed over the last 2 years. Awaiting Andy's response before finalising the document.

- NOx diffusion tubes on Slag Lane Cllr Kath Houlton and Professor Graham Wardle both separately contacted Michaela Guest in relation to the siting of NOx tubes on Slag Lane, Lowton (outside of Lowton West Primary School and adjacent to the speed monitor display unit). We are querying tube locations. NOx tubes have been installed at the speed monitor site but also Scott Road, but there has been no confirmation of a NOx tube being placed outside of the school. We are awaiting a reply to an email sent earlier today.
- Road Pricing Procedures and CAZ charges: LaGTAC have had confirmation from both DEFRA and Dept of Transport (Jo Churchill MP and Trudy Harrison MP) that they have forwarded LaGTAC 's 'simple Road Pricing procedure' – An alternative to CAZ charges to the relevant HM Treasury committee for setting vehicle taxes. Hopefully James and LaGTAC will be able to take this forward with the HMT committee in the near future.
- How green is switching to an electric car? The last meeting referred to the 'from source' audit (2008) on 'How green was an electric car?' - where taking into account all energy consumption in the production of a new electric vehicle was equivalent to driving an old diesel vehicle for 200,000+ miles.
- how many miles would you need to drive before fuel savings offset these initial costs - both financially and environmentally? E.g. for a 1.2 Petrol Vauxhall Corsa v equivalent 50kWhr battery eV Corsa.
 - Answer (Financially) 300,000 miles or 40 years. At best 80,000 miles or 11 years
 - Answer (environmentally) 37,000 miles. At best 16,500 miles or 2.5yrs.
- Liz, stand-in Chair tonight's meeting, was thanked for chairing and doing a "grand job" tonight. Other members of the team were also thanked for their input and continuing to keep LENDF running for the community.

**Next Meeting: 13 June April 2022 – 19:30
At Lowton Social Club**