

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite
- Secretary – Irene Thomson
- Cllr Kath Houlton and Cllr Edward Houlton

*Apologies: Cllr James Grundy, Les Bagshaw.*

No. of Attendees = 54

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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 Bank Statement available during the meeting.
  2. **Response from Wigan MBC to Mr Adamson's Letter re land 'not for sale'**  
Both Mr Adamson's letter and Wigan Council's response are now on the 'Latest News' page of LENDF's website.
  3. **HS2 Consultation at Lowton Civic Hall**  
Even though many people attended the consultation event there does still seem to be a lack of information on certain issues.

The 'cutting' referred to at the event, and shown on the displayed drawings, will only be 5 or 6 metres deep – therefore our request that we have 'cut and cover' running through Lowton may not be possible. Local councillors will continue to speak with HS2 to find a way to mitigate the effect on the area – one of which could be 'sound barriers' i.e. mounds of earth topped with trees.

The plans show a double set of tracks with a predicted 4 trains each hour each way. The speeds they travel will mean that the sound generated by them would be a 'whoosh' for 20 seconds.

Raj Chandarana (Engagement Manager, North West Region | Phase Two, Development Directorate | HS2 Ltd) intends to have individual meetings with each local councillor and then the Chair of LENDF. Raj has agreed to attend the March LENDF meeting.

Since meeting we have told Raj that we all want to meet together he agreed and dates are being fixed.

4. **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

The GMSF covers 9 local authority areas. In the borough of Wigan there are various areas which will be highly impacted by the large swathes of land which Wigan have put forward for future development. Public Consultation on the GMSF will run until the 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Many community groups are coming together to protest and object to the GMSF and LENDF attended at meeting at Leigh Cricket Club which hosted an event attended by groups from Pennington, Astley, Tyldesley, Hindley and Bryn.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January the Council are to hold a Full Council Meeting and Lowton's councillors have asked that the GMSF be debated.

*[Post Meeting Note: This request has been denied, much to the frustration of our local councillors.]*

Andy Burnham's response to the GMSF can be read via this link  
[http://www.burnhamformayor.co.uk/gmsf\\_response](http://www.burnhamformayor.co.uk/gmsf_response)

#### 5. **St Helens Draft Local Plan 2018-2033**

This document is in its 'second stage' consultation before a Final Draft is produced later in 2017. **The consultation ends on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

An [Information Leaflet](#) is available on the 'Latest News' page LENDF's website, together with a proforma objection letter for residents to use if they wish. These will be posted onto Facebook and circulated to the LENDF email list in order to reach as many residents as possible. It is important to add your own personal comment to the letter in order to make it count as an 'individual' response rather than a 'petition' response.

Ray Bent gave a synopsis description of the Parkside proposals to those present at tonight's meeting. This is the development which will have the highest impact on Lowton.

[Parkside Action Group](#) are hosting an open public meeting at Hope Academy, Newton, on the evening of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This meeting will discuss the proposals in fine detail and PAG will be able to answer questions from residents.

[Post Meeting Note: Helen Jones MP, Warrington North, has now [voiced her opposition](#) to Parkside]

#### 6. **Civic Hall (the Rose Centre)**

The housing application submitted for the Civic Hall site is still pending a decision as it has not been to the Planning Committee yet. To view the application visit Wigan's website and search Planning Applications in Lowton East ward.

An interest in the site has also been shown by Wigan Leisure Trust who operate various venues around the borough 'Inspiring Healthy Living'. As the hall has an 'Asset of Community Value' added to it then to have it used by Wigan Leisure Trust would be preferable.

#### 7. **Persimmon Homes**

Ground works on this site has now begun.

#### 8. **Any Other Business**

- Hope View Sensory Farm, Astley. In Spring they will be opening their newly refurbished 'lake' with an easy access fishing pontoon and fishing pegs. They have requested donations of unwanted fishing tackle, etc, in order to help provide a 'sensory' experience for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's.
- Email from Brian Lobell asking LENDF to write to Gavin Barlow MP about St Helens greenbelt grab. This has now being sent by our local councillors.
- Mike Worden, Assistant Director Planning has now left Wigan MBC but sent the following message to LENDF:



Ed,  
Today is my last day at the Council.  
It's been a pleasure working with you over the years, and although we might have sometimes disagreed over the issues, I've always been impressed how you have been positive, polite and respectful.  
Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Mike Worden  
Assistant Director Planning and Transport, Places Directorate, Wigan Council

- Red Lion, Lane Head. There is a possibility that the current application will have to be amended. Further details to follow when available.

**9. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016** @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

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

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF