

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at St Mary's Community Hall.

<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – William Adamson

No. of Attendees = 32

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 on display during the meeting.

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 those present agreed)

Vice Chair: *Vacant position – anyone interested please contact the Chairman*

Secretary: Irene Thomson – proposed and seconded (all those present agreed)

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

Sub-Committees

Used for specific projects:

Malcolm Jones

Gill Turner

Dennis Eubank

Eustace Collier

More members are welcome to join – please contact Irene.

3. **Planning Applications**

Application No. A/15/80373/OUTMAJ - Persimmon Homes:

The outline application is due to go before the Planning Committee in either July or August. Comments can still be made to the Council by either an email to k.foster@wigan.gov.uk, or by post to Kevin Foster, Places Directorate Development Manager, Wigan Council, PO Box 100, Wigan, WN1 3DS. You can also download and use the proforma letter on LENDF's website <http://www.lendf.co.uk/PersimmonHomes.html> A number of residents from the estate wish to redeliver the proforma letter to those properties who may not have submitted their comments yet. Cllr Grundy to obtain a list from the Council of comments already received in order to view the addresses and assist their task.

A resident at the meeting asked if Lowton High School had submitted any comments on the application. It was suggested the Board of Governors be contacted to ensure they were aware of the implications.

Cllrs Grundy and Houlton will review the supporting documents being prepared for the Planning Committee when they become available.

Application No: A/14/8018/MAJ - Seddon Homes:

Cllr Grundy reported that the Head of Planning has been receiving new evidence from the developers to support the application. The Council's decision on this application is still being determined. For more details of the application see LENDF's website <http://www.lendf.co.uk/SeddonHomes.html>

Application Number: 2015/25283 (Warrington Council) – Diggle Green:

Warrington Council have completed their consultation process and are now awaiting an Environmental Report. See LENDF's website for detail of the application <http://www.lendf.co.uk/digglegreen.html>

Application Reference No: A/12/77592/OUTMAJ – Wainhomes:

Permission granted for this development last year with a 3 year period for Wainhomes to submit a full application. So far there has not been any further activity from the developers. Cllr Grundy reported a possibility that the number of houses maybe reduced as the Council's housing target could be closely met by other developments in the Borough.

4. Lowton Social Club

Repair work has commenced following the recent fire. With regard to the sale of the car park and concert room, the club have accepted an offer from a housing organisation called [Hilldale Housing Association](#). HHA will put in an application to the Council for a development of 6 bungalows which will cater for disabled individuals or those who require care assistance.

With regard to the front remaining portion of the club, the redevelopment work will take approximately 12 weeks to complete as many items need replacing including a complete rewiring of the club's electrical systems. Discussions with builders are taking place regarding the top floor of the club with a view to extending it to create a larger function room and installing a lift to assist those visitors who can not use the stairs.

5. Pensioners' Parties

LENDF have been looking at other venues for these parties until the Social Club becomes available again. The Civic Hall is too big and Golborne Sports and Social Club, Stone Cross Lane is too far from a bus stop. A good alternative would be the Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club, Rivington Avenue and the manager has agreed to allow us to use it on the same conditions as were agreed with Lowton Social Club. Therefore the October party will go ahead on the 14th, so if you have kept hold of your March ticket it will be valid for October.

All the party dates are as follows:

Oct 14th - The entertainment artist will be James Norton.

Nov 11th - The entertainment artist will be Tom Jones.

Dec 16th - The entertainment artist will be Carle Gordon.

Jan 13th - The entertainment artist will be James Norton.

Feb 17th - The entertainment artist will be Carle Gordon.

Mar 16th - The entertainment artist yet to be arranged.

6. Family Fun Day

This event has in previously years been funded by Oaklands and Meadows Residents Association (OMRA) via Wigan & Leigh Housing Association (W&LH). This year W&LH encouraged OMRA to apply for funding for three of the Pensioners' Parties – though it then transpired that each party needed a separate application. As OMRA can only make three applications per year, they will not be able to apply for funding for the Fun Day.

LENDF have spoken with local councillors regarding possible support from Brighter Borough monies, and recently met with Amanda Thomas, Community Knowledge Officer, who has sent through various sources of available funding.

The venue has been chosen as St Mary's Community Hall and will probably take place in August.

7. HS2 Leaflet

LENDF has been involved with the Golborne Link Alliance and attended several meetings. The result of which has been the production of two documents in relation to HS2. The first is a 24 page [booklet](#) which has been sent to all MPs, prospective MPs and councillors

along the route. The second is a double-side [leaflet](#) which has been distributed mainly to properties south of Lowton as Cllr Grundy has been leafletting Lowton on the same subject.

8. Environmental Issues

LENDF joining the recent Borough 'Spring Clean Up' and are looking at selecting the next location for a litter pick. Cllr Grundy stated that the Council's 'Beat It Team' are due to work in Lowton and he will obtain the dates and places and pass the information onto Irene.

We always need volunteers for these litter picks so please do join in when the next one is organised as we can achieve so much more if we have more people. All equipment will be provided – and the exercise and fresh air is free ☺

9. Newton Rail Station Update

Ray Bent very kindly gave an update on the local rail lines and Newton station:

On the 17/4/2015 the Liverpool City region Combined Authority met. They were discussing the release of finances by Government i.e. £44.1 million for transport in the Region. There were 3 initial projects to be launched and the 3rd item was the Newton-Le-Willows Interchange consisting of Mods to Station, Car Park extensions, and New Bus Station inc Lifts and Toilets at ground level, on south side, accessed from Alfred Street. There will be no car access on north side, but access for pedestrians and cycles and parking racks for same.

Also, that they were working on the East/West project for High Speed Rail, with connections to HS2. Details are still being worked out with other Authorities along the route. The RAIL NORTH Group was also represented, which is a group of Conurbations i.e. 29 in total that has formed with DFT backing all part of the devolution to let Rail North and Government to work together. This has already shown up in the influence seen in the choice of NEW Rolling Stock brought up in the ITTs for new bids for the replacement franchises NORTHERN RAIL and TRANSPENINE EXPRESS. The demise of the PACERS and replacement with 120 new DMUs. Also increases and changes on various routes which have been presented to all 3 bidders for submission. It was also mentioned, that the line from SOUTHPORT via KIRBY-WIGAN-ATHERTON to MANCHESTER VICTORIA would be electrified.

More of the Class 319s EMUs have become available, trials have already begun on Liverpool-Huyton-St Helens-Wigan line already at night, and more trials have also been going on at night on CHAT MOSS line using ORDSALL LANE into MANCHESTER VICTORIA.

For enthusiasts over the two MAY BANK HOLIDAYS, PENDOLINOS will be running along the Chat Moss Line i.e. LIVERPOOL/MANCHESTER/LONDON due to maintenance work.

10. Any Other Business

None at this time.

11. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 @ 7.30pm (St Mary's Community Hall)

(Please Note: There Will Not Be A Meeting in June).

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