

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

*Apologies – Brian Powell, Bill Peake*

No. of Attendees = 39

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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.

2. **Bank Balance**

On display.

3. **Brighter Borough Funding**

Monies have now been granted for the following:

- £800 Last Night of the Proms
- £250 LHSRG Bowling Event
- £192 Brush cutter/trimmer (plus goggles) for community use.

4. **Diggle Green**

Some residents reported the recent smells which occurred last week. EdT had been in contact with Mr Broster of Diggle Green who advised that he had not been spreading waste at that time.

One resident had contacted United Utilities who confirmed that they had been delivering and spreading waste on farmers' fields.

The Environment Agency had sent officers to various residents' properties to speak to them about their experiences and also to explain to them the processes which are now in place, and the actions they have been taking.

5. **HS2**

Charlotte Bowen, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Advisor – North West, has stated that she will organise an attendance to LENDF's 15<sup>th</sup> September meeting.

The Culcheth and District Rail Action Group, together with the Rixton with Glazebrook HS2 Action Group, have both recently written to Raj Chandarana Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, North West with details of the number of houses which will be affected by the route through Warrington ...

*"They have counted 505 houses in Glazebrook, Hollins Green, Cadishead and Birchwood that would be within the 500m of the line. This brings the total in Warrington to 1,452 out of a total of 4,750 for the whole of the line. This means that 30.6% of the houses affected by the line are in Warrington. Nearly 1 in 3 of all the houses affected in the whole country are in Warrington. Bearing in mind that HS2 will bring no benefit to Warrington and indeed will damage the community and the economy, this cannot be supported."*

It is known that Andy Burnham has now publicly stated that he is opposed to the maintenance depot proposed to the north of Golborne, but he does still want the HS2 line to come through this area.

The area of Crewe is to be a hub-centre – therefore it makes sense that the depot is located there.

Support for the idea of the depot going to Crewe has also come from Cheshire East and Trafford Councils.

Cllr Grundy and Cllr Houlton have recently distributed their latest Newsletter which gives details of their opposition and is in the format of a letter on the reverse which residents can sign and send to the Secretary of State (or pass on to either Councillor to be sent in bulk).

HS3 (proposed high-speed rail link between Manchester and Leeds) may be a 'friend' to Lowton and bring infrastructure improvements....

On the 5th August 2014, an alliance of five city councils – Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Sheffield - unveiled an initial regional transport plan linking their cities called 'One North'. This plan incorporated a new trans-Pennine high speed rail link between Manchester and Leeds linking with HS2, as part of a regional transport plan aimed to be completed by the year 2030. The entire project was initially costed at £15 Billion, equivalent to the cost of Crossrail. George Osborne attended the project launch, and provided his backing for the backing the project. [Source: Wikipedia]

## **6. Winwick Lane – Traffic Issues**

A sub-committee for Lane Head South Residents' Group recently held another meeting with Andy Burnham, Cllrs Grundy and Houlton, Highways Agency, Police and representatives from Warrington/Wigan/St Helens councils.

A traffic survey done in June was discussed at their meeting, though the results of the survey at Junction 22 had not arrived in time. The number of HGVs using Winwick Lane is increasing and will not be tolerated by the residents.

The Highways Agency has done some 'traffic modelling' for Junction 23 and the proposed improvements are due to start and will be completed by April next year.

All the Councils agreed to review their future traffic plans and the sub-committee stated that they will continue to ask for Winwick Lane to be 'de-primed' as the possible development at Parkside will put additional pressure on this road.

Also it was agreed that a Bypass for Lane Head was a good proposal and this was supported by our local councillors. The sub-committee's next meeting will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> with all the authorities and other organisations to attend.

## **7. Senior Citizens' Day (aka Pensioners' Party)**

The next event will be the afternoon of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October and once more will be held at the Lowton Social Club. Cllr Gillian has agreed to supply the food via the charity Compassion in Action. The Leigh Rotary Club have also been asked to provide funding if possible. The singer/entertainer will be invited back and the raffle and bingo activities will be repeated. It is planned to provide these 'Pensioners' Parties' once a month and the tickets are FREE. [Post Meeting Note: Future party dates are: 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015.]

## 8. Free Family Fun Day

The weather was very unkind on the day of the event but we persevered through the rain showers. Thank you to all the volunteers who didn't mind getting wet and to the families and children who braved the weather and join us. We managed to put some activities inside the Lowton Social Club i.e. small bouncy castle and face painters. The most popular activity was the climbing wall from Mountain Monkeys with many children managing to reach the top and press the buzzer – well done.

Click this for Video <http://youtu.be/sxX7cbtlnx8>

## 9. Litter Picking Event

The Lane Head group are organising a litter pick of Highfield Moss. This will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 10am. Meeting point to be 350 Newton Road which is close to the public footpath which leads to the Moss. LENDF will be offering their support with litter pickers, gloves, and rubbish bags. As the Moss is some distance from the highway we may need help transporting the bags. One suggestion was to ask a local farmer for the use of a tractor – trailer!

## 10. Lowton Walking Club (formerly known as Friends of Drumcoombe)

A website is to be developed for the Walking Club which will hopefully attract new members (any age). Next walks are 14<sup>th</sup> Sept in Borrowdale, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct in Castleton, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov in Conwy and 7<sup>th</sup> Dec in Grasmere. For more information contact Jackie Greaves on 01942 741640.

## 11. Kenyon Airfield

The planning application has been withdrawn by Lancashire Aero Club as Wigan Council informed them that it would be refused.

## 12. Lowton Youth and Community Centre

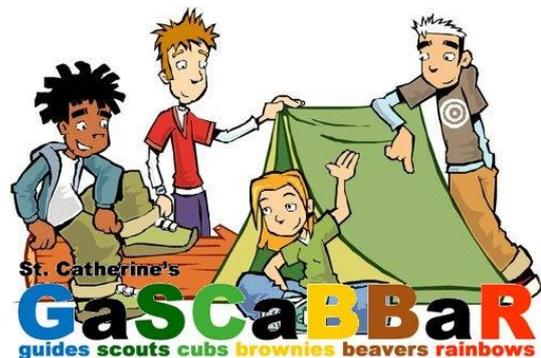
As you all may or may not be aware, the Lowton Youth & Community Centre (on Newton Road, between Lowton J&I and the green hut) is slowly deteriorating to a point where it may no longer be fit for community use and as a result, usage of the building has heavily declined as organisations seek superior premises to meet their needs.

David Banks, the chairperson of St Catherine's GASCABBAR (Guides & Scouts & Cubs & Brownies & Beavers & Rainbows), addressed the LENDF meeting with a proposal for the Youth and Community Centre.

*"It is my intention to develop a steering group made up of local people interested in seeing this local resource brought back into community use. It is my opinion that this property should be a vibrant hub for the community which brings people together and enhances the lives of the residence of Lowton.*

*With support from our local MP, Councillors and Council, as well as local individuals and organisations and appropriate funding, we would renovate and/or redevelop this facility with a view to enabling the 3rd Lowton scouts & guides groups (130 children), as well as other local youth and community groups and organisation to base their services at the Youth and Community Centre, for the benefit of the whole community.*

*I hope that out of this steering group we will be able to form a management committee to oversee the redevelopment and management of the Lowton Youth and Community Centre moving forward.*



*In addition, after initial enquiries with Lowton Junior and Infant School, there is an opportunity to utilise their playing fields for the centre. This can only serve to attract and engage more youth groups and organisations at the facility.*

*I feel that with the right management structure, support and funding we can put Lowton Youth and Community Centre back at the heart of Lowton', revitalising and reinvigorating a building which is in danger of losing its purpose, should nothing be done to remedy its ailing state.*

*There will be a meeting on the **18th September 2014** at Compassion in Action's office on Oaklands Road, Lowton from 7pm to discuss this further."*

Ed T will be attending this meeting and LENDF encourage any individuals or organisations who wish to be involved in this proposal, or would be interested in using the Community Centre in the future to please contact David Banks on [dave.bank@sky.com](mailto:dave.bank@sky.com) or mobile number 07973 488066 or via their [Facebook page](#)

### **13. Lowton Social Club**

The members of the Social Club were called to a meeting recently to discuss the current financial difficulties the Club is facing. It was put to the members that the car park and large hall could be sold off as way of raising monies to clear a £85k debt. Various alternative options were discussed and the members are to re-meet on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### **14. Any Other Business**

Speeding on Newton Road – the speed indicator sign for traffic travelling from the Travellers Rest to Lane Head is not working and has been taken away. During the recent hot weather the increase in speeding has been very noticeable to residents living along that stretch. Cllr Grundy to contact the Traffic Monitoring Team to perform a review of this portion of the road. It was also suggested that signs be painted on the road to act as reminders to drivers of the speed limit.

20mph zones are being signposted in local estates, including the top of Sandy Lane.

A general discussion then took place of the various means of controlling speeders, i.e. speed humps, radar guns, cameras.

### **15. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 @ 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