

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2013, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

Apologies – Gill Dickenson, Joanne Lancaster, Ruth James

No. of Attendees = 43

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.
2. **Accounts**
LENDF bank balance details available for those present.
3. **Free Fun Day Sunday 18th August**
The Lowton Social Club will be the venue for a Free Family Fun Day this Sunday between 12.30 and 4.30pm.

LENDF have been working with OMRA who obtained funds from Wigan and Leigh Housing to put this event on. Main attractions will be on the car park to the rear of the club = bouncy castles, children's craft tent, face painting, fire engine, TA, CIA, burger van, ice cream van and 'buckets of water and sponges' for those brave enough to go into the stocks (many thanks to Ed Houlton who has volunteered). Inside the main hall will be children's' entertainer and zumba.

We have a short list of helpers for the day but also need anyone who can come along in the morning to help set up the car park barriers, marquee tent, gazebos, banners, etc. Also during the event itself helpers required to assist with crafts, supervise and monitor other activities, etc.

4. **Last Night of the Proms**
Funding has been approved via Brighter Borough. Tickets will soon be on sale at £3 each and profit from the event divided between a local charity of LENDF's choosing and LENDF own fundraising for future community events and projects.

Letters have been sent to the Mayor of Wigan and Andy Burnham MP inviting them to the event. Unfortunately the Mayor will be on holiday on that date – still waiting to hear from Andy.

5. **Diggle Green** 'The Smell' !
As many of you know there is a 'compost processing' business being operated from the farm at Diggle Green on Wilton Lane?

During the recent really hot weather a dreadful stench was experienced by many residents of Lowton and Croft. It lasted a number of days ☹

The reason is due to a field having 'compost' spread on it (27 trailer loads). ET contacted the Environmental Health Officer from Warrington Council – Mr Harry Hayes – and together with Cllr Grundy went to investigate and speak to the business owner and nearby residents who had to keep their windows and doors shut for 4 days !!

The owner has apologised and said it won't happen again. Mr Hayes, together with the Environment Agency, are working with the owner of Diggle Green to ensure that proper controls are in place.

To see what is involved in the 'compost processing' the following is a useful website <http://www.thetegggroup.plc.uk/home>

The owner has also recently withdrawn his application to the Council to increase the amount of 'waste' that he can process.

Residents near to the site have though noticed an increase in vehicles coming and going to the site, and also that they go out with covers over the compost in the trailer but they are uncovered when they come back. Also they seem to exceed the speed limit and as these are agricultural vehicles they are quite large. These concerns will be passed onto Mr Hayes.

6. Persimmon Homes

Event by Persimmon Homes on 1st August to display their 'proposed' plans for development of 150 houses. Many residents viewed these and the overwhelming concern was access via the existing Poplars estate. Persimmon's consultation with Wigan Council Highways had revealed that St Helens Road could take the extra traffic ! There had been the suggestion of traffic lights on St Helens Road. ET and Cllr Grundy spoke with Persimmon representatives and queried the estimated number of vehicle movements. With every query raised Persimmon were receptive and appeared to be willing to take on board the resident's comments and feedback. This is actually a refreshing attitude, as our previous experience with Wainhomes over the Stone Cross site was negative.

There was a farmer present at the event who owns land to the east of the site and which would give a point of access to the bypass. He is possibly willing to sell it to Persimmon and there are negotiations currently taking place. Persimmon's preferred access would be to the bypass.

Another suggestion by residents was more green space between existing properties and the new development. There are certain areas on the site which are prone to flooding – Persimmon is looking into all aspects of the site.

The possible range of prices of the properties would be £120,000 - £250,000. This raised the question of 'affordable housing'. Cllr Grundy said it would be 25% of the site which is Wigan Council condition for permissions. 12.5% would be at discounted cost and 12.5% could be W&LH rented.

Some residents from the Poplars estate were present at the meeting and ET suggested they create a group and get together to produce ideas on how the new houses can be best developed in a way that is acceptable to them. Those residents agreed and LENDF will support them.

7. East Leigh AFC

The club has been successful in obtaining the lease of the playing fields at Lowton Civic Hall. This will give them control of the fields for football activities – though it will still be open space for community use. Other teams and clubs will also have access. It is a very exciting time for the club and will give them a Home or Base from which to work. Their

first year will be spent organising the marking out of pitches and doing maintenance to the field for drainage.

8. HS2

ET is still preparing letters to Andy Burnham and HS2 Ltd. Further research on the subject has brought to light a document which contains suggested routes for HS3 (to Scotland). ET is working closely with Ray Bent as this is a complicated subject and needs careful handling.

Warrington Council's 'questions' to HS2 Ltd have had a negative response, i.e. too costly to move the route; would disrupt more properties. This is why the HS2 route follows as closely as possible the old dismantled rail line.

Public Consultation Event – November 22nd at Leigh Sports Village. HS2 Ltd will be holding an event where residents can see the detailed plans and make comments, ask questions, give feedback, etc.

There will also be a similar event in Culcheth the day before on November 21st.

9. Transport for Leigh

The agreement between LENDF and TfL has not yet resulted in a meeting and therefore the questionnaire/leaflet has not been started.

This may be due to a recent meeting held between CBI North West, Greater Manchester and Merseyside Chambers of Commerce, the Campaign for North West Rail and St Helens, Wigan and Salford Councils as reported in the Leigh Journal last week [http://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/10593099.Rail link moves a step closer/](http://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/10593099.Rail_link_moves_a_step_closer/)

LENDF still want a 'consultation exercise' with Lowton residents and firstly need to set up a small group to respond to the article in the newspaper and then follow that up with preparing 'our side' of the questionnaire. Volunteers for this group were: Ed Houlton, Eustace Collier, Dennis Eubank, Kath Houlton, Keith Robb and Ann Lowe.

10. Any Other Business

A resident reported shots heard on Boydell's land, Stone Cross Lane South – possibly 'clay pigeon shooting'. It occurs during the evenings. Cllr Grundy reported that this had already been mentioned to him and that he suggested that in the first instance the landowner be spoken to regarding the noise and nuisance of the activity. This does seem to have had an affect as things are now quieter.

There are public footpaths that run through the area and there is a concern that a 'danger' exists to those using the paths.

[Post Meeting Note: Bird found near East Lancs Road peppered with shotgun pellets]
http://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/10607309.Protected_bird_peppered_with_shotgun_pellets/

11. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

9th September @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

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