

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2015 at St Mary's Community Hall.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
 - Cllr James Grundy, Cllr Ed Houlton
 - PSCO Jane Tymon
 - Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – Cllr Kath Houlton, Gill Dickenson, Ian Wood, Jim & Shelia Wright, Kath Lyon
- No. of Attendees = 34
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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 on display during the meeting.

2. **Update – Persimmon Homes**

LENDF's chairman and Cllr Grundy recently had a meeting with the Council's Planning Officer Kevin Foster. Persimmon Homes are still trying to negotiate with landowners regarding an access onto the 'Bypass' and therefore an application may not come forward until next year.

3. **Update – Wainhomes**

The recent application to vary the conditions of their outline permission (granted last year) involves building 230 houses with access to Church Lane only – once the final house is complete Wainhomes will then complete the link road between Church Lane and Stone Cross Lane. This is not acceptable to existing residents, local councillors and LENDF as it would mean all construction traffic (and owners of the new properties) access onto Church Lane very close to a school crossing.

LENDF have sent in an objection to this proposed variation and have also prepared a letter which residents can use to add their own comments too and also send to the council. The council will accept these letter until 2 weeks before the application goes before the Planning Committee possibly September/October. We have uploaded the letters to our website and are available to download.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk/Wainhomes.html>

A question was raised regarding the 'type' of properties to be built? Cllr Grundy confirmed that the new variation was also for flats/apartments rather than houses.

Another resident at the meeting asked about the 'distance' between new houses and existing properties. Cllr Grundy replied that planning laws state that various legal requirements must be adhered to for all new developments.

Another question was asked regarding the number of houses allocated for this area in the Core Strategy – is this being monitored. Cllr Grundy replied that the figures for the whole borough were being monitored and Lowton East may not complete it's allotted quoted number if overall housing targets are met through other developments in the Borough.

There is a public footpath which runs through the site – will this be protected? Cllr Grundy confirmed that Public Rights of Way must not be altered or diverted to suit any form of development. He will clarify the route with the Council.

4. **Morris Homes**

Pocket Nook residents have noticed 'activity' by land surveyors and are concerned that an application may be pending from Morris Homes. Cllr Grundy and Cllr Houlton confirmed that there is land which is safeguarded for development and is in the SHLAA document ([Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment](#)).

The next round of reviewing safeguarded land for development will be in the year 2027.

5. **Diggle Green**

Some of the waste which was going to the Diggle Green establishment now appears to be staying at the TEG Todmorden site which reports say was recently purchased by the owners of Diggle Green.

There have been occasions of odours emanating from around the area, though some of the occasions could have been caused by United Utilities. It is still important to ring the Environment Agency on their 24/7 phone line 0800 607080 as they are monitoring the site with electronic equipment and can collate information passed to them by residents, with the activities occurring in the area.

6. **Formby Hall/Civic Hall**

Residents of Atherton have put in a Community Asset Order to protect Formby Hall from development. [Click here for details](#).

This raises the question of the Civic Hall's future – is it safe? It is currently in a poor state and very little maintenance appears to have taken place since it was taken over by Rose Leisure. The Council had said that a covenant would be added to the lease documents which would protect the venue for the community – Cllr Grundy to question the Council on this matter.

7. **Last Night of the Proms**

The Civic Hall has the largest stage capable of hosting this event and once more the Golborne Brass Band and Lowton, Newton and Golborne Community Choir will be performing a Last Night of the Proms evening on 10th October.

Tickets at £4 each will be available at our next meeting. If anyone wishes to donate a prize for the raffle then please contact us – thank you.

8. **Lowton Social Club**



The Lowton Social Club is now fully functional again and looks splendid after its refurbishment. A new entrance makes it more accessible for the disabled and the upstairs function room is also refurbished. There is no need to be a member as all are welcome to visit the club and enjoy the new facilities. LENDF's next meeting (17th September) will be held in the upstairs room ☺

9. Any Other Business

- Lancashire Aero Club, Winwick Lane. There has been a suggestion that an application is pending for increased flying times and a possible clubhouse. The situation will be monitored.
- Highfield Moss SSSI site. The model aircraft club have been to the area used for a 'rave' recently and kindly cleared up the litter left behind. To enable the Police to have a better understanding of the how the area is accessed an arrangement will be made to escort them around the site to view all the access points. If any residents notice unusual activities or hear loud music in the evenings, please ring 101 to report it.
- Lowton Music Festival, Grange Farm. Organisers withdrew their application for a Temporary Entertainment Licence and cancelled the event. Both the police and the Environment Agency would have objected.
- Grange Farm signage re products available to the public. These signs have now become numerous and encroaching onto public land and highway verges. Cllr E Houlton will review.
- Local councillors are due to meet with Leigh Police Inspector and officers. Cllr Grundy asked those present if there were any issues which they could pass onto the police. A number of residents mentioned the slow response to call outs and the lack of officers. It is know that the police force have lost of 2,000 officers in recent reorganisations and this will have had an impact.
- Transport for Greater Manchester are running a consultation exercise on proposed infrastructure issues. Please visit www.tfgm.com/2040/Pages/default.aspx Deadline is 9th October.
- St Luke's Church War Memorial. LENDF are assisting James and Ann Glacky in raising funds to renovate the memorial. Contact has been made with the Grenadier Guards regarding funding applications and the response has been positive so far (including the desire to add more names to the memorial once completed).
- McColls Store (formerly the Londis). Complaints about the corrugated metal store box on the frontage of the shops. An objection to the use of this and its immediate removal has been submitted to the Council. [Update: It will be removed early October]
- Winwick Lane, flower boxes. Reinstalled with the proviso that a local resident does the watering 😊
- Golborne roundabout. Cllr Stuart Keane representing Golborne has provided the following information..... *"The roundabout's soil and plants will be removed and replaced with new soil. Murphy's will do this. Wild flowers will be sown but due to the time of year they will only flower early next year. I am also in the process of pricing up the possibility of putting statues on the island. I will contact the ex-miners association for their input."*
- Saturday 5th September. Car Boot and Table Top Sale at St Mary's Community Hall. Starts at 8.30am. Pitches inside £10, outside £7 pre-booked and £8 on the day. Tel 01942 275507
- Saturday 12th September. Lowton WI coffee morning with 'Good as New' stall in St Mary's Community Hall. From 10am till 12 noon and admission is £3 which includes

tea/coffee and cake, plus entry into a prize draw. All proceeds will go towards providing a defibrillator for the residents of Lowton.

- Wednesday 14th October. First of this season's Pensioners Party at Golborne Parkside Sports Club. Anyone wanting tickets please contact Ed on 07803 145805.
- Saturday 10th October. Last Night of the Proms concert at Rose Centre (Civic Hall). For Tickets please contact Ed on 07803 145805 or Irene 07950 933410 Tickets £4.

10. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY 17th September 2015 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club - Upstairs)

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