

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Ed Houlton and Cllr Kath Houlton and Cllr James Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests  
*Apologies – Gill Dickenson*

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's Bank Balance available to view for those present tonight.
2. **Pensioners' Party** – The November party was used to raise monies for the Heart and Lung Transplant Fund and a total of £300 was achieved. This was sent to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham who successfully treated Peter Hatfield, a Lowton resident.

LENDF have submitted a funding application to 'LINK' who are looking to support good causes.

3. **Bloor Homes**  
Bloor Homes have purchased Sarsfield's land off Stone Cross Lane. As yet it is not known if any proposals will be put forward for housing development.
4. **Wainhomes**  
The Stone Cross Lane / Church Road development is causing confusion as the original application has been amended. Originally it was that the link road would be built before any houses were built but now it appears that the road will only be built once the 170<sup>th</sup> house has been sold.

Cllrs Grundy and Houlton to speak with Wigan Planner's to discuss the latest application and to pass on the views of residents that the road must be built first.

**Post Meeting Note** *LENDF's Chairman discussed this with Kevin Foster Wigan planner and he assured him the road would be completed. It's not in Wainhomes' interest not to and they will still have permission to build another 170 houses after the first batch has been completed.*

5. **Traffic Lights – East Lancs Road**  
There have been a number of residents complaining about the sequence of the lights at both the Lane Head and Stone Cross Lane junctions. It does appear that added priority is being given to traffic travelling on the East Lancs to keep it moving especially with the current bridge works at Golborne. CCTV cameras have been installed by the Highways Authority to monitor the flow of traffic around Lowton.

If things remain the same after the bridge repairs are complete we will take it up with the authorities.

The Lowton area needs improvement to its road infrastructure and extending the Atherleigh Bypass still seems to be the best option – but both Wigan and Warrington Council are not keen on the idea.

In March 2016 a meeting is due to take place with Andy Burnham, local councillors and representatives from other authorities and LENDF will put the idea back on the table for a discussion.

Cllr Grundy reported that the new '[National Infrastructure Commission](#)' will be focusing on giving assistance to North i.e. Manchester – Liverpool. Therefore if agreement regarding the Bypass cannot be obtained from Local Council then the idea can be submitted direct to Government.

#### **6. Lowton Solar Panel Farm – Dickenson's Farm, Kenyon Lane**

The application is on hold until January due to possible changes in legislation.

***Post Meeting Note*** LENDF have found out that there are seven applications for these solar farms across Wigan, all on greenbelt land.

*LENDF subcommittee have discussed this and have decided to write to Wigan Planners and object to greenbelt land being used in this way.*

#### **7. HS2 – Trafford Council Letter**

Trafford Council leader Sean Anstee has written to Robert Goodwill Under Secretary of State for Transport expressing his continued frustration at the level of uncertainty over the Warburton to Golborne link line. His Letter will be on our website soon.

All MP's and Councils down the line object to it except our own MP and Council who still want a station in Lowton.

#### **8. HS2**

The following website <http://rethink-hs2.uk/> shows an alternative route but the creator/author of this site is unclear. The route does use existing tracks but would have an impact on present services.

LENDF have had further communication from HS2Ltd in the form of an email from Raj Chandarana with the following update:

1. Confirmation that the route from Birmingham to a North West Hub at Crewe will be accelerated providing a better link between the Midlands and the North West as soon as possible.
2. A commitment to support the North by providing funding to Crewe and Stoke to enable regeneration in Cheshire and Staffordshire, and to the East Midlands to support regeneration around the East Midlands hub at Toton.
3. A commitment to the full Phase 2 route and preferences for station locations

The Secretary of State also confirmed that a full route decision on Phase 2 will be in Autumn 2016.

Over the last year HS2 Ltd has been working with regional and local leaders, the business community and local people to develop their vision of how HS2 brings benefits to their area. In addition, we have continued to undertake the technical and economic analysis to ensure that HS2 and Transport for the North are integrated and therefore providing better connectivity.

**9. AOB**

- St Catherine's Church. Cllr Grundy to investigate the 'rumours' of 23-25 houses to built on this land. Access is an issue as Mather Avenue has been rejected in the past. The parcel of land is surrounded by existing heavily used roads i.e. East Lancs, Newton Road and Kenyon Lane.
- Grange Farm. An application has been submitted for the erection of two permanent signs and if granted all the others will be removed.

**10. Next Meeting:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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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