

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Thursday 18th December 2014 at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Grundy and Cllr Houlton
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – Brian & Audrey Lobell

No. of Attendees = 45

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. **HS2**

Charlotte and Raj from the HS2 Community & Stakeholder Engagement Team attended tonight's meeting to update Lowton residents on HS2 and to answer additional questions.

The new Chairman of HS2 Ltd (Mr Higgins) produced a [report](#) earlier this year which contains many of the issues and concerns which have also been raised by Lowton residents. It does now seem that the proposed depot at Golborne is 'questionable' as it received the most objections. The location for this depot is now being reviewed in light of the decision to create a station at Crewe which is a more logical site. Hard copies of the report were available for anyone who wished to take one.

The link line itself could still be part of the HS2 route if a decision to go to Scotland using the West Coast is made. However it might be the case that a faster route could be up the East Coast via Newcastle. The decision of a final route will be after the General Election in May 2015.

HS3 is a phase of the rail infrastructure improvements which will connect across the area i.e. east / west (the Northern Hub). There are already works taking place to upgrade signalling and the electrification of lines. For Lowton this could mean better connections to Liverpool/Manchester and the idea of a station at Kenyon Junction is still being investigated.

As the final route planning for HS2 is not yet complete and it was difficult to answer questions on proposed road infrastructure provisions during construction which may occur possibly in the year 2020. There are many final points yet to be investigated which can only be done when the route is announced. The new station at Manchester could be operational in 2033, with the Crewe station open before it in 2027.

Charlotte and Raj both stated that they would be happy to have private conversations with anyone who wishes more details or has concerns over their own predicaments regarding their property, especially with regards to the [Exceptional Hardship Scheme](#) and whether they qualify. Please contact Cllr James Grundy to make the meeting arrangements. James4lowton@gmail.com

Charlotte and Raj thanked LENDF and Lowton residents for their courtesy and welcome to recent meetings and will continue to keep in touch and give updates, etc., to our local councillors. At this point Charlotte and Raj left the meeting and we look forward to their return in the future.

3. **Seddon Homes – Application Submitted for 28 houses – Sandy Lane**

A planning application has been submitted by Seddon Homes for the development of 28 houses on land off Sandy Lane located between Bodden Street and Brook Street.

This parcel of land is currently designated Greenbelt and Councillor Grundy and LENDF Chairman, Ed Thwaite, have met with Wigan Planners to express resident's concerns regarding this application.



If you wish to submit a comment/objection then you may use the [proforma letter](#) on LENDF's website and complete it with your personal comments and then fill in your name and address. You can then either pop it through the letterbox of a local resident who is collecting them at 1 St Nicholas Street, off Bodden Street (white letterbox on the wall), or you can email either the letter or your own composition to planningrepresentations@wigan.gov.uk quoting the reference number A/14/80181/MAJOR. You can also post the letter yourself if you wish.

To view the details of the application please follow this link <http://kinnear.wigan.gov.uk/planapps/> (you will have to tick the box at the bottom) and then enter the reference number of the application.

It has been agreed with the Council that comments can be submitted up to the end of January.

4. **Land Head – Housing Development**

The application for 7 houses has been withdrawn and a new one is to be submitted for the building of 6 instead. Also the access has been redesigned to give more space between the existing properties and the new ones.

5. **Senior Citizens' Party**

The monthly parties are continuing to be extremely successful and never an empty seat ☺ Future dates have now been organised and these are: January 14th, February 11th and March 11th. LENDF has written to Cllr Pam Gilligan thanking her for support with the first 3 events with the donation of food for the buffet.

6. Lowton Social Club – Members Meeting

A meeting between members was held Wednesday 17th Dec to discuss the recent planning application for a retail use on the land made available when the back half of the club is demolished. The general feeling from the Committee was that the application will be approved.

A new suggestion was put to the Committee that a local businessman was willing to pay off the debt and give the club monies for much needed refurbishment with an arrangement to be put in place for repayment. It was agreed that 3 members of the Committee, Ed Thwaite and the local businessman will meet to discuss this option further.

7. St Catherine’s Church

The telecom communication equipment has now been removed from the Church tower.

A Remembrance Garden is to be created for those graves where no next of kin has been located or traced. All those whose details are known have been contacted and offered the choice of relocation of the family remains, or for them to be allowed to stay on site as part of the Remembrance Garden. It is still not known what the future use of the land will be.

8. Any Other Business

- *Lowton Youth & Community Centre*

The Douglas Valley Trust is currently in discussion with various groups and the current occupier of the Centre to try and bring it back into full community use.

- *Poplars Estate – Development by Persimmon Homes*

Wigan Council’s Planners are in discussions with Persimmon Homes as the council have stated they prefer the application to contain access via Atherleigh Way.

9. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY January 15th 2015 @ 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