

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

*Apologies – Tim DeMore, Peter Hatfield, Gill Dickenson*

No. of Attendees = 41

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1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.
2. **Bank Balance** – on display.
3. **Short Notices**
  - Lowton Allotment Association (Fir Tree Road/Edgerton Road) are very popular and 'award winning' [click here](#) The Association also run a 'Sales Unit' which is open to the public on Wednesdays 12 till 1pm and Sundays 11 till 12 noon. They sell all manner of products including fertilizers, lawn seed, sharp sand, etc, and at very cheap prices.
  - St Mary's Church – Christmas Tree Festival raised over £3,000. LENDF displayed a tree and also donated £100.
  - Lowton Walking Club – Known as The Friends of Drumcroone fell walking group. Once a month this club organises a coach day out to 'walk' in either the Lake District, Wales, Derbyshire or Yorkshire for details contact Jackie on 01942741640.
4. **Lowton Civic Hall (will it ever be the 'Rose Centre' !)**

Ed T met with Cllr Gilligan who shares LENDF's concerns over the management of the Hall as it seems to be running into some disrepair and neglect.

The sale documents of the Hall to Rose Leisure are due to be signed soon (though this has been the case for some time). Cllr Gilligan is trying to find out if the community could buy it instead. Jan Johnson asked to once more attempt to gain information about the sale by submitting a Freedom of Information request, especially with regard to the covenants.

5. **Diggle Green**

Even though the 'smells' have not been that frequent of late – they do still occur and residents have been reporting it to the Environment Agency. Please continue to make your reports by phoning 0800 807060.

Andy Burnham MP is now getting involved with this issue and Warrington Borough Council is fully aware that he has joined our cause.

The Waste Recycling facility at Diggle Green does have planning 'permissions' but they are confusing – even to the planning department! A recent meeting between Ed T and residents Pat Grundy and Adam Woodcock has resulted in an article prepared for the Leigh Journal which will emphasise the number to call and also a 'leaflet'. Both of these

will be issued in Spring because that will be moment when the smells will probably increase again.

Persimmon Homes' proposal for housing to the south of the Poplars Estate is in an area which suffers badly when the wind brings these smells over the open fields!! A resident has asked Andy Burnham to write to the MD of Persimmon Homes and ask if he is aware of the problem. LENDF will also contact Adele Snood from the consultation team for Persimmon Homes and ask for a meeting which will include the residents from the Poplars Estate.

Mr Broster who runs the recycling facility did say at LENDF's meeting in September, that he would apply for a shed to house the 'compost' and contain the smell. He has now submitted a planning application to Warrington Borough Council for an Agriculture Building (Hay and Straw) !! Ed T to contact Mr Broster for details.

## **6. Housing**

Wainhomes have obtained Outline Planning Permission for the site at Stone Cross Lane/Church Lane.

Taylor Wimpey is in pre-discussions with the Council for their site at Rothwells Farm. At a recent meeting with LENDF Taylor Wimpey did supply information on how the communities can gain access to monies to mitigate the effect of the development. Cllr Grundy to arrange a meeting with Steve Normington and Mike Worden (both Wigan Council Planning Officers) to discuss this further.

## **7. HS2**

At the recent consultation event at Leigh Sports Village the feedback from HS2 was that they were 'reserved' about the idea of a train station at Lowton. The HS2 representatives were pleasant to talk to and open to residents' concerns.

General discussion then took place about the pros and cons of HS2 and Transport for Leigh. The rolling stock depot north of Golborne is also a concern not only due to its size but also its location.

The final decision on the route will not be until November 2014.

LENDF had invited a visitor to tonight's meeting - Roy Rhodes, Conservation Officer for Leigh Ornithological Society. Roy explained that the society have concerns over various points of the route including the location of the rolling stock depot as it extremely close to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and its impact on this area could be high. The depot would only be 75m from the main water body. They are preparing a response to HS2's proposed route to detail the concerns.

Lightshaw Hall (Grade II listed building) is affected by the route and one resident present at tonight's meeting had noticed signage on an adjacent building saying 'Due for Demolition For HS2'!!!

LENDF have invited HS2 Ltd to meet with Lowton residents on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at Lowton Social Club. This will be an opportunity to speak to the consultants directly with our concerns and it is intended to give them a 'tour' of the area beforehand.

Andy Burnham has also arranged meetings both at Golborne (Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan) and at Lowton (Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Jan) so that he can get feedback from residents.

Ed T recently met with Sophie Arnold, journalist from Leigh Reporter, and took her on a tour of the area to view the proposed route of HS2, the proposal put forward by Transport for Leigh, the possible route for a by-pass, and the new idea of a station at Golborne. Her article should be in the paper within a few weeks.

Also local residents groups, Cllr Grundy and Cllr Gilligan have met with Transport for Leigh for an update meeting and the minutes from this can be viewed on our 'Latest News' page.

Outside of the Lowton area there are many 'possible' issues which could affect us, i.e. the Leader of St Helens Council is determined to get Parkside available for development, Atlantic Gateway proposals at Liverpool, new ports for bigger ships, goods will be distributed via rail links and canals. See [www.ourlocalvoice.co.uk](http://www.ourlocalvoice.co.uk) for more info.

#### **8. Police Body Cameras**

Cllrs Gilligan and Grundy have checked regarding the purchase of two cameras but it is not possible to do so through Council funding. They were informed that the Police need to do it through their own budget. Lowton is not considered a high crime area. LENDF will find another way i.e. fundraising event.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

Cycle path painting has been done on Hesketh Meadow Lane – then the Council sent contractors to resurface the road!! The resulting work is of poor quality. Photographs need to be taken and sent to the Council with a complaint.

M6 – Haydock Island. The Highway Agency is planning to implement 'improvements' to this junction in 2015.

#### **10. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

13<sup>th</sup> January 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