

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2015 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 – Cllr Houlton, Derek Walkden, Ray Bent, Fiona Whistlecroft, Gill Dickenson, Ann & Colin Lowe, Marie Cooper

No. of Attendees = 39

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. **Persimmon Homes – Poplars Estate**

An outline application has been submitted to the Council with comments/objections to be sent in by 26th February.

In Wigan Council's Core Strategy the land is 'safeguarded' for houses but 'access' is a major concern for residents of the existing estate.

LENDF and Cllr Grundy had met with Persimmon last year who had stated that providing an access to the Atherleigh Way would be too costly. The Council's own infrastructure plans for the future shows aspirations for a connection between Pocket Nook and the Bypass and Persimmon's proposals would disturb this 'future-proofing' of the rest of the land.

Cllr Grundy will be attend a Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th and at that point will ask Mike Worden (temporarily acting as Head Planner) for a meeting to discuss the Persimmon proposals.

In order to help inform all the residents of The Poplars estate and surrounding streets, LENDF will prepare a proforma letter which can be used by people to submit their comments to the Council. Approximately 600 will be printed. Ed T asked for 'foot-soldiers' to help door-knock and explain to residents the details of the application and invite them to complete a letter (with their own personal comment added). These will be collected, or can be dropped off at a designated local address, and LENDF will deliver them direct to the Council. Cllr Grundy will contact the High School to inform them of the details of this application as the proposed construction traffic will be using the same routes as parents/children and school staff.

3. **Seddon Homes – Sandy Lane**

Cllr Grundy reported that this housing application has been submitted on land which is designated as Green Belt and the Council want Seddon to demonstrate 'special circumstances' so that they can consider it. Seddon are quoting that monies are needed by the owners of the land (George Moss and family) for further improvements to the Moss Industrial Estate. George Moss wants to invite all occupiers and employees of the industrial estate to write to the Council and support his application. If the application is refused then Seddon can appeal the decision.

4. **Private Developer – Lane Head**

An application has now been submitted for 6 houses. This revised plan is more acceptable to residents though a few are still concerned about the height issue of 'houses next to bungalows'. The application will probably go before the planning committee for a decision.

5. Taylor Wimpey – Rothwell Farm, Golborne

Planning application submitted for 450 houses with one access road in/out onto Lowton Road. This site is in the ward of Golborne/Lowton West but there will be a 'ripple' effect caused by the increase of traffic onto the already congested infrastructure which will reach Lowton East and beyond.

6. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. Therefore with all of the housing developments proposed for Lowton/Golborne the Council do have 'aspirations' for various improvements to the local infrastructure. Their [document](#) is on LENDF's website.

7. Senior Citizens' Parties

Once more a terrific turn out and all those who came along really enjoyed themselves and the dance floor was 'buzzing', the artist was fantastic and the food was fabulous. The next one will be on Wednesday 11th March and we hope there will be a full house for the artist who is a [Tom Jones tribute act](#)

These parties will cease for the summer months, but don't worry we have plans to bring them back in October and will hold one per month throughout the winter to keep our senior Lowton residents 'entertained'. We will be submitting applications for funding to assist with the costs but would like to give a special thank you to Lowton Social Club who always allow us to use the hall for free :-). Also huge thanks to the volunteers (of all ages) who arrive on the day to help with the buffet and raffle and 'everything'.

8. Lowton Social Club

LENDF have been supportive of the Social Club's attempt to find a solution to their current monetary problems. A recent meeting between Ed T, the owner of Londis and the Club's Committee discussed an offer of financial assistance. The committee are now waiting for this to be formally put into writing and a Members Meeting will be called in order to discuss it further and then to put it to a vote.

9. St Catherine's Church

During Sunday morning (8th Feb) a tree was felled by workers and residents were concerned that more would be removed. It has now been confirmed that this was in fact a damaged tree which had split in two and was of reducing quality and could potentially have been a danger to pedestrians/residents in the future.

10. Any Other Business

- Malcolm Jones is a member of the Patients Participation Group at Braithwaite Road Surgery and reported on a recent meeting of the PPG which highlighted the fact that a lot of contact details are missing for the patients registered at the surgery. For instance mobile numbers are very useful for sending out appointment reminders. So please, can everyone check that their doctor/dentist has your up to date details on their records. If an emergency were to happen then the reception staff will be able to contact your family quickly.
- Council Tax – A question was put to Cllr Grundy regarding the level of council tax payable per year and whether it would change this year. Cllr Grundy replied that he is hopeful it will be frozen once more and not change.
- Lowton Social Club – events every Saturday night with free entry. The club needs the support of the local community and there are some terrific artists lined up for the coming months. It was suggested LENDF could put on an evening event too and this will be investigated (suggestions/ideas welcome).
- LENDF have submitted a funding application for £150 to help Irene's Hedgehog Rescue which she runs from home. Irene pays for all the medications, treatments, vet bills, food and bedding herself. A little boost to her efforts will ensure that this

year's sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs which are brought to her can be nurtured back to full health and released into the wild once more. Irene is happy to take any calls or enquiries for advice about our 'spikey garden visitors' – so please contact her on 07950 933410, especially if you see one out in the daytime as this is a sure sign that they are poorly (*the only except to this rule is a pregnant female which is gathering nest materials*).

11. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY March 12th 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