

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 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 – Roy Rhodes, Linda Graham, Cllr P Gilligan, Malcolm Jones*

No. of Attendees = 32

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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.

2. **Bank Balance** – on display.

3. **Quick Points**

- LENDF have been given a thank you letter from St Mary's Church regarding the Christmas Tree Festival. LENDF provided a decorated tree for the event which has proved very successful in raising funds for the Church ..... £4,000 ☺
- Ed and Irene recently attended a meeting with Our Local Voice and the issue of Parkside was discussed. A local St Helens magazine describes the possible development as bringing a lot of jobs to the area as Langtree (the developers) propose an inter-rail link with warehousing. This could also mean a large increase in traffic volume especially on Winwick Lane and Newton Road. Our Local Voice is monitoring the situation and will keep LENDF updated. For more information visit [OLV's website](#).

4. **HS2**

LENDF's response to the HS2 consultation has been forwarded to the following:  
Andy Burnham, Patrick McGloughlan, Chairman of HS2, Leaders of Trafford, Cheshire East, Warrington and Wigan Councils.

LENDF wish to thank those members who put the response together, especially Helen Edwards, Malcolm Hitchen, Frank Allen, Roy Rhodes, Linda Graham and local councillors.

From recent press articles, etc, it is becoming more likely that the HS2 project will not be going before Parliament until after the General Election in 2015.

Ray Bent then gave those present an overview of the current improvements happening to rail transportation in the North West i.e. mass electrification and Northern Hub capacity will increase by 85%. New services have started through Golborne to Scotland. It's vital that we support Wigan Council in its attempt to get Golborne Station reinstated

5. **Kenyon Junction**

LENDF would like to pursue the possibility of opening a station at Kenyon Junction. The owner of the land is willing to give it for free as long as he can have the rights to the car parking provision. It is proposed to set up a meeting with both Warrington and Wigan Councils and include representatives from Lane Head and Culcheth, TfGM and Andy Burnham.

Those present were asked if they were happy with the proposal to pursue a station for Kenyon Junction – all agreed.

Golborne is also a possible location for a station and Wigan Council have set aside a £10m budget and are looking at the feasibility options. Ed to contact Emma Barton at Wigan Council for an update.

## **6. Diggle Green**

Even though we are in the winter months there have still been some occasional smells, especially towards the Poplars estate. Residents have been reporting them to the Environment Agency and LENDF advises people to continue to do so. There is a wind direction detector installed at the site which Mr Broster is using in order to delay any turning or waggon loading activity if the detector shows that the wind is blowing towards residential areas.

The issue of the waggons and trailers travelling along Kenyon Lane is still causing concerns and the ones which deliver to the site smell the worse. These come mainly from the TEG processing plant at Todmorden and the Environment Agency are investigating their processes. Staff from the EA have been to Lowton regularly and are testing the air quality in various locations.

Ed and Cllr Grundy recently met with Mr Broster who explained he has been adding a special compound to the compost mix which reduces the odour and also increases the heating process. It is a 7 week cycle and the more mature it becomes the sweeter it should smell! Mr Broster has also been improving the embankments and planting around his site to dissipate smells carried by the wind.

Mr Broster has been informed by LENDF and Cllr Grundy that Lowton residents will be more forceful in their opposition to Diggle Green if they suffer another uncomfortable smelly Summer.

LENDF to write to the Environment Agency for a detailed update.

## **7. Civic Hall**

8<sup>th</sup> Wonder are now the owners of the Lowton Civic Hall (the Rose Centre) and any concerns regarding the hall or car park should be directed to their operators 'Rose Leisure' <http://www.8thwonder.co.uk/rose-leisure.html>

## **8. Senior Citizens Event**

An application has been submitted to the Brighter Borough Fund and once this is agreed and the monies come through we shall be able to start making plans ☺

## **9. Fir Tree Lane Allotments**

Cllr Pam Gilligan has been in contact with the Rotary Club with regards to assisting the Allotment Association. Cllr Gilligan asked LENDF to prepare an Information Pack as part of a request for funding from the Rotary Club.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Pennington Fire Station – some residents have noticed changes to signage outside the station. Has it been downgraded to a back-up station? Cllr Grundy thought this unlikely but would investigate and report back.

## **11. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

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