

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Ed Houlton and Cllr Kath Houlton

No. of Attendees = 40

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. **Railway Foot Crossing – Highfield Moss**

Due to faster trains and increased traffic on this line enquiries have been made by Cllr Kath Houlton to Network Rail regarding improving the security and safety of the ‘Stop, Look, Listen’ crossing. Barriers have also been requested that will deter motorcycles from gaining access to the Moss which is a SSSI. Use of the public footpath by birdwatchers, dog walkers, etc, is permissible but the motorbikes have been causing damage to the sensitive environment. A team from Network Rail have been to the location to assess the crossing and are taking action.



3. **HS2 – Golborne Link update**

Update received from CADRAG (Culcheth And District Rail Action Group):

“There was a discussion with HS2 (Raj) in Warrington Town Hall in January attended by borough and local councillors and representatives of action groups.

It has become clear that the Government is inclined to press on with the Golborne Link but possible with a slightly altered route. This has raised interest and concern in areas that might be affected by the new route. Similarly the link between HS2 (and the Golborne Link) and HS3 is now seen as being very important, and a cause for concern in those areas that might be affected.

It has also become clear that we have to continue our campaign and take it to a new level. Subsequently we (CADRAG) have had discussions with our own Parish Council. Out of these have come a number of ideas, including the suggestion that we commission a review or costing of the WCML upgrade that we have been proposing. This is to counter the frequent response that the last WCML upgrade cost £10bn.”

4. **Traffic Congestion – Traffic Light Sequences**

Amanda White from Transport for Great Manchester will attend a future LENDF meeting (possibly April) as she would like to speak to residents regarding trains/bus services.

The sequences of the traffic lights at the crossing points of the East Lancs Road have been reviewed and checked by the Highways Authority. They are working correctly and the SCOOT system monitoring traffic flows is reacting accordingly to the various congestion times.

5. Brighter Borough Grants

- Mencap – £200 for art teacher.
- Lowton Social Club – The concert room at the back of the club is open again for functions and events. There is though a desire to do some refurbishment work and fit new lighting. £1,000 applied for.
- Lowton Youth and Community Centre – www.lowtoncommunity.co.uk/services/ The Centre on Newton Road (next to Lowton J&I School) is being transformed and has already undergone a number of refurbishment projects. They currently require security measures to protect the car parking area and also the building itself. Application is for bollards, concrete flower planters and security cameras. £739.99 applied for.

6. Gypsy Incursions

The recent incursion by a group of gypsy caravans onto the Rose Centre car park has caused much concern to local residents. The responsibility of the various portions of the Centre and the Car Park are shared by the Council and Rose Leisure. The impact though on residents and the Football Club, who lease the fields, has meant that people have stayed away from the venue and the Club have had to cancel programmed fixtures.

Local councillors and LENDF will approach the Rose Centre with a view to encouraging them to install height barriers to the car park to deter future incursions by caravans.

7. Wainhomes – Stonecross/Church Lane Housing Development

The Council have granted Wainhomes' latest amendment to their outline planning permission. This will mean two separate entrances into the development – one from Church Lane and one from Stonecross Lane. Only when the 175th house is built will the link road be joined allowing the new residents to choose which entrance to use.

8. Bloor Homes – Heath Lane Housing Development

Bloor Homes are preparing an application for housing on Sarsfield's land (to the northwest of Hollybank Cattery). The proposal is for approximately 140 houses and design details are still being prepared. LENDF and all 3 local councillors are to have a meeting with them on Thursday 18th Feb to discuss the proposals and to pass on information of current local issues and resident's concerns. Bloor Homes intend to produce a leaflet and website describing the scheme.

[Post Meeting Note: The meeting decided to oppose this development. It is outside the amount of build for this area permitted by the Government Inspector.]

9. Bellway Homes – Pocket Nook Lane Housing Development

A preliminary information leaflet has been distributed to residents along the boundaries of this proposed development of 119 houses. [\[Click Here for Leaflet\]](#) Initial comments can be made to Bellway Homes planning team via pocketnooklane@nlppanning.co.uk but until an application is submitted to the Council the comments will only be referred to as 'consultation'.

[Post Meeting Note: This application will also be opposed for the same reason.]

10. Wigan Council's Core Strategy

In 2013 the Government Inspector allocated 1,000 house for Golborne and Lowton to be built on safeguarded land up until the year 2026. Current applications with the Council

are for Rothwell's Farm, Golborne (453 houses), Stonecross, Lowton (349 houses) and due very soon land south of Poplars Ave, Lowton (150 houses). These three applications, together with the Nook Lane, Golborne development (52 houses), and a small 11 house development on Stonecross Lane, now fulfils the allocation as agreed between the Council and the Government Inspector. Therefore LENDF's view is that the Bloor Homes and Bellway Homes applications will take the number of houses over the agreed amount and should be opposed.

11. Open Space Land – Fir Tree Avenue, Lowton

The Council own open space land (formerly a playground) on Fir Tree Avenue and on the land's eastern boundary is First Steps Nursery. The council have submitted an outline application for permission for this to be housing land which could have a capacity for 6 houses. It is believed that if permission is granted that the council will sell this land to a developer. Due to its proximity to the Nursery it would be preferable if bungalows were built rather than houses. Until a design comes forward LENDF cannot yet make comment on this but it will be mentioned to the Council planners that it raises concerns.

12. Solar Farm Proposal – Dickinsons Farm, Kenyon Lane

LENDF have received a response from Wigan Council [[click here](#)]

The only other application with Wigan's Planning Department at the moment is for a solar farm at Cleworth Hall Farm in Tyldesley. Solar Farms at Mill Farm in Ashton has been approved, and Moss Farm in Glazebury is pending via Warrington's Planning Department.

13. Lancs Aero Club – Winwick Lane

Public Notices regarding the latest application have yet to be posted, they are expected this Thursday.

Also it has been discovered that two different application numbers have been used on the documentation.

This has now been clarified and A16/81895/major is correct. We now have 3 weeks to get our comments/objections in.

14. Community Speed Watch

Cllr Kath Houlton asked for the following scheme to advertise and circulated:

“As part of The Deal, the Community Speed Watch scheme is a joint initiative between Wigan Council, GM Police and communities to address speeding concerns.

*This scheme is to gather speed data – **it is not an enforcement exercise.***

Speed data will be gathered by members of the community using equipment provided by the council for an agreed time.

Most roads can be monitored as part of the scheme with the exception of a few – confirmation of the suitability of your chosen road will be confirmed after signing up to the scheme. Full toolkit and training will be provided.”



If you have any questions or would like to get involved then please contact the Council on: 01942 489309 or email traffic@wigan.gov.uk

One 'offender' of speeding appears to be tractors/trucks travelling between farm locations who do not realise that they are limited to 25mph – one resident reported that

she had 'followed' a tractor and it had clocked up nearly 40mph whilst travelling down Church Lane towards the East Lancs Road.

15. Parties

Pensioners' Party 17th Feb – all tickets gone.

Next one will be March with a 'summer break' until September when the monthly parties will start again and will be held in the Lowton Social Club.



*Queen's Birthday Party –
Saturday 9th April.*
An evening party to be held at Rose Centre to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.



Local groups have obtained funding from Wigan and Leigh Housing to create this party. On stage will be Golborne Brass Band and the Pipe Band of the Scots Guard.

16. St Helens Council – Parkside

St Helens Council are consulting on a new plan for the borough. The consultation ends 2nd March 2016 and you can submit your comments by emailing or posting a completed form if you want your say. The consultation form is rather daunting and the organisation 'Our Local Voice' have produced a 'lay persons guide' to give you some assistance. http://ourlocalvoice.co.uk/?page_id=2325

The above link will also give you access to the forms (there are two: Call for Sites Form and Scoping Response Form). Your response is needed using the Scoping Form as St Helens Council are collecting information needed in the Autumn for their 'preferred options' when they will be allocating land for development. This 'development' is likely to be Parkside and also Haydock Industrial Estate. Both will have an impact on the local area and your views/comments are important.

OLV are producing a leaflet to be delivered to homeowners in the locality and both LENDF and LHSRG have offered their support in getting some delivered throughout the Lowton area, especially to residents living in proximity to the East Lancs Road (c. 400).

It is important that you object to the St Helens proposals as they will create even heavier loads of traffic through Lowton.

17. Any Other Business

Please be vigilant regarding your homes and property:

- Reports of fishing rods being used through letterboxes to try and obtain car keys.
- Wheelie bins being taken and set on fire.
- Eggs being thrown at windows.

18. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Monday 14th March @ 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