

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Thursday 15^h January 2015 at Lowton Social Club.

<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

No. of Attendees = 24

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**

The recent article in the Warrington Guardian was also reported on by the [Leigh Journal](#). The Chairman of HS2 Ltd (Mr Higgins) has met with MPs and it is very possible that the spur line will not go ahead. He also promoted the need to move forward the HS3 (East to West) proposals. Due to a shortage of trains the Dept for Transport are increasing the services, by using 4 carriages rather than 2 trains and with the new electrification of lines there will be 5 trains per hour by May.

Newton-le-Willows Train Station – Proposals include 85 car parking spaces to the south of the line. More land has now become available for an additional 110 spaces and in 2 years' time other land options may come forward which will give a total of 425 spaces. Southworth Road will be a 'no-parking' zone. The 'Bus Station entrance will be via Alfred Street.



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

50 objections have already gone in by letter, with many more via email. Another 30 letters ready to be sent to council planning officers. The Atherton South group have also submitted their objection due to the nature of this land being designated Green Belt and if this application is approved it would open the floodgates for applications on Green Belt land throughout the Borough. LENDF are prepared to go to an Appeal if planning is passed. [Post Meeting Note: The Leigh Journal wants to do an article on this matter and to take a photo of residents at the site. Anyone interested in this, please contact Natalie Walker, Senior Reporter, on 01942 506280.]

4. **Land Head – Housing Development**

Awaiting the new application for the reduced number of houses to 6.

5. **Senior Citizens' Party**

The ever popular Senior Citizens' Party was held again last week and will continue to run each month until March. There will then be a summer break with the parties starting again in October. LENDF will apply for grants to keep them going throughout the winter months.

6. **St Catherine's Church**

Kath Houlton wrote to English Heritage applying for the church to be added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The full reply can be viewed on the Latest News section of our [website](#) The conclusion paragraph of English Heritage's report states:

"While the Church of St Catherine of Siena at Lowton retains local interest as an example of a Catholic church designed by the architectural practice of Weightman and Bullen in a modernist style, the available evidence indicates that the buildings does not meet the criteria for listing and accordingly the application should be rejected."

7. **Lowton Social Club**

No further news on the application submitted by club regarding the reuse of the carpark and rear portion of the building for a potential retail unit.

Discussions regarding alternative options are continuing with a meeting to take place on Monday 19th between the Social Club Committee, local councillors, a local businessman who has put forward a proposal to the Club, and 8 Club Members. This will be followed by a full club meeting for all members in February to further discuss options and to take a vote.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Lowton Social Club Memberships now due for renewal. £6 annual fee, £3.00 concessions and £1.50 for a key fob. Forms available on the bar for both renewal and applications to join the Club (your email address will be asked for so that the Club can keep you up to date with activities, etc).
- Fir Tree Allotments, Lowton. The allotments' committee have provided a Newsletter which details their success in obtaining donations and grants for future works and the all important administration. Work has started on the Community Plot and the Newsletter can be viewed on the Latest News section of our [website](#).
- Compassion in Action have received a 'runners-up' award in a new regional award called '[The Paul Goggins Memorial Prize](#)' for the best civil society initiative that can demonstrate that it has reduced poverty in a tangible way. Compassion in Action were nominated by Andy Burnham MP.
- Coffee Morning, St Mary's Community Centre, Lowton – Saturday 7th February 10am to 12.30pm Tickets £2 (includes tea/coffee and cake or toast plus a free draw). There will also be a Tombola, Home Made Cakes and Home Made Cards, etc. Money raised will help fund a Fashion Show in April which will in turn raise funds for the internal redecorating of the church. Tickets available from Lynda Parkinson 01942 744502, June Brignall 01942 275507 and Sian Anthon 01942 680021.

9. **Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

THURSDAY February 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