

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 18th July 2016 at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllrs J Grundy, K Houlton and E Houlton
- PC Mick Aspinall, PCSO Jane Dagger, PCSO Donovan Plunkett

Apologies:

Brian and Audrey Lobell, Ann and Colin Lowe, James Wright

No. of Attendees = 41

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. **Bloor Homes – Heath Lane Housing Development**

The application will be determined at the Planning Committee tomorrow (July 19th). Wainhomes are the main objectors !!

James Grundy has recently met with Wainhomes who informed him that Wigan Council would like to see flats built, but Wainhomes are not keen.

James will do the '4 minute objection speech' at the Committee meeting and Wainhomes have supplied him with a lengthy document as part of his preparation.

[Post Meeting Note] The application was withdrawn by Wigan Council whilst it reviews it's 5 year housing deliverable plan.

3. **Bellway Homes – Pocket Nook Lane Housing Development**

Permission has been granted for 119 houses and James Grundy has written to the Government Minister to 'call-in' the decision for a review by the Secretary of State. The Department for Communities and Local Government has now requested Wigan Council to send them all the documentation on this application.

One concern was regarding the proposed route of HS2 and how close this development would be to it. James Grundy met with Raj from the HS2 Communities Team in order that this information could be passed on. Raj agreed it does appear to be close though the actual final route is still not decided.

4. **Sandy Lane – Housing Application**

Many objections have been sent to Wigan Council as the same reason for its previous refusal still exist – i.e. the land in question is in the Green Belt!! Hopefully the Council will once again refuse permission.

5. **Travellers**

Wigan Council have now acted to put 'deterrents' in place to local areas of land which have susceptible to travellers setting up camp. The Council visited all the problem sites and then organised 'ditches and banking'. At Lowton Civic Hall money has been spent on installed new metal fencing. At Mount Tabor the Council have installed a post which blocks the track to vehicles.

Our thanks to Wigan Council for putting these deterrents in place.

6. Magazine – Local Life (Leigh, Ashton & Lowton edition – August 2016)

Business *insight*



New developments in Leigh and Lowton were showcased in a tour organised by Wigan Council to highlight new investment in the area.

The Wigan Forward Board toured development sites in the borough to see for themselves the range of developments taking place.

The group stopped off at the Parsonage development site in Leigh where a retail park has been built on a former colliery. Stores there including Sainsbury's, Next, TKMaxx and M&S Food Hall employ 700 people and attract more than 65,000 car visits a week.

Another stop on the trip was Pennington Wharf and marina where a housing development is taking shape by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. It will also feature a café and community centre.

There was also a visit to Pocket Nook next to the East Lancashire Road in Lowton which will provide 29 hectares of employment land including provision for the HS2 rail line. As well as the employment land it could provide up to 350 homes and a new road through the site.

Job help

If you are looking to get back into work, help and advice is on offer at Ashton Library every Friday between 10am and 2pm.

It's a friendly, informal drop-in session for people who may be looking for help in updating their CV or requiring advice on interview techniques.

For more information, call 01942 723965 or 727119.

Twitchers tidy up

Leigh Ornithological Society wants volunteers to help it clean up Pennington Flash.

There are no longer full-time rangers at the country park and the society has taken on the task of keeping the Flash tidy.

In recent months there has been a spate of vandalism at the Flash and security fences have been damaged.

If you'd like to help please email: leighos.chairman@gmail.com

This was in the magazine despite Wigan Council having received a letter from the owner of the land stating that he has no wish to sell it for any development. Cllr James Grundy was asked to find out why?

7. Andy Burnham Meeting

A meeting was held with Andy Burnham on June 10th. Seven local residents, Cllr Kath Houlton and Ed Thwaite (LENDF Chairman) attended the meeting. The main topic was to ask why a law was not in place to allow police officers to remove travellers from illegal incursions. Andy Burnham will write to the appropriate Government Dept, on behalf of

Lowton residents, with all the information passed to him. Once he receives a response he will contact with LENDF again.

8. Diggle Green

The new application submitted to Warrington Council is awaiting its turn to heard by the Planning Committee. If it receives permission then the original application (awaiting a date for its appeal hearing) will be withdrawn. If the new ones does not get planning approval then the original will continue to the appeal stage.

As Diggle Green does generate a particular 'odour' at various times – please remember to report this to the Environment Agency via their free phone number 0800 807060.

9. Police Report

The three officers who cover the Lowton East area were in attendance at tonight's meeting. PSCO Jane Dagger gave a quick report on recent events. There have been a few break-ins to properties and the perpetrators gain access via the back of the properties and have stolen car keys. CCTV footage of one particular incident is currently being analysed. Please keep doors and windows secure and also keep car keys out of sight. The meeting then went into a short Q&A session with reports being passed onto the officers regarding ASB on Oakland's Park.

10. Lancashire Aero Club

Richard Ward has been monitoring documents being sent to Wigan Council regarding their latest application. It will be decided by the Planning Committee due to be held on August 16th and Richard Ward will do the '4 minute objection'.

11. HS2

An announcement of the final route is expected to be in November. We can confirm that Golborne will not be the site for a depot as this has now been sighted in Crewe. HS2 will not reach Crewe until 2027.

12. Any Other Business

- **Saturday 6th August** Litter Pick to be organised by Lane Head South Residents Group. Meet at 10am outside the Red Lion.
- **Wednesday 14th September** Commemorative event to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme. Start Time 1pm. Lowton Social Club. Open to all. Tickets from Ed Thwaite or Malcolm Jones.
- **Wednesday 12th October** Pensioner's Party — 1pm to 4pm – Lowton Social Club. (Tickets will be available at the commemorative event).
- **Saturday 15th October** Last Night of the Proms Concert. The Rose Centre (Civic Hall). Golborne Brass Band and Lowton, Golborne, Newton Choir once again collaborating to bring this fantastic evening to local residents. Tickets will be available soon.
- Network Rail have agreed to install a 'kissing gate' at Highfield Moss in order to stop trial bikes getting to the SSSI. Cllr Kath Houlton is also continuing to campaign for a footbridge crossing to ensure the safety of those who enjoy walking the area via the public footpaths. The Chat Moss Line will become busier in the coming years as additional train services become available.

13. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Monday 15th August 2016 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact us on lendf99@gmail.com and the errors will be rectified.