

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 at St Mary's Community Hall.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr James Grundy, Cllr Ed Houlton, Cllr Kath Houlton
- Raj Chandarana and Charlotte Bowen - HS2 - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Advisors
- PSCO Jane Tymon and PSCO Donovan Plunkett
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – Brian & Audrey Lobell

No. of Attendees = 43

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**

Ed Thwaite firstly thanked all those who had signed a Petition regarding the link line and this has now been submitted to Parliament and been logged by the House of Commons.

Ed then welcomed Raj and Charlotte to the meeting and thanked them for offering to come along to give the community an update.

Raj then addressed the meeting and summarised his role within 'Community & Stakeholder Engagement' Team and that they cover the area from Crewe northwards. Their role is to work with local communities and take their messages/comments back to David Higgins (CEO of HS2 Ltd). Raj is willing to work with the area's residents and will always try to be honest with his information. Raj noted that he will be in London the following day and would be able to report the feedback from tonight's meeting to all MPs and the Department of Transport.

Raj acknowledged that the Spur Line to link with WCML has been controversial. This area though is highlighted as requiring better East-West connections and the Secretary of State is reviewing this. The recent change in Government probably means that there will not be a decision on the final route until 2016.

An additional station has been proposed which will be located at either Crewe or Manchester and this will definitely be decided upon later this year. Other areas where stations are possible are: Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester Airport.

Raj is confident that the depot at Golborne will not now go ahead as Crewe is a better location for such a depot.

With regard to The Exceptional Hardship Scheme and Compensation Scheme – these are being reviewed in order to help people 'today' rather than making them wait until the decision on the route is finalised. As the process of decision making is influenced by politics, it is important to contact your local councillors and MP with regard to issues that people may be facing i.e. HS2 is now showing on land searches undertaken by solicitors when doing conveyancing work.

Anyone with questions for Raj or Charlotte can contact them through Charlotte's email which is charlotte.bowen@hs2.org.uk or by telephone 07881 803208.

The meeting then went into a Question and Answer Session.

Q. A resident described difficulty selling their property due to HS2 appearing on land searches and the Exceptional Hardship Scheme is not proving to be of any use. The resident described the need to move quickly due to a job offer. How can their particular circumstance be dealt with?

A. Raj offered to meet with the resident privately after the LENDF meeting. This was agreed.

Q. Regarding Parkside and the proposed freight depot, is there any connection?

A. No – Discussions were noted during the public consultations.

Q. West Coast Main Line – are there any viable alternatives?

A. Previous upgrades to the line have been temporary and short term. HS2 is looking to provide a long term and permanent solution. A super hub at Crewe would make upgrades necessary due to demand for services on the WCML. Financially upgrades to WCML make sense, but the whole of HS2 plans are political decisions. Liverpool Docks is bringing investment and new companies to this region and this in turn increases demand for freight services especially by rail.

Q. Was Crewe Council positive or negative towards HS2?

A. Positive as the council have officially announced the Manchester connection is committed.

Cllr Grundy then gave a synopsis of his recent activities re HS2. He has spoken with the Leader of Trafford Council who confirmed that 100% of people opposed it. The Leader is going to write to the Secretary of State to argue that investment is better spent on East-West rather HS2 link. A Wigan Councillor is now not happy with the proposals as Cheshire East Council have put firm development plans in place for the Crewe Station.

Cllr Grundy is hoping to meet with the Secretary of State in August and will push for proposals for East-West connections/upgrades, the development of Kenyon Junction, and the completion of the Atherleigh Way.

The recent Petition to Parliament organised by the Chair (Marion McNaughton) of the Golborne Link Alliance (representing community groups in Lymm, Agden, Warburton, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Culcheth and Lowton) produced a quotation from Marion which was published in The Guardian. [Click here](#) to read.

Andy Burnham has also been speaking out about HS2 and was reported on in the Camden New Journal. [Click here](#) to read.

Raj and Charlotte are looking to conduct a 'drop-in session' in September where they will be available to meet with residents and set up private consultations. Details of the date and venue will be circulated when they become available.

Ed thanked Raj and Charlotte once more and they moved away from the LENDF meeting to meet with the resident as previously promised.

3. Labour Party Leadership

As you all know Andy Burnham is running for Leader of the Labour Party. Anybody can place a vote – you do not need to be a member of the Labour Party. The cost is just £3.

4. GMP

Welcome back to PCSO Jane Tymon who is once again part of the Policing Team for this area now that she has completed her maternity leave. Jane asked to address the meeting with an update and to answer any questions.

One resident reported an attempted burglary on Sunday at 4pm on Kenyon Lane. The resident passed on a description to the officers.

A number of residents had reported to the police that a black motorcycle without a registration plate, had been ridden dangerous through the area on a number of occasions. Jane reported that he had now crashed the bike so will not be a nuisance anymore!

Five scooter riders (from two different estates) have been issued with Section 59 warnings due to their behaviour and this means that if caught again the vehicles will be taken from them.

The police are increasing their patrolling of the area as they need to catch any antisocial behaviour as it occurs.

Regarding speeding along St Helens Road/Newton Road and Sandy Lane, a request has been made for Traffic Officers to come to the area with cameras.

If you see any speeders please make a note of the registration plate (if possible) and ring 101 and report it. The police have a large database of 'reported incidents' and in certain cases this can be vital evidence.

The next Police Surgeries will be 13th August and 10th September to be held at St Mary's Community Hall between 10am and 12 noon.

5. Environmental Issues

There have been reports of unsocial behaviour at Highfield Moss. It has been described as a 'Rave' where young people have gathered in the evening, playing music, lighting fires and drinking alcohol. This area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the damage and littering in the dale has been reported to both the police and Lancashire Wildlife Trust. To access the dale requires the crossing of the railway line which is dangerous. It happened this time last year too and therefore may become an annual occurrence unless stopped. A litter pick will be organised and the police will attend to assess the situation.

6. Formby Hall/Civic Hall

Formby Hall in Atherton has been sold by Rose Leisure to Hilldale Housing. On the sale of this unit it was understood that Rose Leisure had a covenant placed on them by the Council that the building be kept in community use – this appears to not be the case.

This raises a question mark over the future of the Lowton Civic Hall, also owned by Rose Leisure. Since their ownership of the venue very little has been maintained or improved with building. It could be that Rose Leisure are allowing this to occur.

Some years ago LENDF enquired about the use of the hall and a possibility of running it for the community. A drawing was given to LENDF which in fact showed a large amount of asbestos was used in its construction, this is still within the building today. If Rose Leisure intend to sell or demolish the Civic Hall then whoever owns it would have to deal with the asbestos according to current legislation.

7. Diggle Green

The application to increase the amount of tonnages that could be processed as the recycling business at Diggle Green farm was recently before the Warrington Planning Committee. All three Lowton Councillors were present, together with a Councillor from Culcheth and a number of local residents from both Culcheth and Lowton.

The Planning Committee allowed 3 people to speak in favour of the proposal and 3 people to speak against it.

The resulting decision by the Committee was to 'refuse' the application (unanimously).

It is quite feasible that in the future another application will be put in to Warrington Council. It has been rumoured that Diggle Green business has recently purchased the Todmorden waste processing plant that belonged to TEG.

Residents have continued reporting occurrences of odour via the Environment Agency Freephone number which is 24/7 and free to call 0800 080 7060.

8. Parkside

Pre-Application details are expected to be put to the St Helens Infrastructure Committee in the Autumn. Once these are available, and if Lowton residents need to take any action, LENDF will send out this detail.

Our Local Voice representative Peter Astles requested information on Traffic Issues in Lowton/Newton/Haydock/Winwick. If anyone has info/surveys/images which could be used by OLV for an article on the situation then please contact Peter.

9. Any Other Business

- Peter Astles also reported on the progress of the ‘recognition’ of the Battle of Winwick Pass. A monument is proposed together with Noticeboards and QR codes to act as guides to those who wish to follow the historical civil war event by walking the route of action.
- Brighter Borough monies have been granted for the following:
 - £100 prize money for a children’s competition to design a poster ‘Tell a GP’
 - £250 for Mencap
- Wainhomes – An application has been submitted by the housebuilder to vary a condition on their outline planning application for development at Stone Cross. This is in relation to the link road between Church Lane and Stone Cross Lane.
- *[Post Meeting Note: Wainhomes have now also submitted a ‘Reserved Matters’ Application regarding ‘appearance, landscape, layout and scale’]*

A/15/81114/MAJOR	Open Land South East Of 79 Stone Cross Lane North Lowton	Application for reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for residential development of 349 dwellings in relation to outline application A/12/77592.	Pending Consideration
A/15/81140/VARMAJ	Open Land South East Of 79 Stone Cross Lane North Lowton	Application to vary condition 17 on outline planning permission A/12/77592 to allow construction of the link road on occupation of the 230th dwelling.	Pending Consideration

- Persimmon Homes – It is expected that an application by Persimmon for development to the south of The Poplars will be before the Planning Committee in September.
- Braithwaite Park Play Area – Last weekend saw the successful launch of an extremely well designed and safe area for the children of the estate. Congratulations to Braithwaite Residents Association for their 4 years of hard work and fundraising to bring this to the estate.

10. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 18th August 2015 @ 7.30pm (St Mary’s Community Hall)

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