

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013, at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Peter Sargeant, Chairman of LHSRG
- Cllr Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests

*Apologies – Derek Walkden, David Glover, Bev & Simon Ellison*

No. of Attendees = 33

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1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.
2. **Accounts**  
LENDF bank balance details were available if required.
3. **Change of Date for Next Meeting**  
Please note that next month our meeting will be on a Tuesday (16<sup>th</sup> July) so as to not clash with LHSRG's meeting.
4. **Police Response Re ASB Oaklands Road**  
LENDF received the following email from PC David Mayo: (We have removed the names of the individuals).

In relation to the information that you have provided with regard to motorcycle / ASB issues in the Oaklands Road area, I report as follows in relation to the action that we have taken to date.

With regard to the rider of the yellow scooter, vrm DK60DWW. This scooter belongs to James\*\*\*\*\*. James during the last month has been served with a warning letter regarding the use of his motorcycle, he was then issued with an official S.59 warning and ultimately his scooter was seized and impounded under S.59. Unfortunately his mother then paid the impound fee and he got his bike back which then means from a police perspective that we start again from square one. In addition to the above James and his mother have both been spoken to on several occasions about his general behaviour in the community and a mediation session run by myself has also been completed in an attempt to alter his behaviour. I am also personally in the process of completing a prosecution file against \*\*\*\*\* with regard to the use of his bike having obtained a statement from a resident.

The riders of the purple scooter, vrm PO53VYJ and the rider of the yellow scooter, vrm DK60DWW have both now been issued with S.59 warning notices and should they commit any more traffic offences the bikes can then be seized. These two riders, namely Gareth\*\*\*\*\*, South Hey, Leigh and William\*\*\*\*\*, Wigan Road, Leigh respectively have both been spoken to personally by me and advised regarding their conduct and both sets of parents have also been advised in relation to their behaviour.

The rider of the blue scooter, vrm MW10ZFM David\*\*\*\*\*, Rugby Road, Leigh has been advised regarding his conduct and has been served with a S.59 warning letter but not issued with an official S.59 marker at this stage.

In addition to the above, in respect of the group congregating and associating with the riders of the scooters over a dozen early intervention letters have been sent out to their parents and

they have all been spoken to personally by me and I have explained that their behaviour is not acceptable.

In relation to the initial police response to the jobs as they are rang in and created, each incident that I have checked from the incident numbers you provided was responded to by the response patrols and they found no trace of the bikes on arrival. I am also aware that Jane has carried out numerous follow up visits at the earliest possible opportunity in an attempt to reassure residents.

I hope this goes some way to reassuring yourself and the other residents that the Lowton East Community Beat Team are actively tackling the current issues and within the restraints of our other daily commitments we are providing a visible presence in the area when ever possible.

If you require any other information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers,  
Dave

*David Mayo  
Police Constable 8572  
Lowton East  
Neighbourhood Beat Officer*

**5. Mr Billington's Report to SOS for Transport re Kenyon Hall Airfield**

Mr Billington from Ashcroft Airfield, Wettenhall, Winsford, has sent a Safety Report regarding Kenyon Hall Airfield to Patrick McLoughlin who is the Secretary of State for Transport.

In his covering emails Mr Billington has claimed that he represents both LHSRG and LENDF and that he is the safety representative.

Statement by Ed T (LENDF Chairman):

*This claim is wrong and on our visit to Barton Airport I expressed my concerns to Brian Lobell who works closely with Mr Billington. I informed him that the wording of the emails was regrettable.*

*Mr Billington is an Airport Operator and regards Kenyon Hall as unsafe. We appreciate the technical work he is doing, its something we would have to pay a lot of money for.*

*However, no official permission has been given for him to use our names in this manner and we have asked Mr Lobell to make this clear. I have now been given assurance that this is sorted.*

*No person our group should send any mail out with our name on without passing it through the Chairman or Secretary first and it must be sent out on an official letterhead or email.*

*We thank Mr Billington for the technical work he is doing and support his efforts to close this airfield on safety grounds.*

**6. Last Night of the Proms**

It has now been confirmed for Saturday 19<sup>Th</sup> October – book your tickets early £3 each. All 3 local councillors will support this event with funding from the Brighter Borough monies. Thank you to Cllr Gilligan, Cllr Grundy and Cllr Cowley.

## **7. Meeting with Wigan Planners re Neighbourhood Planning/Wainhomes**

Both Chairmen from LENDF and LHSRG, together with Cllr Grundy, attended a meeting with Wigan Planners on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

The Council is willing to consider a Neighbourhood Plan for the area but stressed that it would take time to put into place. Also it would have to include Golborne and Lowton West. This would mean that the current situation with housing in Lowton East could not be influenced. The Council want to work with LENDF informally and will bring to our attention any future developments that they become aware of, in order to give the community an opportunity provide input.

The Council asked LENDF to provide a 'Wish List' of mitigation measures so that the best options for the local community can be gained and reduce the impact of any development. LENDF will also create a 'Plan of Action' which will be presented to the Council.

25% of Section 106 monies can be used for community projects, infrastructure improvements, schools, protecting and enhancing open spaces, etc.

A question was put to those present – Do you agree to LENDF working with the Council? The response was 'yes'.

Wainhomes are waiting for the final decision on the Core Strategy before making any further progress on their submitted Planning Application(s).

The Allocations Development Plan is still being finalised by the Council, though LENDF have still to receive clarification on the housing numbers quoted in the Inspector's recommendations/modifications document. Also the Infrastructure Study is underway.

Further consultations will be taking place later this year (possibly August) this will give the community opportunity to comment, especially on traffic issues.

During the meeting with the planners Peter Sargeant brought up the subject of Kenyon Hall Airfield. They were unaware of the current issue regarding the pending application to operate flights on 365 days a year, together with associated facilities, and the concerns of the local community. The flying club currently have a licence to fly on 28 days but Peter Sargeant suggested that the Council refer to Article 4 Directive which can remove all or some of the Permitted Development rights on a site. LHSRG letter to be submitted to Council with official request to use Article 4.

Ed T also reported on the Council's Cabinet Meeting which he attended on 8th June, during which the Inspector's recommendations for the Core Strategy were discussed. Lord Peter Smith's response was surprising. He went against the rest of the Cabinet who appeared to want to accept the report and decided he wanted to play hard ball with the Inspector, as he feels his recommendations have not been fully explained. All those who attended the meetings with the Government Inspector knew exactly why he made his decisions.

If Lord Smith pushes the Inspector too far he could withdraw the Core Strategy and we would have a planning free for all.

Please read the following website for a detailed report.

<http://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/archive/13773-wigan-leader-complains-about-inspector-s-view.html>

#### **8. A580 – Footpath Crossing**

In November last year LENDF wrote to Cllr Gilligan regarding the restoration of a footpath crossing point on the East Lancs Road. Contractors had installed solid barriers following some maintenance works.

Cllr Gilligan has now reported back that the cost of the correction would have to be paid out of our rates and a petition would be needed to progress the action.

Therefore LENDF Chairman asked those present if it would be better to no longer pursue the matter? All agreed.

#### **9. LENDF Environment Group**

The group recently had a meeting and discussed various projects and plans for moving forward with new ideas. Minutes are available on the 'Environment Group' page of LENDF's website.

Projects include:

- Lowton Youth and Community Centre
- Protection/enhancement of community buildings
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Conservation Areas

A resident from Oaklands Road voiced his concern over a Poplar tree which is very large and looms over neighbouring properties on Hesketh Meadow Lane. There are worries that its age and condition may make it in danger of falling and causing damage or worse. Cllr Grundy noted that he will contact Andy Smallshaw at WBC and ask him to assess the condition of the tree. LENDF's Secretary (Irene) stated that she used to own the property on Hesketh Meadow which the tree looms over and in 1996/7 she asked for it to be checked and at that point it was reported to be healthy.

Another resident mentioned that the traffic lights at the top of Hesketh Meadow Lane were not the original idea for controlling traffic when the Bainbridge Road estate was at the planning stage. The Council had wanted to use land from the corners of both sides of HM Lane and then place TPOs on remaining trees. The resident would not allow this and therefore the developer was asked to pay for the traffic lights.

#### **10. HS2**

Andy Burnham, and two Golborne Councillors, recently met residents at Golborne Library to discuss HS2. Ed T and IT attended. The small room was packed and many people actually complained that they only found out via word of mouth. Cllr Kleive admitted it was only advertised in the Wigan Post. AB promised to organise another meeting in July with better advertising and bigger venue (possibly All Saints). In the audience was a gentleman called Ray Bent who is a well known resident with an engineering background in railways. He has now been invited to attend LENDF meetings as well.

Ed T was recently talking to a man in a pub (no this isn't the start of a joke!) who confessed that he was from Doncaster and was working in the area on HS2 preparation works. His company has been instructed to move pipes and cables out of the way of the HS2 route. Work has started at Kenyon Lane. The Government feels that the HS2 project should be started at both ends in order to help the North West economy.

If we do experience any problems then he offered Ed T his contact details – therefore LENDF now have a way of mitigating the impact of the preparation works.

Kenyon Lane is also about to have some much needed resurfacing work done and there may be times when diversions are in place.

#### **11. Transport for Leigh / Lowton Train Station**

Stan Walker from Transport for Leigh asked to speak to those present. He wanted to report that the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Business Plan has been done and a copy will be sent to LENDF.

With regard to the Relief Road to Winwick Lane requested by LENDF, Stan advised that this will not be possible.

At this point the meeting turned into a debate about broken promises by Transport for Leigh and that the Relief Road (bypass) had been part of the recent public presentation held at the Lowton Social Club just a few months ago, which was also transmitted live by Leigh Radio. The plan was displayed on a large screen with Andy Burnham describing where it will be and how it will work, it is also available to view on Transport for Leigh's website [http://www.transportforleigh.org.uk/TFL/Leigh\\_HS2\\_Interchange.html](http://www.transportforleigh.org.uk/TFL/Leigh_HS2_Interchange.html) Stan admitted he was not at the public meeting.

Those present were shocked and disappointed that the idea of a bypass to take traffic away from the already congested Lane Head area has been so swiftly (and without consultation) dropped from the plan.

Stan was asked to report back to Transport for Leigh that Lowton residents will not accept a station without a relief road. The area desperately needs infrastructure mitigation, especially if the station goes ahead.

[Post Meeting Note: Since the meeting EdT has sent an email to Mr Walker – now available on our website – latest news page]

#### **12. Any Other Business**

None at this time.

#### **13. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

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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