

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2014 at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

Apologies – Derek Walkden, Ray Bent, Linda Graham, Ed Houlton

No. of Attendees = 38

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.
2. **Bank Balance** – Not displayed on this occasion as they had not been printed in time.
3. **Diggle Green**
A number of residents reported that smells have been noticed especially when travelling along the East Lancs Road. Also late night activity at Diggle Green has been noted at 11.00pm. The hours of operation should be upto 7pm on week nights. This has been reported to the Environment Agency who confirmed that a number of calls had been received regarding this issue.

With regard to tractors/waggon which are either uncovered or omitting smells, then please report this to Mr Evans at Wigan Council 01942 489357 c.evans2@wigan.gov.uk

Cllr Grundy introduced Richard Short who is local Chairman of the Conservative Party who is also an Environmental Health Officer. He lives in Leigh.

Richard is aware of the site and has read the documentation on LENDF's website.

Mr Broster does have planning permission from Warrington Council to operate his business from the site, but regardless of boundaries Richard feels it is Wigan Council who need to act.

There are avenues which have still not been investigated. He will keep in touch with Cllr Grundy and give his advice and will provide a report for LENDF (in approx 3 to 4 weeks' time).

Recent television news article mentioned a similar business operation in Lancashire which had to send 'tests' to Environment Agency. We could use FOI to find out the testing programme set up at Diggle Green.

The latest update from the EA is on LENDF's website.

4. **HS2/Train Station**

Emails from Transport for Leigh were read out and discussed by the group. It was decided to leave the letter to Andy Burnham off the Website, no further action needed.

HS2 – Consultation Responses available on website including Wigan Council. Majority of authorities surrounding Wigan Borough do not want HS2 but Wigan Council do! Unlikely that a station on HS2 line will happen but the depot at Golborne is a possibility.

Wigan Council are investigating Golborne as a station opportunity and LENDF support that idea.

Kenyon Junction – needs the correct approach to bring the idea forward. Halcrow report gives costings for the creation of station, car park, and connection road to the A580. The station by itself will cost £6m.

LENDF recently held an on-site meeting with site owner, Cllr Grundy and local press. [Click here](#) for Leigh Reporter press release. Photos taken on the day are on our website together, with a layout plan originally done by Parkman in April 1999.

LENDF need a team to put together the proposal and ask both Warrington and Wigan Councils, and TfGM, to revisit this location for a station. The team needs to include resident/parish councillor from Culcheth and Croft and also an approach to be made to Network Rail for their input.

Volunteers for the Team were:

Ed Thwaite
Richard Short
Bill Peake
Eustace Collier
Kath Houlton
Ray Bent
Ed Houlton

To be invited to the Team:

Malcolm Hitchen
Val Allen (Croft Parish Council)
Jacqui Johnston (Culcheth Parish Council)

LENDF are due to meet with Andy Burnham in May and it would be ideal if a draft could be prepared by then. Cllr Grundy and the local conservatives support the Kenyon Junction Train Station idea.

5. AGM

The AGM was due to take place in January but a heavy workload with regard to the HS2 Consultation Response meant that it had to be delayed. The AGM will now take place during the April meeting. There is currently a vacancy within LENDF for a 'Vice-Chairman'. If you would like your name to be put forward please contact us before the April meeting.

6. Lowton Allotments Association

The Leigh Rotary Club have been to visit the Lowton Allotments and met with the organisers. The Club was very impressed with the site and their proposals for the future. It is hoped that the Club will be able to help with funds, but if not then LENDF will provide a 'loan' which will then be paid back. For those of you are unsure of the location of the Allotments please see the image below. Access to the allotments and the Association's shed are via Edgerton Road. The shop is now open for the gardening season on Wednesdays 12 till 1pm and Sundays 11 till 12.



7. Senior Citizens Event/Activities

Funding has been secured with a total of £1,000 allocated. Jan Johnston will be the lead organiser and volunteers are needed to create a group to prepare the event/activities.

Volunteers were:

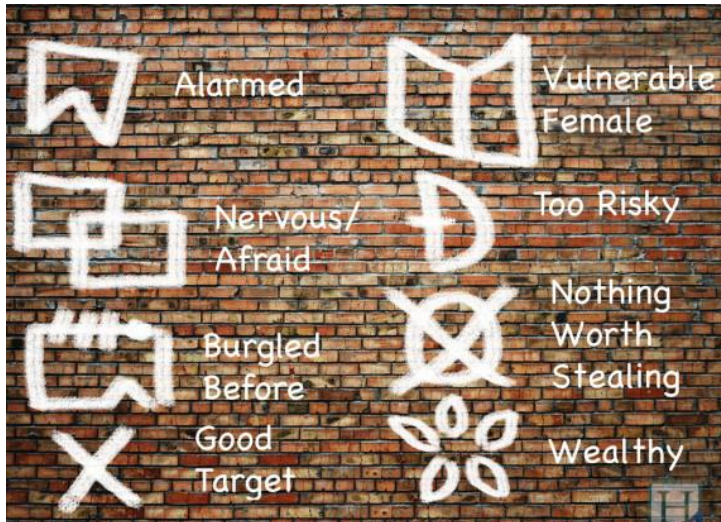
Jan Johnston
Jackie Roberts
Carol Leigh
Kath Houlton
Tim DeMore
Malcolm Jones

8. Any Other Business

Pot Holes - Cllr Gilligan had provided the following information regarding potholes.
"Just to let you know all potholes on Newton Rd 206a and 183 are due to be resurfaced as part of the 2014\15 annual structural maintenance programme. Safety inspections will be carried out to ensure that reportable defects are identified and repaired."

Oaklands Road Park – A recent incident involving a youth and a resident caused the police to be called out. The incident escalated and the PSCO would have benefited from having a body camera fitted in order to make a recording which could have been used as evidence. Cllr Grundy stated that it may be possible to find funds to pay for these cameras for our local officers. Fundraising may also have to take place as the Police Authority are not coming forward with funds.

Burglaries – Please be aware that some thieves mark potential targets and use various signs which are either chalked onto your house or garden wall. They also use small pebbles or twigs to make these signs as well. Be vigilant on your own property and also that of your neighbour or an elderly relative. The image below shows the signs and their meanings.



9. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

14th April 2014 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on leddf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF