

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2013, 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 – Peter Sargeant, Chairman of LHSRG, as their monthly meeting occurs on the same date.

No. of Attendees = 32

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. **Correspondence and Letters**

LENDF have been contacted by Alan McLeod who is the Chairman of Mencap. He wanted to remind people that MENCAP are available with a variety of services and can help to provide support to people with a learning disability, their families and carers.

Alan is also Chair of Lowton United Charities. This organisation provides various activities for the elderly/needy/children/university students. Anyone who would like assistance are encouraged to contact them.

Details available here <http://opencharities.org/charities/226469>

4. **Local Crime**

There have been a number of incidents recently including break-ins to properties, and theft from vehicles. Video surveillance from one resident has shown the perpetrators sneaking about at 3.30am with lamps which they use to see inside vehicles! Please do not leave 'anything' on show in your cars and if you use satnav please remember to keep the inside of your windscreen clean of any suction marks (if they see this mark they will break-in just to see if the satnav is in your glove box).

Within a 1 mile radius of Lowton Social Club there were a reported 68 crimes of various degrees during the month of March. See this link for a breakdown <http://www.police.uk/crime/?q=Lowton+WA3+2AQ%2C+UK#crimetypes/2013-03>

A resident of the Oaklands estate passed forward details of various motor scooters which have been reported to the police as the riders have been using the scooters on the grass, riding too fast around the local roads, and gathering in large groups. Even though these incidents have been reported to the police using the 101 telephone number, LENDF agreed to contact the police and repeat the information via email to the Lowton East Police Team and ask for an update.

[Post Meeting Note: Response received from the Police Team....

Thanks for the update. Some of the vehicles mentioned have come to our attention previously and have been dealt with accordingly.

The Grey Nissan Micra owner and friends have been spoken to on a few occasions on Oaklands Rd by Jane and myself but at that particular time they were not doing anything wrong.

However, we did ask them to be mindful of making too much noise (not that they were) and show respect to residents in the area as the evening was drawing on. When spoken to the group were compliant and obliging.

As part of the NPT patrol plan we cover the Oaklands Park area as much as possible when on duty especially in the evenings and will continue to monitor the area and have noted the vehicle registrations for future reference.

Regards

Anthony Coyne

PCSO 66412

5. Bickershaw South – Development Proposals

In last week's Leigh Journal there was an invite to meet Taylor Wimpey and view their proposals for the Bickershaw South development. LENDF will attend one of the sessions and report back at the next meeting. Details can be viewed by visiting the following website www.bickershawsouth.co.uk

6. Sainsbury's – Golborne

Sainsbury's have withdrawn their application to build a superstore on the site of Millingford Industrial Estate in Golborne.

Letter from Andrew Sanderson, Regional Development Manager, stated ... *"I can confirm that unfortunately Sainsbury's will not be the supermarket operator to bring forward the plans for a new foodstore at the site. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly but as a prudent business, Sainsbury's must invest its capital in projects that deliver best value for the business. Unfortunately the Golborne proposals are simply no longer viable. However, the site owner has had a number of encouraging discussions with several potential supermarket operators and is looking forward to working alongside the local community to deliver the same level of new jobs and investment in Golborne."*

7. Bradwell Road – Phonebox

Still no news from BT about when this box will be removed.

8. Wildlife Crime Officer

Information passed on regarding lamping in the area, the police have also informed Rural Watch scheme members a number who have farms close to the border.

9. Environmental Group Meeting with Local Company

LENDF were contacted by Niche Products Ltd on Moss Industrial Estate as they are looking to provide support with Environmental Projects. The company is co-ordinating their progression on a new scheme called "Environmental Business Pledge". The system is scored on a Bronze, Silver and Gold standard and although they have already achieved Bronze they are looking to progress their status.

As part of getting a higher award they are requested to assist with a community activity that's in the local area to their business. ET and IT met with the company and discussed the possibility of their assistance with projects in Lowton. Various ideas were mentioned and the company offered their staff time and possibly assistance with funding.

One project discussed was the Lowton Youth and Community Centre on Newton Road. This building has a number of issues i.e. asbestos roof, exterior paintwork requires refresh etc. ET to contact Sandy Frazen for a list of possible projects that LENDF and Niche Products can assist with. LENDF requests that if any residents with specialist/DIY skills would like to contribute to please contact us.

The LENDF Environmental Group will need to have a meeting at the beginning of June to collate and produce a proposal for Niche Products. IT to contact members of Group to arrange a meeting date.

10. Kenyon Hall Airfield

A report by Stephen Billington from Ashcroft Airfield has been submitted to the Secretary of State stating concerns over the flying operations and in particular the 'flight paths' taken by aircraft. This report has now been uploaded to our website and is supported by Airfield Watch Group, together with LENDF.

On the 4th June members of LHSRG and LENDF will be going to Barton Airfield to view the space which used to be occupied by the Kenyon Club, in order to visualise what the impact will be of their proposed application to extend the days of operation.

11. Wainhomes

The main application for housing on land between Stone Cross Lane and Church Lane has not yet been put to a Planning Committee. It is still possible that will go before the June Committee. We shall of course let you know as soon as we know.

The recent application for 11 houses, even though a small amount of houses and technically in the ward of Golborne and Lowton West, it is of concern especially from a highway point of view as the proposed entrance/exit is on a bend ! LENDF will submit a letter to the Council expressing this concern on behalf of members of LENDF.

12. Government Inspector's Modification to Core Strategy

Communication has been received from Wigan Council detailing the Inspector's modifications to the Core Strategy. This is now available on our website together with details of how to send in your comments which must be sent to the Council by 14th June.

Cllr Grundy and LENDF Chairman have both reviewed the figures quoted and there does appear to be a discrepancy. Cllr Grundy reported that the additional 384 'houses' (on top of the now allocated 1,000) are in relation to a combination of 'already built' – 'windfall sites' – 'planning granted' – 'outline permission' – and those sites identified in the 'SHLAA' (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment).

LENDF will write to the Inspector for clarification on the numbers.

The Council are currently preparing an Infrastructure Study and this should be completed by August.

13. HS2/Train Station

Transport for Leigh have submitted their proposals for an interchange of stations to allow access to both HS2 and the Manchester/Liverpool rail line. LENDF's idea of extending the road access to enable a relief/bypass road to Winwick Lane has been included.

LENDF are fully aware of the many action groups who are opposing HS2 up and down the country, and if they are successful then HS2 will not be coming through Lowton. Therefore LENDF will not be setting up an action group.

The meeting then discussed all the various pros and cons of HS2 and the fact that if it didn't 'happen' then Transport for Leigh will still continue to try and obtain a station on the Manchester/Liverpool line.

Cllr Grundy reported that he has a meeting with the Minister of Transport and will be discussing both HS2 and Kenyon Airfield, and will report back to LENDF at the next meeting.

ET repeated that LENDF will try to save the greenbelt land that could be lost due to these proposals by asking Wigan Council to do a 'land swop' i.e. re-designate other areas as greenbelt and help the community to continue to have open spaces to enjoy.

14. Lowton Civic Hall / Leigh East Amateur Football Club

Still waiting for news about the club's application for a lease on the playing fields. One resident present at the meeting voiced concerns about their occasional non-use of the car park on match-days. The club do have a key for the car park barriers!

ET reported that Greater Manchester Police have signed a contract to use the Civic Hall for 'training' on 4 days a week. It is not known yet what type of training.

15. Last Night of the Proms

LENDF put a question to those present regarding the 'ticketing' of this event. Last year it was done as a free event as funding was obtained via Wigan's Olympiad Committee and all 3 councillors provided support through their Brighter Borough monies. Therefore the question was should LENDF make a charge this year for the tickets?

It was agreed that yes a small charge would be appropriate and a figure of £3 each was decided upon. LENDF will approach all 3 councillors for £250 each from the BB fund. LENDF need to pay for the hire of Civic Hall, make donations to Golborne Brass Band and LGN Choir, arrange refreshments, and organise raffle prizes. Any profit that is made from the night will be used for projects in the Lowton area.

16. Any Other Business

ET put another question to those present – should LENDF organise a Christmas Party? The general consensus was yes ☺ Details and ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.

17. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Monday 10th June 2013 @ 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