

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 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
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – Dennis Eubank, Kath Lisle

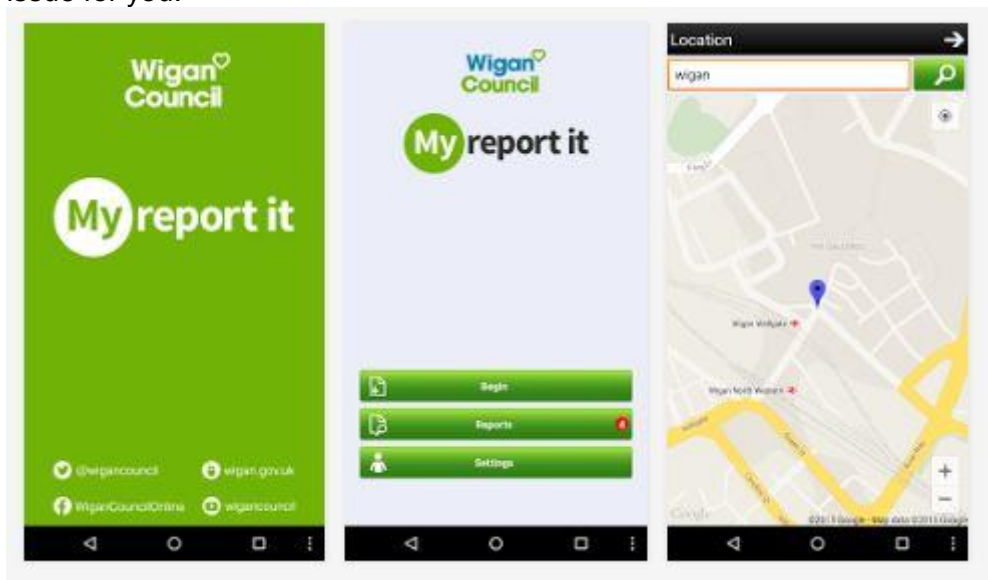
No. of Attendees = 33

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. **Local Councillors**

Congratulations to Kath Houlton for her recent election success to be a Councillor for Lowton East. We look forward to working with her and the other Councillors.

One way of reporting issues to the Council is via their new 'app' for mobile phones. The 'My Report It' app is available for [iPhone](#), [Windows](#) and [Android](#) phones. It can be downloaded for the relevant app store e.g. Play Store. You will need an email address and once you have installed and verified the app using your email address you will be able to report issues. Sending a photograph, together with your comments, will enable the Council to respond more quickly by instructing the correct department to look into the issue for you.



3. **Planning Applications**

Seddon Homes – Sandy Lane. The application has been refused on the grounds that the land is in the Green Belt. This is not only a relief to the residents of the area but also good news for other Green Belt sites in the whole of the Wigan Borough as permission would have created a flux of proposals by house builders for land which should remain protected.

Prior to the application being submitted the landowner had removed a hedgerow and cut down some trees – this was unlawfully done and the Council have issued a notice that they be replanted.

Taylor Wimpey – Rothwell's Farm, Golborne. An application for reserved matters i.e. seeking approval of appearance, scale, landscaping and layout, has been submitted to Wigan Council. This is in relation to a development of 453 houses.

Persimmon Homes – Land to the south of Abbey Road (Poplars Estate). Residents have reported difficulty in selling their properties due to searches revealing a proposed development. One resident has been photographing the parking situation on certain streets of the estate to show how narrow they are and would cause great difficulty for any construction traffic associated with the proposed development. These streets are residential only and HGVs would cause major concerns for the families living there.

The Council have conducted a traffic survey at the junction of Mayfield Drive and St Helens Road. It was done over a one day time period from 8am to 7pm, which was a working day and when the school was open.

Diggle Green – Waste Compost Facility. Matthew Woodward, Development Control Support Team, Warrington Council, has requested that any residents who have kept their own records of the number of reports made regarding odours from the site, to please contact him by email: mwoodward@warrington.gov.uk or phone: 01925 442819

Warrington Council are still awaiting a report from the Environment Agency with how many calls they had received.

The Planning Committee at Warrington will meet in either September/October to make a decision on the application.

Dolly's Bridge, Winwick Lane. There is a small parcel of land which currently has permission for stables. The owner recently placed a caravan on site but not as a form of residency but just for occasional use. Wigan Council have asked for it to be removed.

Lancashire Aero Club, Winwick Lane. A new 'model' aircraft club has started to use some of the area used by LAC which includes the access road off Winwick Lane. Additional hard-core material has been laid but LAC previously stated to Warrington Council that this access was for agricultural vehicles only!

4. St Catherine's Church – Remembrance Garden

The Church had been in contact with all known family members of people laid to rest at the Remembrance Garden with regard to relocation of their remains. For those who agreed to have the remains relocated saw the work begin last week.

5. Lowton Youth Club

LENDF have received an update from John Ashton, Wigan Council regarding the community lease for this property. The Council had put out a 'Notice' asking for interested parties to make contact. The lease has now been offered to [Leigh Judo Club](#) who will use it for a range of community uses and sports.

6. Family Fun Day

The August date proposed for the Fun Day to be held at St Mary's Community Hall has clashed with repair/refurbishment works planned for the toilet facilities. Cllr Grundy

offered to make enquiries with the school to see if their facilities could be used on the day. If not, then the Fun Day will take place in September.

7. Lowton Social Club

Repair works are well underway with new ceilings and floors already done. Quotations being received for the installation of a lift to the first floor – the cost is approximately £15,000.

The deal with Hillsdale Housing has not yet completed and therefore funds are needed for the cost of the lift.

8. Environmental Issues

Cllr Grundy reported that the Beat It Team had been to Lowton to deal with various issues and that, as per their rota, they will be returning in 3 months' time.

Irene asked if the footpaths along Newton Road could receive some attention as the grass verges are growing and on top of the path. Cllr Grundy asked for this request to be emailed, together with photos of the locations.

Irene reported on a recent post to LENDF's facebook page with regard to a footpath running from the south of the fire station towards the East Lancs Road. It has been widened and new gravel laid. Cllr Grundy promised to investigate why the work had been done. [Post Meeting Note: Response received from Richard Beamer, Area Engineer (Traffic - Network Management) "The pathway is being upgraded by the Council's Transport Strategy to improve pedestrians and cycle links between the A580 and Atherleigh Way."]

9. Any Other Business

- Cllr Kath Houlton asked to address the meeting. She announced that prior to the election campaign she had nominated LENDF's Chairman, Ed Thwaite, for a community award. Together with Malcolm Jones from OMRA and Irene Thomson, Secretary of LENDF, the nomination form for Ed was completed and submitted to [Our Stars](#) in the category of 'Community Champion. It gave Kath great pleasure to announce that Ed has been shortlisted for the award and invited to the ceremony to be held on 5th June at the DW Stadium.
- Cllr Grundy then wished to inform residents of the changes to the Council following the recent local elections. With regard to his own position and the fact that the Conservatives and formed an alliance with the Independents and James Grundy will now be the Leader of the Opposition. This will mean that he can no longer sit on the Planning Committee. Councillors can partake in outside bodies and James Grundy is involved with the Transport Authority. Cllr Ed Houlton is involved in the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and the new elected Cllr Kath Houlton has chosen the Council's Children & Young People Committee.
- Play Park – Braithwaite Road. Phase One of the redevelopment of the Play Park is due to commence on 26th May and will hopefully be completed by end of June. The Braithwaite Residents Association are going to organise a litter pick on 20th June to ensure the whole area is spic and span for the opening of the park.
- Hesketh Meadow Lane – resurfacing has begun again on the top portion near the traffic lights. It is not being paid for by the taxpayer – the Council are making the contractor redo the work as it was poorly done originally.
- Wigan Leisure Culture Trust used to be responsible for the cutting of grass verges, etc, but this task has now transferred back to the Council.

- Wigan Council's scheme 'The Deal' has been well received throughout the Borough with lots of communities benefitting from various projects being completed with the assistance of the Council. For more details visit their website at <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/The-Deal.aspx>

10. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

(Please Note: There Will Not Be A Meeting in June).

Tuesday 21st July 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