

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Kath Houlton
- Cllr James Grundy

Apologies:

Cllr Ed Houlton, Brian and Audrey Lobell, Peter Hatfield and Mark Lewis.

No. of Attendees = 39

Statement from the Chairman

The meeting on Monday 9th May was a disgrace. One person who is related to a losing candidate in the election of last Thursday was out to cause as much disruption as possible. He was making misinformed comments about local issues, and to tell the chairman to p--- off and to also tell a farmer's son that the he would know 'how to pinch land', was not acceptable.

He was challenged by just about everyone in the room and asked to desist, but carried on regardless.

I hope he realised after the meeting what an impression he left behind. People left the meeting due to his behaviour and he should reflect on the damage he did to his cause.

I hope the person concerned will be better mannered if he attends again.

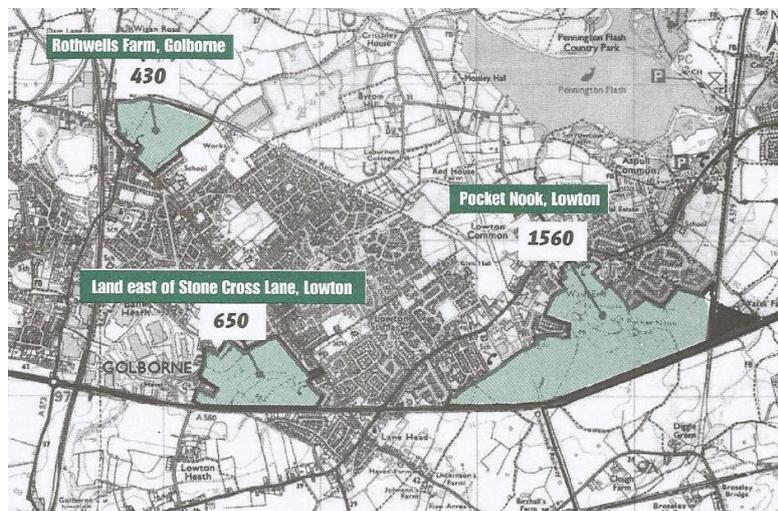
However, if he carries on in this manner we will invoke our right in the constitution and ask him to leave.

Ed Thwaite Chairman.

Clarification of Housebuilding across Golborne and Lowton.

It was not the national Government but Wigan planners who decided to build 1,000 houses a year throughout the borough over the following 10 years.

During this period Golborne and Lowton were designated to have 2,640. Standish was to have none.



Wigan council presented this in their first local development document with the approval of the councillors.

This decision was not acceptable and LENDF together with Lane Head South Residents Group attended several meetings with the Government appointed Inspector, planning officers from the Council and representatives of the housebuilders.

At the final meeting we were joined by Andy Burnham MP, Councillor James Grundy, Peter Sargent - Chairman of LHSRG, and several local residents to present our case against the over-development proposed for Golborne and Lowton. To give us backing around 400 local residents packed the Leigh Sports Village as observers.

The argument we presented to the Government Inspector was accepted, and he instructed Wigan council to reduce the build in our area to 1000, and that Standish should be used to achieve the rest.

To date, 967 houses have been approved so we will object to any building above this.

We now have applications on Heath Lane and Pocket Nook for a further 259 that are above this amount and we will try our best to persuade Wigan council not to pass these.

There is no point in spending days in front of the Government Inspector and coming to an agreement, for it to be swept away with planning loop holes.

Ed Thwaite Chairman.

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. **Councillor re-elected**

Congratulations to James Grundy on his re-election as a Ward Councillor for Lowton East. James stated he will continue to work hard on behalf of the residents and LENDF look forward to retaining a good relationship with all 3 of our local councillors.

3. **Brighter Borough Funding**

The Brighter Borough initiative provides a fund for Councillors to propose and support schemes that improve the environment and benefit the community within their Wards. As LENDF are registered as an organisation who meet the criteria necessary for this process, we are also able to help those clubs and groups who would otherwise find it difficult to go through the process. Therefore the Councillors can ask LENDF for support in obtaining funds via our registration and it has been so successful that Wigan Council are impressed with the way the Councillors work with LENDF for the benefit of the community. In fact the Council wish to duplicate this system so that other resident/community groups in all the wards can work with their own local councillors in a similar format.

4. **Andy Burnham Meeting**

A meeting has been arranged for June 10th at Andy Burnham's office, between LENDF's Chairman, local councillors and residents who witnessed the damage and chaos caused by the travellers who camped at the Rose Centre last month. One of the main issues to be discussed will be the lack of police intervention.

5. **Formby Hall, Atherton**

Wigan Council recently gave permission for Formby Hall to be demolished. Atherton Residents Group have been fighting to save it and was pleased to hear that the Secretary of State, Mr Greg Clark, has 'called-in' the Council's decision for his own review of the situation and he alone will make a final decision on the fate of the Hall. LENDF will send a letter to Greg Clark in support of saving Formby Hall.

6. Mount Tabor

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the horses grazing in a fenced off area that is being claimed illegally. Cllr Grundy was asked to arrange a meeting with Karl Battersby, Director of Economy and Environment, Wigan Council, with attendees to be Kathleen Johnson, Chair, and Dennis Eubank, Deputy Chair, from Lane Head South Residents Group.

7. Bellway Homes – Bloor Homes

A lot of objections have now been submitted to the Council for both of these applications. You can still submit an objection up until the end of May.

The Council are short of 'deliverable' permissions because those already granted have not yet started. If the Council refuse Bellway and Bloor then the housebuilders will take this refusal to an appeal with a Government Inspector. If the Government Inspector backs the Council then the housebuilders could take the matter to the High Court.

8. Litter Pick – Clean for the Queen

Unfortunately not many people attended. Even so, with a total of 12 people they managed to half fill the skip from areas like Braithwaite, Crompton and Stone Cross.

As this litter pick had been arranged for Saturday morning (as in previous ones) it was discussed at tonight's meeting that an evening session for the next one maybe more 'fruitful' with the number of volunteers being able to attend.

9. HS2 Drop-In Sessions

- Wednesday 18th May – 6pm till 8pm @ Golborne High School
- Wednesday 14th September - 6pm till 8pm @ Golborne High School

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a 1 to 1 session with HS2 with regard to issues they are facing because of the proposed route, then please ask them to make an appointment for a session by sending a request to NorthWestEngagement@hs2.org.uk

It is expected that the HS3 routes will be published in about 6 months.

Amanda White from Transport for Greater Manchester to be invited to a future LENDF meeting to discuss local residents' concerns regarding infrastructure issues of Lowton.

10. Any Other Business

- Parkside Action Group have updated their [website](#) with the latest details on the proposed Rail Freight usage at Parkside. The group has a meeting arranged with Andy Burnham on June 20th to discuss the impact this will have on the Newton/Lowton area if it were to go ahead.
- Our Local Voice have also uploaded new details to their [website](#)
- A monument to the Battle of Winwick Pass has been discussed with Warrington Council – more details of guided tours of the Winwick area and how this battle unfolded also available on the Our Local Voice website.
- Diggle Green – The Appeal Hearing regarding the latest application may take place at the end of May. Residents are still reporting occurrences of odours at night and also the amount of tractor/trailers which use Kenyon Lane.
- Cllr Grundy and LENDF's Chairman are to have a meeting with St Lukes Church regarding repair works for the War Memorial.
- PCSO Donovan Plunkett gave a report to the meeting regarding burglaries in the Lowton area. These have been happening to work vans and sheds. The perpetrators had been unscrewing the hinges of shed doors and if nothing of value

was found they left. A few plain clothes police officers have been patrolling the area at night. Two lads from Golborne have been arrested and charged – they are now serving time in prison.

- Heath Lane – Timber Stables. These stables have no planning permission so the Council have told the owner that retrospective planning must be applied for but this has not happened yet. The Council have not yet taken any action and Cllr Kath Houlton is trying to get answers as to why.
- Grange Farm, Stone Cross Lane – Music Festival. Cllr Ed Houlton to be asked to investigate if any Licencing Applications are to be put forward this year. The only two organisations who are allowed to object to a Music Festival are the Police and the Highways Agency.

11. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Monday 6th June 2016 @ 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