

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2013, at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- PC David Mayo and PCSO Barry Jones
- Cllr James Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests

Apologies – Gill Dickenson

No. of Attendees = 45

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.
2. **Bank Balance** – on display.
3. **Police Matters**
PC Mayo attended tonight's meeting and introduced Barry Jones as the new PCSO for Lowton East in replacement for Anthony Colne who has moved to a different area. PSCO Jane Tymon is currently on desk duty only as she is pregnant and due to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and welcomed Barry to the area.

PSCO Jones then explained that he had transferred from Beech Hill and the officers there had used special 'body-cameras' whilst out on duty. These had proved very effective as both a deterrent to Anti-Social Behaviour and as a source of 'recorded evidence'. PC Mayo supports the use of these cameras. The cameras are not police issue and require funding – they cost approximately £500 each. Information on the various types of cameras were passed to LENDF who will write to all 3 Councillors asking for funds. All those present agreed. The cameras will only be used by the Lowton East Policing Team.

A question was asked about fixed cameras. PC Mayo reported that there are only 2 in the borough. There needs to be a high number of ASB incidents for the cameras to be installed (usually on lampposts).

Malcolm Jones from Oaklands and Meadows Residents Association reported that groups of youths had been seen entering the estate recently. There had been incidents of traffic signs being pulled out of the ground, littering and smashed pumpkins strewn across the children's play park. PC Mayo and PSCO Jones have been monitoring a number of groups who appear to use the same 'routes'. They have engaged with them to try and deter any 'incidents'.

The Officers reminded everyone to be extra vigilant now that the dark nights are here. There have already been a number of break-ins. Information and statistics on crime can be obtained from <http://www.police.uk/greater-manchester/L2/crime/>

A resident who recently moved to Lowton from Liverpool mentioned a scheme called 'CitySafe Havens' which is a project that allows young people who are feeling vulnerable or intimidated or to go to businesses, shops or community centres for refuge. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-15633528>

PC Mayo reported on a scheme in Wigan Borough called 'Operation Stay Safe'. If a young person is picked up by the Police, the Youth Offending Service will contact parents and then follow up, when appropriate with a visit. This includes visiting a victim if there is one and if appropriate. This has proved successful and often means that a YOS worker will

now visit people who are highlighted by the police as showing signs of ASB, etc and offer them a resolution. This has been extended to the police informing the YOS about certain situations where a person would benefit from a visit from them.

PSCO Barry Jones is in the process of contacting all the Homewatch co-ordinators in the area in order to review the current schemes and set up new ones.

The issue of speeding traffic was then discussed, especially on certain sections of Newton Road and in particular at Mayfield Drive which is the entrance to The Poplars estate. PC Mayo confirmed that Traffic Officers do look at specific areas when reported and he will pass this information on and ask for a review of the double yellow lines and also the possibility of traffic lights.

At this point both Officers were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

4. Last Night of the Proms Concert

The recent concert was very successful and raised a fabulous £1,136.

The evening was slightly marred by some problems caused by the management of the Civic Hall with a double-booking of a party who used the kitchen and left it in rather a mess, also there was a shortage of bar staff which caused long delays in getting served. LENDF and the leader of the LGN Choir will be writing to Rose Leisure to ask for a meeting to discuss the problems this caused us.

Of the funds raised we shall be donating 50% to local charities and already have various ideas i.e. Lowton Youth Club, day out for OAPs.

We would also like to help Jan Johnstone organise another of her 'Lowton Bridges' events which aims to bring together the 'young & old'. Previously she has worked with Lowton High School to put on concerts performed by the children with some residents from Lime House and Golborne House in the appreciative audience. The children also made sandwiches and cakes and served them afterwards. This brought together many generations of people and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. LENDF would like to set up a small group to help Jan organise this again. If you are interested please contact us.

Any other ideas for ways of helping those who are lonely or vulnerable then please let us know.

As Christmas is coming so here are some dates for your calendar:

30th November – 4.30pm Carols round the Lane Head Christmas Tree, Wilton Ave
(Father Christmas Sleigh, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies)

2nd-8th December St Mary's Church – Christmas Tree display
(special service on the 8th starting at 6.30pm)

5. Diggle Green

LENDF recently sent an information pack to Andy Burnham MP and are awaiting a date when he can come to Lowton for a meeting with residents to hear from you direct.

Ray Poulton (resident from Cannan) then reported on his recent experiences regarding the smells/odours. He has spoken with various organisations including Warrington Borough Council and the Environment Agency Head Office in Sheffield.

Mr Broster's idea of a wind sock has not been successful and the EA have suggested that a 15 metre tower with a wind direction sensor would be a more reliable. This would give Mr Broster quicker and clear information and enable him to stop work/turning of compost if the wind was blowing towards residential areas.

The EA have also sent an 'analyst' to the site to take samples for testing. These samples are of waste arriving and also the compost when it leaves. This data will hopefully reveal whether or not it is the original processing of waste which is causing the problem.

Mr Hayes from Warrington BC has also visited Mr Poulton on an occasion when the smell was really bad. Both the Council and the EA have stressed it is important for people to ring 0800 80 70 60 because the data is needed for evidence. This line is open 24 hours so even if its late at night – please report it.

Mr Poulton has written letters to Mr Broster, Andy Burnham and Persimmon Homes and copies of these letters are now on LENDF's website.

6. Wainhomes – Outline Planning Application, Stone Cross Lane

This application is to go before the Planning Committee tomorrow at 2pm (12th Nov). It seems that not all those who had submitted a comment had received notice of this. Cllr Grundy will speak against the proposal and anyone who is able to make it to the Wigan Town Hall are asked to arrive early as you need to register.

The recommendation to the Committee (from the Planning Dept) is that it is passed – but as Cllr Grundy has pointed out the Infrastructure Plan is not yet complete. Cllr Grundy will ask for the decision to be deferred.

[Post Meeting Note: The Planning Committee approved the application with a vote of 11:1). Cllr Grundy was given the Infrastructure Plan just 2 hours before the meeting. This document is now on our website and contains proposed amendments to various road junctions throughout Lowton !! – see Housing Page 3.]

7. HS2

The 'Public Consultation' which is currently travelling the country will be at Leigh Sports Village on Friday 22nd November. LENDF have prepared a letter to HS2 Ltd and read it out to those present and invited comments. The final version will be on our website shortly.

8. Train Station for Leigh (in Lowton)

At our last meeting Eleanor Blackburn suggested that LENDF contact TfL to arrange a meeting to discuss this further. So far we have sent 2 emails and are still waiting for a response.

Dennis Hammond (local resident and member of the Labour Party) then reported that “*Cllr Pam Gilligan and Eleanor Blackburn (Labour Branch Secretary) had met with TfL and passed on the concerns and suggested a way forward for the group. The feedback to TfL from HS2 is that the line will not be moved and therefore the alternative site is a non starter. As LENDF have made it's position clear in being against HS2 and the station, TfL will work with Labour elected representatives to engage with all the residents within the catchment area and present it's case to HS2 with Labour.*”

9. Our Local Voice

The website will soon be launched for this community group who cover the areas around Newton Le Willows, Burtonwood, Winwick, Golborne, Croft, Culcheth, and Lowton Essentially this area is where Lancashire, Merseyside, and Cheshire touch.

[Post Meeting Note: Website now launched www.ourlocalvoice.co.uk]

OLV are working on a feature to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the First World War and Peter Astles asked for short stories from local people whose grandparents were in the war either in the army, navy or air force or at home in reserved occupations or munitions. So more a local perspective based on individual stories. Just a paragraph or two which can be covered in a phone chat. Please email Peter at peterastles@blueyonder.co.uk with either a short story, or your phone number and he will call you back.

The subject of the 100 anniversary of WW1 then produced a discussion of organising a special concert and inviting veterans, senior citizens, etc. LENDF will set up a committee group to begin organising this in March. Contact will be made with Des White who is the Chairman of the Veterans Council for advice and suggestions.

10. Civic Hall Update

Dennis Hammond provided an update with regards to the purchase of the Civic Hall. *“Cllr Gilligan has had confirmation from the borough solicitor that 8th Wonder are purchasing Lowton Rose Centre and the sale is in it's final stages.”*

11. Taylor Wimpey – Rothwells Farm, Golborne

LENDF are to meet with representatives of Taylor Wimpey tomorrow evening (12th Nov) to discuss their proposals. Dennis Hammond again provided a quote. *“Cllr Gilligan and the Branch Secretary along with councillors from Golborne met 2 weeks ago with Taylor Wimpey and our representation has gone to Planning.”*

12. Winwick Lane, Lane Head

Dennis Eubank reported that a meeting has been arranged with Andy Burnham for the 2nd December to discuss the de-priming of Winwick Lane due to heavy traffic problems. This is a follow up to the various meetings already held with Warrington Council, Wigan Council, St Helens Council, Highways Agency, Police and Andy Burnham on a previous occasion.

Dennis reported that the Highways Agency are looking at possible amendments to be made to the M6 Haydock junction.

Dennis was asked if he could table the idea of the ‘bypass’ from the East Lancs, via Wilton Lane, to Winwick Lane to gauge their response.

13. Any Other Business

Lowton Operatic and Dramatic Society are performing their Christmas panto ‘The Grinch’ on Wed 27th Nov to Sat 30th Nov. To book tickets please call Sue Jackson on 07708 840843.

14. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

9th December @ 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