

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – Brian & Audrey Lobell, Cllr Houlton, Gill Dickenson

No. of Attendees = 39

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. **Persimmon Homes – proposed application for housing south of Poplars Estate**

Cllr Grundy and Irene Thomson met with Steve Normington, Head of Planning, Wigan Council, to relay resident's concerns that the proposals show that all access to this site will be via the existing Poplars estate. Persimmon Homes had been trying to readdress this issue by making an access direct to the Atherleigh Bypass but had not found a workable solution.

The Council's own Infrastructure Assessment, produced in 2013, shows their preference for any development to have access to the Bypass. The Council were not aware of pending application as there had not been any pre-application discussions. Therefore Mike Worden, Council planner, met with Persimmon Homes and put forward the Council's desire to have the access to the Bypass rather than through the existing estate.

We shall now have to wait to see what proposals Persimmons put forward when they submit an application.

3. **Seddon Homes – Sandy Lane/Bodden Street/Brook Street**

The Seddon Homes 'consultation' leaflet asked for 'comments' by 10th November and many residents did just that. The land is designated as Green Belt and the Council is unconvinced that Seddon's reasons for the proposed houses are valid.

We shall now have to wait to see what proposals Seddons put forward when they submit an application.

4. **Oaktree Developments Ltd – Lane Head – Development of 7 houses**

An application has been submitted. Ref: A/14/80038/FUL. This can be view on Wigan Council's website <http://kinnear.wigan.gov.uk/planapps/> just click the 'Accept' tick box at the bottom and then on the next page enter the full application reference number and click search.

Residents of Wensley Road wish to object as they would prefer bungalows rather than houses. Further suggestions of the style of development will be put to the Council. Cllr Grundy will arrange a meeting between the residents and the planning officer to take place at Wigan Life Centre.

5. **Lowton Social Club**

An application has been submitted. Ref: A/14/80003/FUL. The application is to erect single storey retail unit, following demolition of existing club, together with alterations to access. Currently the rear half of the club and the car park are on the market for £295,000.

6. HS2

Charlotte and Raj from the HS2 Community & Stakeholder Engagement Team need questions from residents to be submitted to LENDF prior to their visit at the next meeting on December 18th.

Ed Thwaite and Cllr Grundy are meeting with Raj on Friday 14th November to discuss the idea of Kenyon Junction as a possible train station, and to also discuss other rail/road infrastructure issues in Lowton.

Ed also had a chance meeting with Andy Burnham who thinks that the maintenance depot at Golborne will not be going ahead and the spur line itself is 50/50. This spur line still needs to be campaigned against. The leader of Wigan Council is still in favor of both the line and the depot.

On 19th November all the chairs from local groups in the area i.e. Lowton, Culcheth, Warburton, Rixton, Lymm, will be meeting to discuss how to put forward further objections.

7. Last Night of the Proms

Proceeds from last month's event have enabled LENDF to put £760 back into the funds for use in our community. We can also confirm that all bookings are in place for next year's concert to be held on 3rd October 2015.

8. Environmental Review

Litter Picks:

- Successful revisit to the Civic Hall area (Rose Centre). Many thanks to those who joined in (thankfully it didn't rain).
- Lane Head area – awaiting a date from LHSRG.
- Lowton High School – Cllr Grundy and Irene to meet with the new headmaster about organising a litter pick on the school grounds by way of 'environmental' education and to improve the vista for residents.
- McDonalds, Stone Cross Park – reports of excessive littering around the area. McDonalds do have a [policy](#) with regard to litter and contact will be made with them to ensure they are following it correctly.
- Milestones – Irene and Kath are to meet with John Armstrong and Bishop Michael from the Milestone Society to discuss the next phase of work for the milestone along St Mary's Wall. The stone is so badly eroded on its lower half that in 10 years from now it would have been unreadable. The initial coat of paint and highlighting of the lettering in black has been done, and John and Micheal will decide on the next step to be taken. Other stones in the area will also be discussed at the meeting.



9. St Catherine's Church

Cllr Gilligan and Andy Burnham, together with a representative from the Lane Head South Residents Group, will be meeting with the Dioceses for an update on the future of the site.

Cllr Gilligan and Andy Burnham are trying to find a way to have the land for community use.

10. Newton Rail Station

Extract from an email sent to LENDF for information:

Ref the PAG AGM minutes

Last Thursday I had a very interesting telephone chat with the Project Manager of Merseytravel ref the Newton -Le-Willows expansion ie Car parks, Rail and Bus Interchange

I explained to him, how everyone in our area, was very interested in the progress of where it was up to,,ie

no objectors, but looking forward to the completion of the project!

He was very helpful and appreciated how I had approached the subject, but seemed to be slightly embarrassed as he explained the up to date scenario.

No 1 No monies yet released from DFT

NMerseytravel are still waiting for info from NETWORK RAIL for their start date

No 3 ST HELENS have not yet informed them of the release of the empty MILL HOUSE SCHOOL.

No 4 Merseytravel are presently in negotiations with a owner of other land in the area, but that is still ongoing.

So he kindly said he would notify me of any significant progress.

I then said that I appreciated his candour and added, that because of the ongoing electrification and the attraction

of more trains per hour, and longer trains , I could see us being swamped with cars/commuters

Best Regards Ray

11. Any Other Business

Policing Issues – Cllr Grundy is arranging a meeting with Liz Sanderson, Chief Constable, with regard to the increase in crime in the Lowton area, including speeding, thefts, burglaries and ASB. Please always report all incidents by phoning 101. LENDF to invite the Chief Constable to the January meeting to meet and discuss these issues with Lowton residents.

12. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY December 18th 2014 @ 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