

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 12th October 2015 at Lowton Social Club.
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Ed Houlton and Cllr Kath Houlton and Cllr James Grundy
- PSCO Jane Dagger (formerly Tymon)
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests

Apologies – Tim DeMore, Dennis Eubank, Susan Spibey, Alan and Jean Woodcock

No. of Attendees = 35

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. **CIF Community Investment Fund**
Part of the National Lottery as well as Wigan Council. LENDF have applied for 6 months of Pensioners' Parties = £1,900 plus 20% match funding.
1st Pensioners' Party for this winter season will be on Wednesday 14th October at Parkside SCC, Golborne.
3. **Stone Cross – Wainhomes**
200 homes with access off Church Lane. There have been some landownership issues, therefore the application is unlikely to go before planning committee until next year.
4. **Poplars – Persimmons**
150 homes. Planning Application may be submitted next year.
5. **Last Night of the Proms**
This annual event was held last Saturday and again a great success. The Golborne Brass Band with 30 members and the Lowton Golborne and Newton Choir with 80 members gave a great performance with plenty of singalong songs. Flags were flying and everyone singing and smiling which made the event very enjoyable for all. Many thanks to LOADS who kindly allowed us to use their lighting equipment for the stage.
6. **Asset of Community Value** – Lowton Civic Hall (the Rose Centre).
LENDF's application is now with the council and we are awaiting their decision.
7. **Wigan Allocations and Development Management Local Plan**
Consultation 13th October to 15th December 2015
Many of the 'proposals' in this Plan are the council's 'aspirations' !! For instance they have allocated land along the East Lancs from the Atherleigh Way down towards Lane Head, for 'Employment Development' i.e. industrial units. Cllr Grundy and Ed Thwaite attended a meeting with the planners over various issues and reminded them that the majority of this land is not in their ownership and that the landowner (Mr Adamson) has categorically stated that his land is not for sale.

Golborne Station – another aspiration which seems to have gone without any progress so far.

Bypass – extending the Atherleigh Way to connect to the M6. The council have now stated that this is unlikely to progress due to the land needed to fulfil this project is in the Warrington Borough who regard the Bypass as 'unbeneficial' to them. Discussion took

place about approaching the National Infrastructure Committee to see if putting the idea forward for national funding rather than the local authorities.

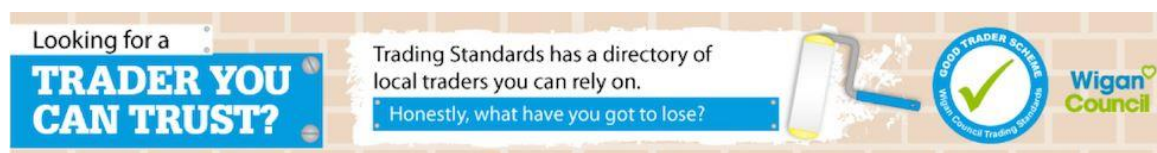
8. HS2 Drop-in Surgery.

Wednesday 21st October 11-3pm 4-7.30pm @ Lowton Social Club.

Experts and property consultants available to discuss issues relating to HS2. Also appointments for one to one meetings can be arranged by contacting Charlotte Bowen on 07881 803208 or email charlotte.bowen@hs2.org.uk

9. PCSO Jane Dagger (formerly Tymon) gave a brief overview of reported crimes in the Lowton area. There has been a number break-ins including one incident where the locking barrel had been removed from the door!

She also wanted to warn residents, especially the elderly, not to engage with strangers knocking on their door stating that repairs were need to the property. These conmen take money upfront and never return. So please if you do need work doing then please use the Good Traders Scheme to find a local tradesman who has passed the criteria required by the scheme. https://www.traderregister.org.uk/wigan/search_criteria.php



No Cold Calling Scheme – To have this scheme on your estate there needs to be a serious incident of theft by deception. Funding though is limited, and Jane is trying to find a way to source outside funding. Wigan Council used to put up the notices and issue stickers but costs have become too high. Again PCSOs do not have the funding to continue this. Cllr Grundy offered support by using Brighter Borough monies to pay for the items needed.

Neighbourhood Watch – Again another scheme which requires funding. Jane implemented another scheme called 'Nominate a Neighbour' which has been successful on estates like Rowan Ave. A simple notice in the window which states the occupier will not open the door and that the caller HAS to contact the neighbour detailed on the poster first.

There have been reports of fake currency being used in shops both in Leigh and Lowton.

Number of thefts of mountain bikes reported and 4 have reappeared when dumped in the front gardens of properties on the Braithwaite estate!!

20mph schemes introduced by the Council last year. Apparently not working very well as reports of speeding cars using certain 'cut-through' roads still being received by the police. The Traffic Units operate from Manchester and cover a wide area so are not always available. Lowton has 2 PCSOs to cover the whole area at the moment and the Police Force are due to reduce their number of officers by 2,000. PCSOs are funded until 2017 but changes may be made to the structure of the policing force.

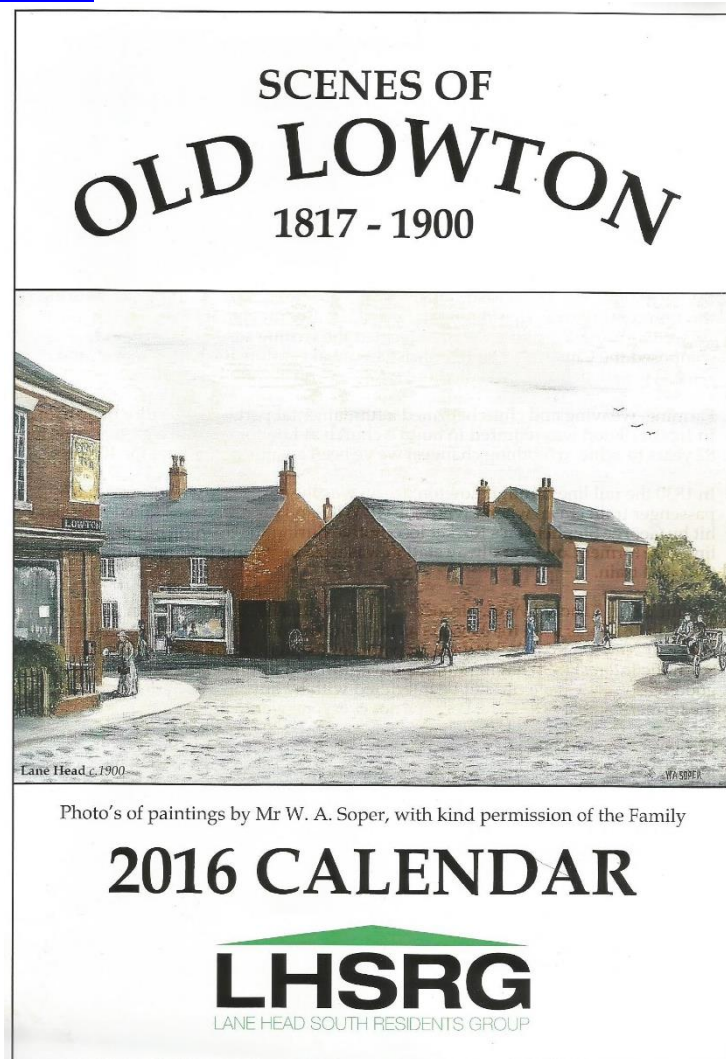
Wigan Evening Post recently did an article on Wigan Council's 'reserved' monies which totalled approximately £74 million. Cllr Grundy to investigate how this money is being spent – if at all.

Legal Highs – Jane reported that some shops in Leigh are 'under the counter' selling some brightly coloured packages which contain strong substances i.e. horse tranquillisers. They do not contain a warning sticker and are therefore 'illegal'. If you

come across a young person who is ill, vomiting, hallucinating, then please phone an ambulance for them straightaway.

10. AOB

- LHSRG - Meeting to take place on 6th November with Gt M'C Transport and local authorities to continue discussions regarding the depriving of Winwick Lane.
- Pennington Flash – 4 gypsy caravans currently parked there. Council notified.
- Newton Road – Hedges overhanging the footpath. Both a local resident and Cllr Grundy have repeated asked for these to be trimmed back but with little response from Wigan Leisure Culture Trust who are not responsible for this type of maintenance. Cllr Grundy has submitted a complaint to Deputy Chief Executive as there obviously problems within their systems.
- Lane Head South Residents Group – 2016 Calendar – Scenes of Old Lowton. If you wish to purchase a calendar (£5.50) then please contact the group via lhsrg00@gmail.com



11. Next LENDF Monthly Meetings

Monday 9th November 2015

Monday 14th December 2015

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