

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013, at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr James Grundy
- Eleanor Blackburn – Secretary of Local Labour Party
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests

*Apologies – Ann Lowe, Derek Walkden, Peter Hatfield, Eustace Collier*

No. of Attendees = 31

---

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. Please note that the accounts contain an in/out transaction which was to enable Brighter Borough monies to be obtained and passed to MENCAP. This was requested by Cllr Grundy as LENDF now have the online facility to apply for BB funds and MENCAP do not.

Also cheques have now been written for the costs associated with producing the Last Night of the Proms event i.e. venue hire, refreshments, Golborne Brass Band and LGN Community Choir. Monies being paid to LGN Community Choir will be donated straight to their chosen charity 'People First'.

There are still a few tickets remaining ☺ If you wish to volunteer to help out on the night then please contact us.

3. **Kenyon Airfield**

LENDF's chairman has spoken with Brian Lobell who is the Lead of the Airfield Watch Group based at Lane Head. Brian has reported that The Lancashire Aero Club are currently considering moving back to Barton Airfield. We shall keep you informed.

4. **Community Farm**

Jan Johnson had been contacted by Joe Taylor regarding a community farm which has been developed at Billinge. It contains 17 acres of land, 6 pigs, chickens, poly tunnels, allotments for local people, special garden for people with disabilities with raised beds etc, large building, and are using green power for production of vegetables etc. Joe has invited anyone who wishes to visit the farm can go up there and see what was possible and what they have achieved. Joe can be contacted on [joe41@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:joe41@blueyonder.co.uk) for further details.

5. **Local Development Framework (Core Strategy)**

Cllr Grundy reported that Wigan Council are now passing the LDF through their Scrutiny Committee during a 6 week process. There are though two documents still to be produced; Infrastructure Plan due in a month's time and Allocations Plan not due till 2016. Therefore it is important for us all to monitor any planning applications as they appear.

Housing numbers between all three house builders who are proposing developments in this area could vary depending which get their permissions first. Some builders may only build 50 houses a year! Wigan Council do not operate a 'first come first served' attitude. In Newton Le Willows there are already four sites underway.

## 6. Diggle Green

An Officer from the Environment Department at Wigan Council has been to the Diggle Green premises and has visited various points around the area to assess the situation. He does suggest that the smells are coming from Diggle Green.

There has also been the occurrence of sewerage from a Widnes treatment plant which has been spread on fields in Lowton.

The best course of action is to ring the Environment Agency on 0800 807 060 to report any smells/odours. Please ring as soon as it is noticed as this free phone number is manned 24/7. The EA are collating all calls and they will give you a reference number each time you ring.

Other contact numbers are:

### **Warrington Council**

Mr Harry Hayes 01925 443526 [hhayes@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:hhayes@warrington.gov.uk)

Mr Dan Matthewman 01925 442822 [dmatthewman@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:dmatthewman@warrington.gov.uk)

### **Wigan Council**

Mr Colin Evans 01942 489357 [c.evans2@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:c.evans2@wigan.gov.uk)

A discussion then took place with regards to an application submitted by Mr Broster of Diggle Green which has now been withdrawn. It is possible that it will be resubmitted in the future and will contain an increase in the amount of waste being handled by the business, together with access road direct to the East Lancs Road via an existing track. Mr Broster has offered to place all the waste in special sheds which will be fitted with air filtration systems. There will be an opportunity to comment on the application if it is re-submitted.

It was agreed that LENDF should invite the Officer from the Environment Agency to attend a future LENDF meeting.

It was suggested that the contact numbers be distributed by leaflet to a wider area but a better idea would be a letter to the Leigh Journal and/or Leigh Reporter which includes the telephone numbers. A few residents present at the meeting said they would do that.

## 7. Police

PC Mayo had been invited to attend tonight's meeting but was unable to as currently there is only himself and PCSO Barry Jones to cover the Lowton area. Malcolm Jones from OMRA has though been reviewing the crime figures via the GMP website and they showed slight increase over the last 4 months

## 8. Private Meeting with Andy Burnham

LENDF, together with representatives from LHSRG and OMRA, discussed the leaflet issued by the Labour Party as it was non-inclusive of everyone's efforts. Ed Thwaite pointed out it could have been worded better and all agreed.

Those present at the meeting discussed Andy Burnham's concerns about LENDF treatment of Labour councillors. ET presented Andy with a pack of documents that proved it was not all one sided, and that LENDF, and the other groups, had made every effort to work with the two Labour Councillors.

ET pointed out that Eleanor Blackburn, Cllr James Grundy and himself, had attended a Braithwaite Road Residents Association meeting and we all worked together without a problem, in fact it was a pleasure.

We want to work with all councillors for the betterment of Lowton.

## 9. HS2/Train Station

LENDF are against TfL's proposal as their 'bypass' is ineffective. Recent articles in local newspapers have not been helpful in clarifying the situation.

A proposal by LENDF follows a suggestion made by Andy Burnham last November to place a train station on the Liverpool to Manchester directly at the point of the where HS2 will cross Wilton Lane. To aid infrastructure to the station two new sections of road could be constructed; the first could be an extension from the Atherleigh Bypass to meet with Wilton Lane, and the second would connect Wilton Lane to Winwick Lane and run parallel with the existing rail line. See diagram below.



This proposal could be started now with a station in the cutting provide the transportation and connection to Manchester and Liverpool which this area needs. Also when electrification of the line is complete there will be a train running to Scotland

The construction of HS2 is still in its initial consultation phase and **IF** it is built then it could be accommodated as an interchange above the existing Manchester/Liverpool line. There is a requirement for the HS2 line to be straight for 2km prior to a station stop and if the line were to be moved slightly westward of its proposed route this would also save Taylor Business Park in Risley where the line would destroy businesses and 500 jobs.

Residents of Lowton do need to express their views on both proposals, and also HS2 itself.

**HS2 Ltd are holding public consultation events:**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Culcheth Sports Club 12pm – 8pm**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Leigh Sports Village 12pm – 8pm**

A discussion of all the pros and cons then took place between those present with the majority view being that a solution to traffic congestion was key. Examples of the poor facilities at Newton mentioned, together with the many stations which exist in the north of Wigan Borough and yet the south is poorly served. The spur of HS2 which cuts through Lowton is not necessarily required as it is in 'preparation' for what could be called HS3 (to Scotland). Therefore members of LENDF have been attending campaign meetings of various local organisations who are against HS2.

The Lane Head South Residents' Group have a sub-committee who have spent months working on trying to get Winwick Lane reclassified. Gill Dickenson reported that a meeting had taken place last week between representatives of Warrington Council, Wigan Council and Andy Burnham. Warrington Council has stated that they will support the reclassification and will install monitoring strips across the road. The information gained will be fed to the next sub-committee meeting which is due to take place before Christmas.

Eleanor Blackburn suggested that another meeting is held with TfL. It was agreed to form a LENDF sub-committee to review all matters associated with both proposals and then ask TfL for a meeting. This sub-committee will consist of Ed Thwaite, Malcolm Jones, Eleanor Blackburn, Ed Houlton, and Cllr Grundy.

#### **10. Eastern Revive Restaurant, Newton Road**

Tesco is looking to purchase this property from Punch Tavern who currently have a lease agreement with Eastern Revive. The restaurant owners want to stay and continue their successful business and have started a petition which is located inside the restaurant if anyone wants to pop in and sign it.

There are number of local shops and businesses in the area who would suffer from loss of trade if a Tesco were to appear at this location. St Mary's school is very close by and there are already concerns about traffic in the area and a Tesco would increase that concern.

A 'Change of Use' application may be forthcoming from Tesco and it will be at this point that residents can submit their concerns. Though it was agreed that LENDF would pre-empt this by writing to Punch Tavern as soon as possible.

#### **11. Taylor Wimpey – Rothwells Farm, Golborne**

Taylor Wimpey has asked to meet with LENDF to gain feedback on their proposals for housing development at Rothwells Farm. As this location is outside of Lowton East it was felt that a sub-committee of LENDF members should meet with Taylor Wimpey rather than they attend one of our meetings. Therefore Ed Thwaite, Ed Houlton, Mark Lewis, Keith Robb and Sheila Hayes to organise to meet with Charlotte Morris from Taylor Wimpey.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

The RAOB Club based in the Lowton Social Club are holding a Charity Night on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Start time 8.00pm Tickets £2.50

#### **13. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

---

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on [lendf99@gmail.com](mailto:lendf99@gmail.com) and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF