

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Grundy
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests

Apologies – Dennis Eubank, Carol Leigh, Cllr Gilligan

No. of Attendees = 51

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.

2. **Diggle Green – Waste Recycling Business**

Mr Broster, the owner of the business, together with Ms Melanie Lawrenson from ML Planning Ltd and Mr Paul Sweeny, Consultant to arable farmers, attended LENDF's meeting as a way of consultation with residents.

Firstly Mr Broster apologised for the recent incident of the foul smell which was suffered by local residents, including Croft and Culcheth, over 7 days during the summer. This was due to a new source of waste he received and it is questionable as to whether it had been treated correctly by the supplier. This particular batch of waste had been spread on fields which were a 'grass crop' for hay and it had not been possible to plough it into the ground and the weather did not produce rain as forecasted. These extreme conditions produced the odour.

His business creates fertilizer for farms out of recycled waste material. Mr Paul Sweeny then explained the various processes involved in producing this fertilizer which provides nutrition to the land and aids in the control of weeds. Mr Sweeny has been the consultant to the Broster family since the 1980s and also for other local farmers. The Government has decreed that all green waste be recycled and not sent to landfill. The green waste is turned into brown compost and its creation is tightly controlled by strict laws imposed by the Environment Agency.

Wigan Council now ask residents to put food waste into their green bins. This material is first sent to a processing plant in Todmorden for heat treatment before it is delivered to Mr Broster. Food waste dictates a higher standard of protocol for its treatment. There is now an investigation into the batch which created the awful smell.

Transport of this 'waste' was also a concern of residents as the wagons use the residential roads to get to Diggle Green Farm. These delivery vehicles also smell !! and can, at times, be travelling too fast. Also the tractor/trailers transporting the compost to farmland behave in a similar way.

Mr Broster stated that he now ensures all wagons/trailers are 'covered' and that the drivers maintain a 'below speed' limit attitude. Culcheth have a restriction in place which is why he uses Lowton roads.

Beside Mr Broster United Utilities has been spreading sewerage locally so all smells aren't from his process.

Mr Broster wants to submit a planning application for access to his farm via the East Lancs Road. He would like local support from residents as he sees this as beneficial to them as well as his business. He currently employs 14 people for both work on his 3

farms (inc one at Wigan and one at Irlam) and the composting business. His business does not operate at night. His business hours are Mon-Fri 8am till 5pm, Sat 7am till 5pm, and Sunday 8am till 4pm. His own farm vehicles though can operate outside of these hours when he is tending his own farmland.

The access will be via an existing track leading to the East Lancs Road and will be left turn only. Any vehicles travelling to the farm will first have to go to the Greyhound roundabout and turn round.

LENDF received a letter from Warrington Borough Council which details the actions already taken and those agencies responsible for monitoring and enforcing all legislation and conditions of existing planning permission. This letter has been uploaded to LENDF's website.

Warrington Council have also requested that residents record vehicle movements, i.e. time of day, direction of travel, whether full or empty.

The letter also confirms that the planning application reference no. 2013/21897 to increase the quantity of green waste processed by the business has been withdrawn.

Mr Broster is planning to resubmit this application and include the request for access to the East Lancs Road.

Mr Broster will contact the Chairman with notification of any spreading of waste in the Lowton area. The Chairman will report back to him if this causes problems of smells.

Mr Broster also stated that if the smell from the standing heaps at Diggle Green are causing a problem to the Poplars area, he will ask permission to build a shed to cover them and install odour control on all exits.

Contact Details:

For suspected odours from Diggle Green Activities

Environment Agency 0800 807060

For odours from unknown sources in Warrington

Mr Harry Hayes 01925 443526 hhayes@warrington.gov.uk

For odours from unknown sources in Wigan

Mr Colin Evans 01942 489357 c.evans2@wigan.gov.uk

For planning enforcement queries

Mr Dan Matthewman 01925442822 dmatthewman@warrington.gov.uk

3. Labour Leaflet

Cllr Gilligan had been invited to attend tonight's meeting but sent her apologies. Not all residents had seen the leaflet therefore the Chairman read out the section regarding housing which had been on the Agenda. Our concerns were that no mention was made of the effort by local residents over the past 3 years to fight against the housing proposed by Wigan Council.

Had the leaflet recognised everyone's efforts and been inclusive as LENDF's thank you was, then there wouldn't have been a problem.

LENDF's Statement:

LENDF would like to thank the following people for their contribution at the Government Inspector's meeting on Wednesday 6th March held at Leigh Sports Village: Residents Mr Greenhalgh, Mr & Mrs Robb, Mr Sinclair; Mr Peter Sargeant Chairman LHSRG, Cllr James Grundy, Andy Burnham MP and all the residents who attended to give moral support. The case was well presented by you all and we could not have done any more. Now we have to wait for the Inspector's decision. Thank you all. Ed Thwaite Chairman

Eleanor Blackburn, editor of the leaflet, was present at the meeting, together with Dennis Hammond, local Labour Party Chairman. Eleanor stated that it was Andy Burnham's quote which was used in the leaflet. She also said that the Labour Party in no way wanted to offend members of the group, and recognised all the hard work done by LENDF members. LENDF have requested a meeting with Andy Burnham to discuss this and are awaiting a date from his secretary.

4. Press Release

LENDF had prepared and sent a Press Release to the local media regarding HS2 and the proposed 'train station' at Lowton. A snippet of the release has appeared in the Wigan Post and a more detailed version is to be published in the Leigh Journal this week.

These two articles are now on LENDF's website for you all to read.

LENDF Chairman to meet with Leigh Journal shortly and they will be printing our views.

5. Taylor Wimpey – Rothwells Farm, Golborne

Representatives of LENDF attended the public consultation held last week and Taylor Wimpey were willing to speak to LENDF about the development though it is technically outside our area. Brochures and feedback forms had been brought back from the consultation and were available for anyone who wished one. Those residents at the meeting who were from Golborne were advised to contact their local councillors if they required further information.

6. Any Other Business

- Wigan Council are to hold a meeting Wednesday 11th September to approve acceptance of the Local Development Framework (Core Strategy) and Cllr Grundy thought it was appropriate that he abstained from voting due to there being no Infrastructure Plan in place, no hard information as to which sites were to be used for housing, and the number to be built was unclear. This was agreed by all.
- The development proposal by Persimmon Homes for land to the south of Abbey Road was discussed in relation to setting up a residents group on the estate that will look at the benefits that can be obtained from the building of these houses. LENDF have offered to support the group.
- LENDF Secretary and members of Lane Head South Residents Group had attended a meeting of Our Local Voice who had a presentation given by Civic Voice. Further information will be gathered in due course to enable LENDF to consider whether to join the national organisation of Civic Voice.
- EVENTS:
RAOB charity event on 11th October at Lowton Social Club.
Tickets £2.50 available behind the bar.

Last Night of the Proms on 19th October at Rose Centre (Civic Hall).
Tickets £3.00 available from Chairman or Secretary (Ed or Irene).

7. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

7th October @ 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