

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

*Apologies – Gill Dickenson, Susan Spibey, Tim Demore, Richard Short*

No. of Attendees = 44

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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.
2. **Bank Balance**  
On display for the duration of the meeting.
3. **Congratulations**  
Congratulations to Edward Houlton on his recent election as a Ward Councillor for Lowton East.
4. **Travellers' Activity Thwarted**  
On Sunday evening it was reported to LENDF that two transit vans, that were obviously travellers, were testing the land behind Lowton J&I and the Youth Club to identify a possible location for their caravans. A local farmer was contacted and asked if he would bring a trailer to the school to block the entrance. However there were two skips nearby which were being used by the builders of the work taken place at the school, so by using the tractor these skips were pushed into a barricade format. After this had been done, and LENDF and the farmer left, witnesses saw the caravans arrive 10 mins later to find that they could no longer gain access.

On Monday morning an explanation was given to the school as to why their skips were moved and the school will now enquire about having gates installed as a preventative measure for the future.

Many thanks to those who were alert and raised the issue, and to the farmer who was able to act so quickly.

5. **WW1 Commemoration – Poppy Seeds**  
LENDF's Environment Group have purchased 1 million poppy seeds for distribution to the community. These had been packaged up into smaller amounts and everyone present was asked to help themselves to the free seeds and take some to sow at the front of their houses, edges of grass verges, schools, churches, etc. Cllr Grundy also had some lettuce seeds which were being given away by the Council – again free.

If anyone would like some please contact Irene at [lendf99@gmail.com](mailto:lendf99@gmail.com)

Also the Environment Group have recently purchased some hi-viz jackets for the use of the volunteers who join in the litter picking events.

## **6. Diggle Green**

The new processes in place at Diggle Green appear to be working as there have not been any incidences of 'odour' and their activities have been quiet.

## **7. Kenyon and Golborne Stations**

Things have been on hold slightly whilst the elections took place, but we have been notified by one resident that he wrote to Prince Charles and actually received a reply.

Ed Thwaite has recently spoken with Wigan Transport department, and was informed that land around the Golborne Station area has been marked to be kept safe for council use. LENDF offered support when it is required.

## **8. HS2**

Cheshire East Council have stated they want an interchange at Crewe. They also want a maintenance depot. LENDF hope this will work out.

Trafford Council have a new leader and he has stated that he wants the HS2 link line to Wigan stopped.

The final route will be decided by the end of the year.

## **9. Senior Citizens Event**

This event was a huge success and LENDF have received a lot of positive comments and feedback. Many thanks to the sub-group of volunteers who planned and manned the event.

More are now planned – one each month starting in Autumn and finishing in March. Ed Thwaite spoke with Pam Gilligan as she has contact with the Rotary Club via her Compassion in Action work, with regard to some funding for these events. Pam has also offered to provide the food at the events through the Compassion in Action kitchens and this will be plated ready for serving. Many thanks to Pam.

We had lots of raffle prizes at the event and the raffle took a long time to get through, so it's been decided to have less items and more monetary prizes.

Cllr Houlton offered some money from his Brighter Borough fund.

RAOB Club also offered money from their organisation's funds.

Thank you to all.

## **10. Fun Day – August 10th**

The arrangements for the Fun Day are well underway and this year will include a Climbing Wall, as well as children's entertainer, face painting, bouncy castles, and of course it wouldn't be fun without The Stocks. The Fun Day is being organised by Oaklands and Meadows Residents Association and supported by LENDF and we would like to provide some old fashioned games as well, for example a coconut shy, so if anyone is a 'handyman' please contact us ☺

## **11. Last Night of the Proms**

Lowton Civic Hall (the Rose Centre) has been booked for October 18<sup>th</sup>. The programme for the evening will include songs and tunes to commemorate the WW1 Centenary. The Golborne Brass Band and Lowton, Golborne and Newton Choir are to meet on Wednesday this week to start preparations.

## 12. LENDF Environment Group

The pond next to the footpath to St Caths school requires one more dead tree to be removed and Ed Thwaite asked for volunteers to help him. Three willing volunteers came forward – all will meet on Tuesday to do this last remaining task.

Irene then gave a report on activities since the last meeting. A litter pick was done at *The Orchard on Hesketh Meadow Lane*, followed a few weeks later by the mulching of the woodland walks.

The mulch was kindly donated by Kenyon Cutters, who delivered it too.



Part of the mulch was also taken to a pathway on the Braithwaite estate, as there is a reoccurring issue with flooding and water collecting in one area making it difficult to negotiate. Other areas of the pathway have worn away or are degrading and this has been reported to the Council for review.

The next area to be tackled is *community open space on the Rowan Avenue estate*. This land is also used by residents from Gleneagles Close. The Environment Group met on site and contact has been made with the Council regarding the treatment of Japanese Knotweed which is encroaching into resident's gardens.



A litter pick of this area is proposed for Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> – more information to be sent out closer to the date.

We would like to know of any other areas which need a litter pick, or have issues which you think the Environment Group can help with.

- One resident at the meeting mentioned an area close to the Stone Cross Park where truckers park overnight. They have been leaving their 'waste' in plastic bottles and throwing them into the bushes !! She had photographic evidence and this will be passed onto the Councillors and LENDF will contact the owners of Stone Cross Park regarding the issue of overnight parking, as there are bins available but obviously are not being used.
- Highfield Moss is an attractive and protected area – but is also a magnet for youngsters who do not always take their litter home. This is to be investigated further and contact will be made with Lancashire Wildlife Trust who now manage the land.
- Pocket Nook Lane – Irene and Carol Leigh to walk the area to plan what is needed.

### **13. Kenyon Airfield**

A planning application has been submitted by Lancashire Aero Club for a control room, car park and access to Winwick Lane. Even though the application doesn't state the operation days, we do know that they want 365 days a year.

The application and its supporting documentation has been reviewed in detail by LENDF.

If you wish to object you may use a proforma letter we shall be emailing out. This letter was then read out to those present. If a number of copies could be printed then we can arrange distribution and collection of signed letters. Ed Thwaite asked for volunteers to meet at the Toby Carvery on Thursday at 7pm to help with the distribution.

As Highfield Moss is on the boundary of this airfield the Lancashire Wildlife Trust will be submitting an objection.

Deadline is June 16<sup>th</sup> for submitting letters. If the application goes to Planning Committee then this could be a date in August. If it does receive permission then we could ask the Secretary of State to review the decision.

### **14. St Catherine's Church**

It was reported to LENDF that a pre-application discussion had taken place with the council and a developer who is interested in the land at St Catherine's Church and wanted to build a small housing estate. But Wigan Council refused to go forward with the discussions because the developer was proposing that the access would be via Kenyon Lane.

LENDF can reveal that another organisation is currently in talks with the Council regarding the Church buildings. This proposal is one which would be sensitive to former use of the building and be respectful to the existing Remembrance Gardens. If it comes about then we feel sure it will get your blessing.

### **15. Any Other Business**

- **Compassion in Action** has been presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Congratulations to Pam Gilligan and her team.
- **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30am till 3.00pm Antiques and Collectables Valuation** St Mary's Community Hall, Newton Road. £2 per item or £5 for three items (max

three items per person). Valuations by Frank Marshall & Co of Knutsford. Refreshments available. Enquiries to 01942 606757

- **Remember to keep your property and belongings safe**

There have been a number of thefts from garden sheds – please be vigilant and if you see any suspicious activity report it immediately by ringing 101.

#### **16. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

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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