

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)  
Minutes to the Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Lowton Social Club.  
<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

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

*Apologies – LHSRG members (as they have their AGM meeting tonight), Timothy DeMore, Peter Hatfield, David Glover*

No. of Attendees = 38

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1. **Minutes from last meeting** – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email and paper copies were available.
2. **Accounts**  
LENDF bank balance details on view for those present at the meeting.
3. **'Say No' signs** – 6 remaining and we are looking for locations close to the Stone Cross site as we expect the Planning Committee to view the site when the application is put before them (possibly June).

We can't not put them on the land itself but if we could get them as visible as possible for example back gardens of Welford, Ave Upwood Rd, Rutland Ave and Alderley Ave ??  
The cost of the boards has been more than covered by the donations received and once again LENDF want to thank all those who gave.

#### 4. **Correspondence received since last meeting**

- It has been brought to our attention that there is a possibility that the Lowton Pensioners Federation may not be able to continue their activities due to cost of maintaining the 'building' and low attendance. LENDF will contact Betty Eckley to enquire how the community can help or if the 'building' could be offered for other uses.



*Little Green Hut, Newton Road*

- Information received regarding a collective switching scheme for electricity and gas which is currently being organised by Greater Manchester Fair Energy. You could save money on your energy bill by signing up for this scheme. Sign up is free with no obligation and the more people take part, the better for getting the best deal. You can sign up using the link below. You may need to copy and paste this link.

[https://gmfairenergy.ichoosr.com/home/index.rails?referralCode=RQ1541057&channel=ichoosrtaf&utm\\_source=taf&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_campaign=gmfairenergy](https://gmfairenergy.ichoosr.com/home/index.rails?referralCode=RQ1541057&channel=ichoosrtaf&utm_source=taf&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=gmfairenergy)

- Wildlife Crime – It has been reported to us that hunting/poaching of Roe Deer and lamping of hares/rabbits has been taking place around the areas of Parkside, Hermitage Green Lane, Barrow Lane and Highfield Moss. The Newton Police have been assisting in monitoring vehicles parked near the areas as one witness saw a dead deer being loaded into a van. Another ‘walker’ found training leads and whistles hidden in bushes. LENDF have forwarded the information to GMP and together with Merseyside Police hopefully a partnership can be organised and a leafleting campaign for houses that are adjacent to the area delivered (PSCO Jane Tymon has already offered to help), and another idea is notification that there is a local wildlife watch scheme. Perhaps even a sign or two. It is also important that if anyone sees any suspicious vehicles (or activity) please note the registration number and ring 101.

*Post Meeting Note:*

*Email received on 19<sup>th</sup> April from PC David Mayo*

To all concerned,

Having recently been made aware of the ongoing issues with regard to illegal poaching of pheasants, partridges, hares, rabbits and deer on lands that spread across the borders of three police forces, I have made enquiries with the Wigan Divisional wildlife officer PC Mark Ryding in an attempt to get some advise with regard to the legal implications and to gain some insight into the standard police approach when dealing with such matters.

Unfortunately PC Ryding has notified me that due to his current incapacity and restricted role he can no longer complete his wildlife officer obligations. In light of this I have expressed an interest in taking over the wildlife officer role in addition to my current role as the Lowton East Neighbourhood Beat Officer and this is still under consideration by my supervision.

I have however noted all the recent incidents highlighted in your emails and I will be liaising with Melanie Burman in relation to possible offenders that she recently confronted on her land at Grange Farm.

My team and I have now included the lands in question in our patrol plan and we will be dedicating as much time as possible to provide a visible presence in the appropriate areas.

I have also liaised with my counterparts from both the Cheshire and Merseyside forces to establish what action they have taken to date and hopefully to formulate a joint plan of action to deal with these matters. I am currently awaiting a response in relation to this.

If there are any other incidents in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me and hopefully collectively we can achieve a satisfactory conclusion to these matters.

Yours,

Dave

***David Mayo  
Police Constable 8572  
Lowton East  
Neighbourhood Beat Officer  
Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Team  
Leigh Police Station  
0161 856 7225***

- Decommissioned Phone Box – Bradwell Road. Irene has contacted BT for an update on when this box will be removed. John Sherlock from BT reported that he is waiting for the electricity to the box to be disconnected (has asked for this on numerous occasions) and as soon as he has a date the box can be removed and he will inform Irene.
- Ed read out an email from a resident on Sandy Lane which is reproduced here but with the house builders name blanked out !!

“I don't know if this is of interest to your group, but last June we moved into a brand new ---- house just off Sandy Lane in Lowton. We have had nothing but problems with it regarding the build quality and customer care response.

We have had an internal flood which has caused £30,000 worth of damage and our garden floods every time it rains. We have been promised things (Land Drain) etc by ----- which still have not been sorted, which they now say they won't do.

We have also now been threatened with legal action against us after a potential purchaser of a new property asked me for my opinion of the house. I simply informed them off the problems we have had and how it seems to be a constant battle with -----.

It is not just ourselves who have had problems with the build and customer care.

I don't know if our troubles are of interest to you as I know ----- are looking to build a lot more houses in the area.”

- Vehicle Crime – email received from a resident on Hesketh Meadow Lane:

“C..... has had the window of his van smashed at 4am last night [Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April]. We know this as our neighbour woke up as his dog was barking loudly. He looked out of the window and checked his porch door, which had been opened, but nothing taken.

I eventually got through to the police after 30 mins of being left on hold. I have lodged a complaint about this hold time. We are not insured for stolen tools as the premiums are so high. C... has taken an unpaid day off work to repair the van, he will have to pay for the parts, he has lost some of his tools, none of which we will get back. No holiday for us this year. He normally takes all his tools out of the van each night, last night he fell asleep. The police will not be able to do anything.

Please let people know there are petty thieves in the area.”

- Crime Maps – Statistics of types of crimes and where they occur is monitored by Malcolm Jones of OMRA. During February 2013 there were 53 – the following link will take you to the page where more detailed information can be found (post code for Lowton Social Club used in this instance).

<http://www.police.uk/crime/?q=Lowton+WA3+2AQ%2C+UK#crimetypes/2013-02>

- Police Crime and Commissioner – Public Meeting 20th March. Ed Thwaite, Peter Sargeant and Cllr Grundy attending this meeting and were able to speak to Police Chief and requested more police presence in the Lowton area. An invite to be sent direct to PC Dave Mayo asking for his attendance at a LENDF meeting. We have had confirmation the PSCO Coyne will attend our July meeting.

## 5. Housing – Update

Awaiting the next/final round of consultations between the Government Inspector and Wigan Council. These are expected in May and LENDF will be present, along with all interested parties i.e. house builders! We shall of course notify everyone of the date as again it will be a public meeting.

## 6. Neighbourhood Planning

The question was raised about LENDF preparing and managing a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. This would be a large undertaking and would require at least 6 people to create a committee to do this. Anyone interested please contact LENDF. This committee would 'assist' the council with decisions on what should be built and where. The committee would have to be non-political. There are organisations who can offer training and LENDF will also look for existing groups who could come to speak to members about how the whole process works. More information available on these links: (if the links do not work please copy and paste).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/neighbourhood-planning>

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood/>

<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>

The Growth and Infrastructure Bill will soon be introduced by Government. This Bill will allow the Secretary of State to test which local authorities are 'underperforming' in relation to 'planning permissions' and any undetermined application over 12 months old will then be decided upon by the Secretary of State (previously the time allowed was 2 years). This will mean applicants may be allowed to submit major applications direct to Government rather than local authority. An easy to read article is now on our website.

## 7. East Leigh JFC

Bob Craddock (Chairman) had previously been to a LENDF meeting to inform the local community of their intentions with regard to leasing the playing fields at the Civic Hall (Rose Centre). See minutes of March 2012. Bob was present again tonight to give LENDF members an update. Following numerous meetings with council officers they have now been given the opportunity to tender for the lease of the land. The Club has submitted an application for the lease. They only intend to use the land and do not require any of the facilities at the Civic Hall, i.e. changing rooms, as the children always arrive with their kit on. The lease term will be 5 years though the council have agreed to include a clause that it will renew for 20 years – this enables the Club to apply for funding from the FA, Sports England and the Lottery. The Club intend to improve the pitches and land drainage. The land will still be open to the community and the Club want to encourage its use by all.

8<sup>th</sup> Wonder who currently (apparently) have the lease for the Civic Hall have approached the Club asking if they wish to buy it? This was very interesting to hear as at one point LENDF were preparing to purchase the Civic Hall for the community to run.

The majority of those present then voted to support East Leigh JFC in their application.

## 8. OMRA Fun Day

Oaklands and Meadows Residents Association will be holding a Fun Day for Lowton on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – 12.30 till 4pm**. This event will be free. Anyone volunteering to

help out on the day please contact Irene. Cllr Grundy offered to support the event with Brighter Borough monies. More details of the day's activities to follow at next meeting.

**9. Last Night of the Proms**

LENDF will be repeating the successful and popular event with Golborne Brass Band and Lowton Golborne Newton Community Choir providing the music and songs. This event will be held on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. More details to follow at next meeting.

**10. Train Station for Leigh**

Following the recent announcement by Transport for Leigh to propose a train station at Lowton, Ed Thwaite presented an alternative proposal and described it to those present. In summary the Atherleigh Bypass effectively ends at the East Lancs Road. The proposal is to build a new section of road to continue the Bypass towards Kenyon Junction at the existing Manchester/Liverpool line – then traffic could continue along Winton Lane running parallel with the line itself and a new section of road could be built to continue this parallel route to join Winwick Lane. Therefore helping traffic to bypass Lane Head completely.

Don't worry if you can't visualise the route as a technical plan is being prepared and this will be circulated very soon in order to gain the community's opinion and feedback.

This idea is cheaper to build, will be quicker to build, and could be in place before the train station itself thereby relieving congestion sooner.

**11. Any Other Business**

None at this time.

**12. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 @ 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