

Meeting of Lane Head South Residents' Group held on 17th June 2013 at Lime House

Present: (23) P. Sargeant (Chairman), W&J Peters, A.Lloyd, P.Hatfield, B&A Lobell, C.Waddington, J.Moulden, T.Ashcroft, L.Bagshaw, S.Adamson, S.Isherwood, C&K Johnson, K&E Houlton, G.Dickinson, H&M Cooper, F.Whistlecroft

Guests: J.Grundy (Councillor), I.Thomson (LENDF), PC David Mayo

Apologies: A&J Woodcock, P.Grundy, C&A Lowe, B.Ashcroft

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Irene Thomson, Secretary of LENDF and Kath Houlton, the new Secretary of LHSRG. There was nobody present from outside the Wigan administrative area; the Chairman therefore proposed to deal privately with an issue that Brian Lobell had raised about guests being ascribed to Croft. He explained that it applied to persons, with or without Lowton addresses who lived in Croft Civil Parish. He apologised for some technical problems which had been encountered with the setting up of gmail and had contributed to the late circulation of Agendas and Minutes. At this point PC David Mayo joined the meeting. The following police matters were discussed:

Parking of Low-loader: PC Mayo responded to the Chairman's concerns regarding blocking of the pathway and has spoken to Mr. James in the past but will continue to monitor the situation.

Neighbourhood Watch: Peter Hatfield reported that he was having problems obtaining security packs for residents. PC Mayo Replied that this was a Council led initiative and they should provide the packs although there had been problems with funding. Peter will pursue with the Council.

Parking on Newton Road: this continues to be a problem especially near the Bulls Head. PC Mayo undertook to put a leaflet drop in that area warning of the dangers. Brian Lobell requested that a leaflet drop also be put out into Winwick Lane regarding parking.

Problems with Winwick Lane: Gill Dickinson reported on a number of issues regarding overshooting the lights, blocking of the hatchbox which only covers part of the road, and also speeding into Winwick Lane from Newton Road. Speed restriction is 30 at the commencement of Winwick Lane. PC Mayo reported that a few months ago cables were laid across Newton Road to monitor car numbers and speeds and this did not reveal a problem. A request was made for a traffic unit to monitor the A580 Lane Head intersection, as Ed Houlton reported that this was the second busiest junction in Manchester.

Motorcycles: Howard Cooper reported that a group of boys had been taking motorcycles across the moss and riding on the footpaths. PC Mayo reported that he was aware of the boys and they had been spoken to in the past. He was proposing to put up (temporary) warning notices. It was also agreed that something needed to be done to provide a legitimate outlet for this kind of activity.

Winwick Lane: Gill Dickinson asked whether Cheshire Police could request Winwick Lane be removed as a primary road or if a maximum weight restriction could be put on it to restrict traffic. PC Mayo reported that a weight restriction would be difficult to enforce as it would mean weighing lorries.

Crimes in the area: Colin Johnson asked if there were many reported crimes in the area. PC Mayo reported that currently there were very few. Some members reported seeing an eastern European man in the area who has approached houses in the night. He has a distinct limp and neighbours should be on the alert and report anything suspicious. PC

Mayo gave out his phone number should anyone wish to report an offence this is: 0161 856 7225. If the 101 number is used a request for a response or a visit should be given.

The Chairman thanked David and, after the Chairman had explained the function of the new gmail account and issued some cautionary words about conduct in the meeting, business resumed with the Minutes of the last meeting being accepted as a true record. The following **Matters Arising** were covered:

Diggle Green: Kath's response from Mr. Evans was that his Assistant will be writing to her. This is still awaited. The question was raised that since the strengthening of the bridge into Culcheth whether the trailers cannot now go through there?

Highfield Moss: The Lancashire Wildlife Trust now has a management agreement with the Council to look after the moss and Dr. Miller will be coming to talk to the meeting in September.

Wind Turbine: Nothing further to report.

Engineering Matters: Chairman still to progress.

Telephone Box at Stonecross Lane: New windows have been put in but the repainting had not yet taken place.

Crash barrier on East Lancs Road: The Chairman to write to Councillor Pam Gilligan regarding the crash barrier blocking the footpath route which crosses the road.

Kenyon Lane: Resurfacing work will commence on 8th July on the stretch which goes to the Plough.

Traffic Sub-Committee: Gill reported that currently eight members attended the first meeting, and went on to highlight the change of status of the road between 1985 maps and 2005 maps which changed the road from green to red. A letter to Gill from the Council regarding barrier baskets reported that they would not be put up this year because of concern for the safety of the staff watering them, 'the road is too dangerous and too narrow'. James Grundy said the more pressure put on the Council the more likely a by-pass may be agreed.

Aerial Survey: In response to a question from the Chair, Brian Lobell indicated he was still prepared to do this, when traffic conditions are right, should it be required.

Any New Business: There was no new business.

Lowton Parkway: Transport for Leigh have agreed to attend our meeting on the 15th July and the Chairman requested questions to be put to them. Fiona Whistlecroft reported that she had attended a meeting of TfL and they had rejected the idea of a by-pass, ring road or link road for the area. Discussions ensued on whether TfL were guilty of a breach of faith. A meeting between representatives of TfL, LENDF, LHSRG and Andy Burnham, together with Councillor Grundy, was in prospect for the coming Friday. [The meeting was subsequently cancelled by TfL and will not now take place, at the earliest, until sometime in August.] Echoing the Chairman's earlier remarks, Howard Cooper drew attention to the need to ensure good order was maintained on 15th July. The Chairman was left to develop his own suggestions for topics to discuss, as there were none from the floor.

Housing: The Chairman reported that he had submitted some critical comments on the Core Strategy Modifications, including the wrong siting of Parkside [and apparent lack of openness in communications between Council and the Inspector], which he had felt best to make on a personal basis. On 5th June on Ed Thwaite's initiative, a meeting had taken place in Wigan to talk about formulation of a neighbourhood plan under LENDF's auspices, also attended by Councillor Grundy and the Chairman. The Council representatives indicated that there were timescale and other problems which suggested that an informal consultation process would be more helpful. Traffic count and other assessments were

already in hand and would lead to an opportunity for further public involvement in influencing where new housing might best be sited, around August. Reference was also made to Peter Smith's brinksmanship in criticising the Inspector, Mr. Ward, and the likelihood that Taylor Wimpey's application for Rothwells Farm would be forthcoming soon. The Wainhomes application was still on hold.

'Kenyon International' Airstrip: It was understood from Brian Lobell that Mr. Billington had not yet received a definitive response to his most recent report. On the other hand, he had not been duly encouraged by feedback, thus far. However, with the support of the Management Committee, the Chairman had sent a letter to The CAA, asking for a definitive response to all the concerns that had been raised. The planning application had not yet been submitted and it appeared the latest cause for delay was the preparation of a Safety Statement. In the meantime, the CAP739 guidance on unlicensed airstrips would be put on the web page, together with the 2010 Statutory Instrument that provides for stopping 28-day temporary uses.

Reference was made to a new Sunday activity at the airstrip and/or farm, namely helicopter joy rides. The Chairman suggested that the obvious thing to do was to go to the farm and look for evidence of posters or ask questions. [Leaflets have since been obtained and circulated, the next event at the farm being on 18th August.]

The Chairman then proposed, and it was agreed, that the contact on 5th June with Mike Worden (see above) should be followed up with a formal request for an Article 4 Direction. Councillor Grundy was expecting to have a meeting with the Secretary of State, albeit delayed by the current spending round, to discuss HS2; he would take the opportunity to discuss the safety issue with him and Brian Lobell asked that he should establish whether the Secretary of State had actually seen Mr. Billington's submission. The Chairman had an appointment with Andy Burnham in July and hoped to encourage a cross-party approach locally, as well, by involving Councillor Gilligan. However, there were no suggestions from the floor for other initiatives.

In summing up on the need for better co-operation, the Chairman indicated that Mr. Billington's claim to have been acting on behalf of LHSRG had been unhelpful. He proposed that an appropriate disclaimer should be issued, as he had had no prior knowledge of the document's preparation, had first heard of it only by chance on 20th May (ten days after its issue date), and had only been able to read it thanks to the LENDF web site the following day; up to the present, he had still not been provided with a paper copy. Brian Lobell responded that he, too, had been shocked. He had since spoken to Mr. Billington and been assured that it would not happen again. However, thanks perhaps should be extended to him for all his efforts in trying to dissuade the Lancashire Aero Club from using the Kenyon Hall Farm airstrip. Others concurred.

Les Bagshaw intervened with a suggestion that the matter be put to a vote, without prejudice to the Chairman's personal freedom of action. However, the Chairman assessed the feeling of the meeting was not wishing to press the matter further and Les then left the meeting. Finally, the Chairman drew attention to the fact, and it was noted, that the Airfield Watch Group had never been a sub-committee of LHSRG but, rather, following the debate in November, had been invited to fulfil an advisory role, in recognition of its separate existence, as minuted in January.

The **next meeting** will be held on 15th July at 7.30 p.m. in Lime House.