

Minutes of LHSRG Monday 18th September 2017

The chairwoman welcomed everyone to the meeting, requesting the usual convention of raising hand to speak to avoid cross talk.

Present: Chairwoman: Kathleen Johnson, Vice Chairman: Denis Eubank, Secretary: Gill Dickinson plus 18 members

Apologies: Councillors James Grundy and Ed Houlton, Terry Hewitt, Ann Lowe, Marie and Howard Cooper.

Christine and Janette Smith were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairwoman and asked to share their possible plans for their home at 5 Acres, Kenyon Lane.

Christine outlined the proposal to develop a unique housing development for older people, utilising the existing house as a hub for health and social facilities. The new development would continue the legacy of '5 Acres' from Nursing Home, Rehabilitation Centre and Maternity Home to an "Age friendly Community" in keeping with Lane Head and Kenyon.

Working in conjunction with Wigan Council and hopefully co - designed with local community. Wigan has a shortage of housing for an ageing population. Health and Social Services straining at the seams. Research indicates that this sort of development would prevent hospital admissions by keeping people well at home.

The new development would include a mixture of properties, 1, 2 bedded and apartments for both rent and purchase.

It would be ground breaking incorporating "tele health" - digitally enabled health facilities linked to health care professionals who monitor health without physically accessing health facilities.

The development would include the main house as a hub with health and social facilities. (pool, gym, shop) Other dwellings would be built in the garden. Opportunities for allotments/ garden/ green space.

Concerns:

- (i) The development would take land from the Green Belt.
Response. The Council can remove land from Green Belt in exceptional circumstances. Is this an exceptional circumstance?
- (ii) Whilst the Developer might initially appear sympathetic to the original vision. This has to be maintained.
Response. Christine and Janette see themselves as having a long- term involvement in the Development to fulfil their vision.
- (ii) Similar developments have not fulfilled their original vision e.g. McCarthy and Stone and had issues for the finances of residents.

Response. This will be a very different development based on new technologies and concepts. With their on-going involvement they bring expertise in rehabilitation and re-ablement and research informed innovations that have not been a feature of previous developments.

Kathleen thanked Christine and Janette for their presentation.

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded as a true record.

Local Issues

1. Winwick Lane/Parkside Link Road

The proposed warehouse development by Langtree/St Helens Council will extend on farm land from the A49 to Winwick Lane. St Helens was unable to access the M6 directly and has consulted on a link road from A49 to Winwick Lane to enable traffic to access and leave the site. This will have a huge impact on the traffic through Lane Head, both HGV and light goods vehicles.

This is in addition to the increased traffic generated by Florida Farm and Haydock Point. Also the impact of a proposed 9,000 houses in Warrington; two toll road bridges over the Mersey and a motorway system strained to breaking point - as outlined by letter from the CPRE. The need to collaborate with all local authorities is imperative. Further information on Warrington Borough website. Warrington aspire to maintain green belt between Warrington and Wigan. Currently proposed house developments in Culcheth and Croft are not excessive.

Awaiting both the change of signage on the M6 by Highways England and Warrington to indicate that Winwick Lane is no longer a primary route and the results of the 6 local traffic surveys carried out by TfGM on behalf of Wigan. There doesn't appear to be any change in sat nav systems to indicate the change in status of Winwick Lane.

The benefits of measuring traffic flows via mobile phone data was explained. A very accurate method. Whilst an expensive method of data collection as used commercially, we will explore its potential.

The question was asked whether the Parkside application will be called in by the Government – given that the Haydock developments were not. He questioned whether it was not a conflict of interests if St Helens was a name on the application.

It was suggested that St Helens only included the possibility of a SRFI in their initial proposals to qualify the land to be removed from Green Belt. There has been little reference to this of late. PAG is again requesting practical support in its campaign to stop Parkside. Eg leaflet deliveries or specific expertise. Traffic figures quoted at the recent Consultations are questionable.

2. A summary of a letter from Karl Battersby, Wigan's Director for Economy and Environment to the Chief Exec of St Helens, Mike Palin was reported. It commented on proposed developments. The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham has deferred the publication of its Spatial Framework. Any land released from Green Belt (Junction 26 and Pocket Nook Lowton) would need substantial infrastructure improvements. St Helens Local plan represents 451 hectares of new employment land again requiring infrastructure investment. Karl Battersby maintained it is essential for the local Councils and Highways England to work together.

3. Representatives of LHSRG attended a meeting on 31st August with Jo Platt MP and Cllr Richard Barber. Jo was very supportive of the traffic problems at Lane Head which will increase with future proposed developments. She promised to meet with the neighbouring Councils, Council officers and MP's to discuss the issues. She was to meet Karl Battersby on 15th September and we await to hear the outcome.

4. Representatives of LENDF attended a meeting with Jo Platt MP on 1st Sept, putting her in the picture with regard to issues that LENDF had been dealing with over the past few years, inc. Housing Developments, Station at Kenyon Junction, HS2 and St. Helens proposed developments close to the boundary with Wigan Council. With regard to the latter it was suggested that someone needs to be taking an overview of the bigger picture, this could be in the form of some kind of regional development Council.

Action:

- a. Obtain data from mobile phones on traffic flows
- b. Raise awareness of air pollution at Lane Head via poster campaign once data on air pollution is obtained
- c. Use data to make a case that can be taken to "Higher" authorities.

5. HS2 No further information.

6. Delamere Ave/Winton Road

Two alternative schemes are being discussed to deal with the 'rat run.' A barrier separating Winton Road/Delamere Ave or a closure at either Newton Road or Delamere Ave. This is with Wigan's legal department to begin the necessary procedures for consultation with residents. Our thanks to Terry Hewitt for his hard work.

A representative from the houses on the East Lancs Road reported on problems of traffic using the road as a 'rat run.' - avoiding traffic lights on A580. A barrier required to prevent traffic cutting through. To date Wigan say it is a Police matter. Residents have written to the

Council and are prepared to carry out a Community speed watch. Counc. Houlton to contact Kenny Stroud from Wigan to speed up process.

7. Mt Tabor

The four horses have been removed by the council/ bailiffs. The fences/structures have been taken down and are awaiting Council removal under the auspices of their legal department. The land now requires tidying up and returning to its natural state as heath/meadow for the use as a Village Green for the local population. A suggestion that a 'token' bonfire could be lit on November 5th for local residents, to recognise its village Green status. Committee to explore this option.

It was suggested that a robust metal sign is erected on Mt Tabor indicating its status as a public facility. This could include the flora and fauna observable on the site.

8. St Catherine's Church

No date for demolition. Suggestion that an entrance will be made onto Kenyon Lane. Documents received from a local resident are evidence that the church was purchased and fitted out by local residents and should be returned to local people. The Archdiocese has been challenged on this previously - but will not agree to a change of heart. Concern over asbestos found within the church and that vandals are already active there.

9. Financial Report

We have a modest but adequate bank balance sufficient for current contingencies.

10. Diary

Walk around the area on Saturday 2nd September was very interesting and successfully demonstrated the extent of land that would be swallowed up by Parkside. Further walks and leaflets are planned.

Bowling Tournament: Red Lion Saturday 7th Oct Time 1.30- 4.30pm Cost £2

Talk: Golborne Sports and Social Club. Tuesday 14th Nov. "The murder at Kenyon Junction"/Quiz – Tickets £3 inclu. refreshments available next month.

Carols around the Tree: Winton Road Sunday 3rd Dec. 4pm

Next Litter pick: Saturday 27th Oct. Meet Red Lion 10am

Police Meeting - There is a public meeting at Lowton Social club on Monday 2nd October at 7-30pm at which PC Mayo and colleagues will be in attendance.

Last Night of the Proms - Lowton Social Club, 14th October. Tickets £5 available from Cllr Kath Houlton tel. 07375661910 and Kathleen Johnson tel. 01925224659. 14th Dec. 7.30pm Tickets £5. Golborne Brass Band and Three Towns Choir.

Mt Tabor Community Woodland working party: Date tba.

11. Any Other Business

Vandalism Dolly's Bridge

The owner of the stables at Dolly's Bridge has reported considerable vandalism and theft from his property. Considering placing a bund around the area to prevent would be vandals accessing his property. Residents should be aware of potential 'traveller' activity.

Whats App

We are asked to remember that this App is intended for use in emergency circumstances when there is urgent need of immediate help. (Post meeting – whilst the meeting was in progress an attempted burglary initiated over 30 Whats App contacts. The app was effective in raising awareness of the attempted break in. A Facebook page is to be set up for updates and general information.

Policing

Ted Thwaite making enquiries as to the possible use of volunteers to carry out admin jobs.

Next Meeting: Monday 20th Nov. 7.30pm The Red Lion