

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP MEETING HELD ON 17th JULY 2017

- Chairman – Kathleen Johnson, Secretary – Gill Dickinson, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees: 27

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from D. Eubank, C&A Lowe and D.Walkden. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May, which had been circulated via email, were proposed and seconded as a true record.

UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES:

Winwick Lane/Parkside Development

Gill Dickinson gave an update as follows: 'In 2014 an automated traffic count recorded 17,037 vehicles a day, including 751 HGVs using Winwick Lane. If a weight restriction was placed on Winwick Lane HGVs would be advised by traffic signs to use the A580 and M6 between junctions 22 and 23. Air pollution in the area was revealed by a survey in 2013. Winwick Lane (A579) was de-primed in February 2017. After the 9th full meeting with Wigan, Warrington and St. Helens Councils, Highways England, The Police and local Councillors, LHSRG and representatives of Croft and Culcheth Parish Councils. It was proposed that a Permanent Traffic order be placed on the whole of Winwick Lane restricting HGVs to 7.5tons. Whilst there appeared to be support for this from the Warrington Parish Councillors: it was rejected by their full Councils.

Suggestions since have been to place a unilateral weight limit on the Wigan part of Winwick Lane, from Dolly's bridge (the railway line) to Newton Road. This is not seen as ideal by Wigan Council. Alternatively, place an Experimental Traffic Order on the Lane. This would enable HGV traffic to be measured prior to a weight limit being installed, monitoring any increased flows of HGV traffic through Warrington's Parish areas as a result of a weight restriction. A seven-day survey is being conducted at: A579 Winwick Lane (south of Newton Road), A574 Warrington Road (south of A580 – Greyhound Island), B5207 Church Lane (between Newton Road and A580), A572 Newton Road (south of A580), A573 Warrington Road (south of A580 – Golborne Island) and B5207 Kenyon Lane (south of Newton Road).

The recent proposals by St. Helens to construct a link road from the A49 to Winwick Lane, to service a new Parkside Development will obviously impact on Lowton. Some 100 vehicles an hour, according to St. Helens' traffic consultants. It may be, however, that Wigan will only support the Parkside development if the infrastructure does not impact adversely on Wigan, ie a weight limit is introduced on Winwick Lane. This does not mean, however, that Parkside will not have a negative effect on residents at Lane Head. Far from it...

LHSRG still believe we should object to the Parkside proposal and continue to work towards a weight restriction independent of the development.'

Parkside Development: Representatives from the Parkside Action Group requested support from LHSRG in various ways to help to object to the forthcoming plans by St. Helens. Initially by putting up posters and a newsletter was suggested informing residents of the proposals. Anyone with technical expertise may be able to help when the documents are issued in order to counter the Council's arguments. Further meetings on this topic are to be held and residents will be notified by email. Councillor Grundy reported that meetings with representatives from Wigan Council are being arranged to assess what could or could not be done. The various phases of the project were talked through with the initial phase being the Winwick Lane link-road. All of the land being proposed for use will be taken from the greenbelt.

Mount Tabor – Application for Village Green Status: The application by LHSRG was successful and the official notification had been received and was read out at the meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for their support especially those who had written statements in support of the application and those who attended the meeting at the Council offices. Thanks were also extended to the Chairman for all the hard work that she and Colin had put in to achieve this success.

Diggle Green: Very little to report and there have been very few reports of the smells.

Delamere/Winton Road: Terry Hewitt reported that the meeting of the Traffic Management committee will be held on 18th July. If the proposals are agreed residents will be invited for their views. It was also reported that a large number of vehicles are using the 'rat run' to avoid the queues at Kenyon Lane traffic lights and are coming the wrong way down a one-way road. Comments were also made on the slowness of the traffic lights at Kenyon Lane only allowing a few cars to exit the Lane before they change – this is adding to the traffic congestion.

HS2: Announcements had been made on the national news channels with the initial contracts being awarded for the first phase from London to Birmingham. Nothing new has been announced regarding the spur which passes through our area. This is in Phase 2b and the final approval of this has yet to go to Parliament.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Treasurer read out to the meeting the current bank balance.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Circular Walk from Mount Tabor – this will be announced in August via email.

Tuesday 14th November: Talk on 'Kenyon Junction Murders' followed by a quiz at Golborne Sports and Social Club.

Wednesday 26th July at 1.00 pm at Haydock Park Golf Club the Book Club will discuss their latest book 'Pride and Prejudice' anyone wishing to attend please do so, even if you haven't read the book recently but know the story.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

It is proposed to have another litter pick in the area on Saturday 26th August at 10.00am meeting in the Red Lion car park. Volunteers are very welcome.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bowling: The Bowling Club was started on the 21st April and will run until October. It is proposed to cease the 5-7pm session, however, the 3-5pm session will continue. It will be publicised more widely on the website in order to attract more interest. It was reported that new fencing has been ordered to try to keep children off the bowling surface. The pavilion is to be repainted.

Five Acres: A plan to turn the house and grounds into a Retirement Village with care has been put forward and a meeting with the developers will take place on 19th July.

Travellers in Golborne: The travellers are on private land and it is therefore taking longer to remove them.

Policing: Discussion regarding the low number of police in the area took place. Currently there has been a spate of robberies from cars parked on driveways. Do not leave valuables in your car and make sure it is locked. The idea of volunteers manning the desks in the local police stations was put forward and Councillor Grundy to look into this.

Local Walks: These are still being compiled.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30 in the Red Lion pub.