

## LANE HEAD RESIDENTS' GROUP MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

- Chairman – Kathleen Johnson, Deputy Chairman – Denis Eubank, Secretary – Gill Dickinson, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees: 26

### WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with a particular welcome to Tamaryn Mclafferty from PAG who will speak about her work on air quality. A special welcome was also extended to Denis who is on the road to recovery. Also congratulations to James Grundy MP on his parliamentary success. Apologies were received from J.Grundy MP, H.Cooper, L.Nordmann, J.Latto, C.Lowe.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 which had previously been sent out by email were proposed and seconded as a true record.

### UPDATE OF LOCAL ISSUES

#### Parkside:

A number of residents attended the St. Helens Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December, a recording of this meeting is available on the St. Helens Council's website under the section on Planning Meetings. The two planning applications, Phase 1 and the Link Road, were passed by the Council. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Warrington Council, were debating the planning application as a small portion of the link road passes through their borough. This was also passed. The only objection to this was raised by Joan Grimes from Glazebury Parish Council. The only hope now is that this will be called in and letters have been sent to the Inspectorate at Communities Commission.

Councillor Houlton has spoken to James Grundy who appears to be making headway on behalf of our area with regard to a bypass and local issues. If residents could send letters of support to him this would be helpful (email: emilyb.siddall@parliament.uk). A call in request has been made by him and Andy Burnham. The MP for Warrington South has also been approached to support a call in. There is a meeting of Council Officers on 7<sup>th</sup> February and James will be there along with LHSRG.

#### Winwick Lane:

The final decision is currently awaited after the Planning Meeting has taken place. A number of objections have been received. It was noted that since the Experimental Traffic Order was placed on the Lane, the number of cars has increased.

**Air Quality:** Gill Dickinson has spoken to the Environmental department at Wigan Council and received the figures which are available after two years of air quality monitoring on Winwick Lane. For 2018 NO<sub>2</sub> figure was 65 and for 2019 the NO<sub>2</sub> figure was 63 against the legal limit of 40ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Wigan are therefore trying to persuade Warrington to co-operate regarding a weight limit on both sides of Winwick Lane. Wigan will only be compliant with the Government directives on air quality if both sides of the road are weight restricted. This information needs to be sent to James Grundy. The Chairman then introduced Tamaryn Mclafferty to speak about air quality. Her husband, a statistician, has examined the figures regarding traffic movements and emissions which St. Helens produced in their plans for Parkside. She commented that historically large infrastructure projects are not always called in, however, the air quality and nitrogen dioxide figures along with particulate matter which all cause lung disease and respiratory illness, is surely a strong case for this. She has contacted The Times newspaper which is running a "clean air for all" project, in the hope that this case can be highlighted. The Labour council is contradicting its manifesto regarding air quality, they have approved plans which brings more pollution to its residents as details of erroneous correlations

in the figures used in the planning application have been found. Discussions are currently taking place with The Times. In order to further bring this to the attention of the media a petition with people standing outside the entrance to Parkside was a good idea. Councillor Houlton has asked for an update on pollution figures and whether money could be made available for air quality monitors.

#### **HS2:**

Councillor Houlton commented that James Grundy was on the news reporting that he and other northern MPs will be meeting with the Minister for Transport to put forward new ideas.

#### **Filter at Traffic Lights:**

Wigan Council have been written to requesting filters be put on the traffic lights for traffic turning right into Kenyon Lane. The following reply has been received "The right turn from Newton Road into Kenyon Lane has a dedicated lane for up to four vehicles to safely wait at the centre of the carriageway for a gap in traffic travelling southbound. Installing a right turn filter here would significantly delay traffic travelling southbound on Newton Road and Church Lane which would subsequently add to the congestion on the wider network, therefore we are unable to incorporate your request into the sequencing of the traffic signals." If people feel strongly about this matter, please send a letter to the Council.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The current bank balance was read out to the meeting. Discussions took place regarding which charities should receive the monies from donations at the Carols round the Tree in December. It was felt that £50 should be given to the Rotary and £50 to Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

#### **DATES FOR DIARY**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Darts and Dominoes 7.00 for 7.30pm at Golborne Sports and Social Club.  
Tickets £3 to include a pasty  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Picnic in the Park (Mount Tabor) please put in your diary.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**Litter Pick:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am from the Red Lion pub. Litter sacks to be returned to pub car park for the Council to pick up at 12.00noon. Coffee for all helpers available after 12.00 at 350 Newton Road.

**Floral Displays:** A request has been made to Wigan Council for floral displays in the area especially Winwick Lane. These will be watered by a local resident as it is too dangerous for Council workers! The area round the Christmas Tree also needs replanting. Lists of where the displays need to be placed should be sent to Councillor Houlton.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Speeding on Newton Road:** A request has been made for the speed watch monitor to be repaired.

**Lowton & Golborne Traffic Action Group:** Professor Graham Wardle has set up this new action group to look at all traffic issues and whether funding can be made available for pollution monitors at major road junctions. Residents' Associations are automatically members of this group.

**Rats:** It was reported that there are a large number of rat sightings on Heath Lane. It is advisable not to put food out for the birds as this was encouraging them to come into gardens.

**Delamere Road/Winton Avenue:** It was reported that the number of cars using this as a fast route to Kenyon Lane from Newton Road is creeping up. A few residents wearing high visibility jackets and taking photographic evidence needs to take place in a morning to try to deter them.

**St. Catherine's Site:** Complaints were received regarding the amount of dirt on the road from lorries using the site.

**AGM Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.** Residents will be notified of the venue in case the Red Lion is closed for refurbishment. Any nominations for officers to be sent to the Chairman.