



Fwd: Your recent letter to Stan Walker and a proposal for an additional meeting

lowton east neighbourhood development forum <lendf99@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 7:08 PM

LENDF have received a response from Transport for Leigh and a reply has been sent.

Please see below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **lowton east neighbourhood development forum** <lendf99@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 6:06 PM
Subject: Re: Your recent letter to Stan Walker and a proposal for an additional meeting
To: Ged Tyrrell <Ged.Tyrrell@tyrrellsystems.com>

At our meeting on the 24th April I presented you with a drawing linking Atherleigh Way to Wilton Lane then linking Wilton Lane to Winwick Lane creating a by pass to the motorway. We clearly stated that without the by pass we could not support your desire for a station at the side of the A580 near Lane Head.

A link road from Winwick Lane to the station would serve no purpose in reducing traffic through Lane Head.

Lowton is in dire need of this by pass so as you see HS2 as a opportunity for a Station We see a bigger picture with the opportunity to have a by pass.

James and Richard will confirm my view of what took place at the meeting.

With regards to the comment a bunch of guys from Leigh want a station not being professional.

This is exactly how the residents view what is going on. No-one has asked the residents of Lowton if they want this station. So it is as stated a few guys in Leigh have a desire for a station that might not match that of the community.

The only way you will get support for this major development is with a by pass being part of it and we need full commitment from everyone Wigan council Andy Burnham HS2 etc.

With no by pass I fear the people of Lowton would vote in a referendum against the station, and we would have to give them the opportunity to do so.

Unfortunately I can not attend the meeting I will ask Irene Thompson my secretary and Peter Sargeant to attend.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Ged Tyrrell <Ged.Tyrrell@tyrrellsystems.com> wrote:

Dear Ed

Further to your email dated Friday 14th June at 5:22pm, it would appear that there is some confusion as to the position of Transport For Leigh on the nature of the link road in our proposals to the interchange station in Lowton.

Please let me start by saying that at the meeting on the 24th April in our office, attended by you, me, James Grundy and Richard Short it was tabled that there was a tremendous concern from the residents of Lowton regarding extra congestion brought about by additional cars accessing the station and that Lane Head was already too busy to accept additional traffic. On that basis, we agreed to extend the link road to the station beyond the station to join up with Winwick Lane, as per our current plans, and this was well received. I simply do not recall the use of the words of your email in our meeting, quote "if a station was to have our support a By Pass from Atherleigh Way to the motorway must be incorporated into the plans and Ged agreed." I obviously agreed to extending the road but not as a bypass or indeed to the motorway, but to Winwick lane, as per the drawing at the time and the one shown at the public meeting. Equally, you say in the following paragraph that there is no consideration given to the additional congestion, yet this is simply not true, since the link road will resolve any additional congestion brought about by the station, which was exactly your concern when you came to the meeting. The link road in fact will reduce congestion overall since it can be used by light vehicles to access Winwick lane.

I want to be really clear on this, that the objections raised at the meeting were regarding additional traffic generated by the station and therefore, the remit of the new link road was to mitigate against the placement of the station causing additional congestion. Given this remit (from LENDF and Clr Grundy), the link road will certainly achieve this objective, and we felt we had a way forwards. In fact, at that meeting we all had agreement on the remit and the proposed achievement of the new link road being such to address those concerns. On that basis the link road remains in the plan.

However, I think we now perhaps need another meeting to discuss recent developments where I would like some clarity on what I now hear to be expectations from the people of Lowton that the road is in fact to be some kind of by-pass for Lane Head, including provision for HGV vehicles. Whilst HGVs were mentioned at the meeting as being a problem for Lane Head, the main subject of the discussion was the additional cars brought about by the new commuters using the station, even to the point that the number of car parking spaces was brought up during the early part of the discussions.

We are very keen to have the people of Lowton on board and included the link road on that basis, yet if what I am hearing is true, we clearly need to have further discussion because I cannot understand how what I felt was a clear remit from you with a clear solution from us can be taken so far out of context or scope.

With regard to the comments about a bunch of guys from Leigh, I feel these are simply unprofessional and uncalled for since this initiative is about the wider region and these kind of comments really do not help in my view as we should be focussing on the greater good for all concerned. If I had remained in Lowton myself, where I lived for 16 years, my views and strategy would be exactly the same since this is about shaping a future for the benefit of the majority; increasing prospects, improving accessibility, mobility and prosperity. If you follow that line of thinking it is as if somehow the only people who could be concerned about Lowton are those who live there, which is simply not true since a person can have a concern for anyone or anything regardless of where they come from, like Peter the ecologist, who comes from Newton. This view would say that Wilberforce himself would have had to be a slave in order to want to abolish slavery and reduces a man or a woman to only ever have concerns for the village from which they come from or live in. I don't consider this kind of thinking is either beneficial or helpful in any way, especially when put into writing. Equally, consideration and a solution has been given to the impact of the station in the form of the link road.

As it happens, I have a meeting scheduled for this coming Friday the 21st June at 12:30pm in Andy Burnham's office. If he is willing, perhaps we could re-convene there so we can try to resolve this in an amicable way for the good of all and find a mutual and reasonable way forwards so we can try to take an active role in shaping our future in a positive way to the benefit of our region.

We need to do all we can to try to be in agreement and your continued desire to achieve this is vital.

Please can you all confirm back if you are available and willing to attend.

Kind Regards

Ged

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