

Statement from LENDF Chairman regarding HS2

Having read some of the comments on Facebook about our stand on HS2 I felt it would be helpful to explain our position.

Let me say first that we are in no politician's pocket, and LENDF is a non-political organisation seeking what is best for our community.

The reason we are not taking a stance on HS2 is as follows:

- Villages all along the line are trying to stop it Culcheth, Hollins Green, Lymm and many more back towards Birmingham.
- Warrington Council want it to follow the existing West Coast line and are presenting their case to Government.
- Commons Auditors are against it, as are Virgin Rail.

It would be better if it was not planned to come through Lowton, and we would be quite happy not to have it. However, if the Government insist on it coming through here then there is nothing we can do about it.

Government have changed the rules on infrastructure projects and there is no appeal system.

We feel that there are enough objections being placed and should any succeed then we won't get it anyway.

If the Government decide to route HS2 through Lowton then LENDF will get involved to obtain the best we can out of an imposed situation.

Right now we have bigger issues to sort out. We have meetings with Wigan Planners to get the best out of the Local Development Framework.

How and where the 1,000 houses we have to build across Golborne and Lowton between now and 2026.

What development money we can get our hands on for the benefit of Lowton.

How, when and where will we get extra schools.

Traffic congestion issues.

All this on top of organising:

Fun Day for our children in August

Last Night of the Proms Concert in October

So you can see we are prioritising our efforts. Anything can happen with HS2 over the coming years, funding can fail; Governments can change; and our bet right now is it won't happen.

So why waste our time fighting an 'idea'.

Ed Thwaite
Chairman

Lowton East
Neighbourhood Development Forum