

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LEPDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14 October 2024 at Lowton Social Club

Chair	Prof. Graham Wardle (GW)
Secretary	Liz Brown (LB)
Councillor	Garry Lloyd (GL)
Councillor	Mike Smith (MS)
Councillor	Jenny Gregory (JG)
Guests	Shy Bayly (Area Engagement Lead, United Utilities) Also her colleagues Mark and Cate
Apologies (Committee)	Irene Thomson (IT), Gill Turner (GT), Julie Shawcross (JS) all sick :(

No. of attendees = 23

1. Welcome and previous minutes

Minutes not read out at meeting, but copies have been sent out by email, put on the Facebook page and on the LENDF website. New visitors and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Questions for United Utilities, providing our water and waste water:

The group welcomed the 3 UU staff, Shy, Mark and Cate, and thanked them for attending the meeting. They talked through a presentation, written as a response to questions previously submitted by residents. The staff stopped periodically during the presentation to answer further questions from residents present. **Please read the presentation in this link:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TOkQNAHJpULecqr9LenpSgHZ5zXmhJV/view>

It contains a subset of the information they presented, this includes locations of storm overflows. At the end of the presentation, the staff stopped to collect contact details of residents present who had specific water issues, they will follow these up once back in the office. Some extra information included:

- Their ability to swap the water supply to and from different areas dependant on need.
- They took away specific concerns about particular storm overflows on the Populars, black sludge still coming from specific residents taps and low water pressure.
- There is no requirement for surface water from road grids to be treated, however water from combined sewers does, and this is an increasing problem when they overflow, via the storm overflows, into local watercourses. See where your local one is on the presentation map.
- The Council do NOT need to inform UU of any building plans !!! The UU do NOT receive any S106 monies for water infrastructure, their money comes from the normal water rates that new house owners pay. New builds often have a big tank or pond where water can dissipate.
- It is recommended that we mention water concerns (poor water pressure, discolouration....) in any new building plan comments, and write to our MP to ask for this legislation to be updated to include water utilities as a Statuary Consultant in planning applications. This is in light of

accelerated house building, climate change, and the fashion for turning new **and existing** gardens into non-porous surfaces, all increasing the storm overflow issues. Rain has fewer and fewer places to soak into the ground as new and existing garden water is increasingly diverted into road grids. This all leads to greater flooding.

- **Unpave the way** is a collaborative project between United Utilities, the Environment Agency and other partners. There are some good resources on slowing the flow and sustainable features for gardens and driveways: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/unpave-the-way/>
- The Council are responsible for maintaining the rainwater road grids. Please contact them if any become blocked.
<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Crime-Emergencies/Flooding/Drains-and-sewers.aspx>
- **If residents have any specific water issues** then please contact
<https://www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/>

3. Councillors' business

- Jenny reported MP **Jo Platt's** full official contact details are: Phone 01942 950219, email jo.platt.mp@parliament.uk , constituency office 92 Bradshawgate, Leigh.
- Garry reported current spending of their **Brighter Boroughs** monies: A subsidy for a Golborne Brass Band competition trip (they won!); Money for Golborne Sports Club (Cricket Section) where the majority (80%) of members live in Lowton; Money for Golborne and Lowton Art Group to hold an event at Lowton Community Centre including displaying the work of local artist Janet Bilsbury.
- Garry reminded residents that the Wigan Council '**Our Town**' event is taking place w/c October 28th, 2024. <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Deal-Communities/Our-Town/Cleaner-Greener-Works.aspx>

4. Oaklands Park and Pond Street Park:

- Pond Street park has been refurbished with S106 monies and is now open. It is looking good and the residents seem pleased with the result. Thanks to Martin Smith from the Council for organising.
- The plan for Oaklands Park is now complete, **please see map link:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K4WL4CJa-c7_5hUZsD_loZ11AhX5lszi/view The contract has been won by **Kompan**. Residents voted to have an Oak tree planted near the centre of the park. It would have to be a good sized young tree to prevent vandalism and so would need to be professionally planted. Liz will try to chase this up with the Council/Kompan. The Council are hoping to have an opening ceremony. Residents commented it would also be nice to have local youth groups present such as East Leigh Football, Gemstone Dancing and a martial arts group from the Lowton Hub doing a couple of activities. In addition, Lowton Social Club could be involved for drinks and use of toilet facilities. Fingers crossed.

5. Parking:

- **Yellow Lines with blips:** Graham stated *more* of these lines were appearing across Lowton. The blips are small yellow lines on the pavement kerb in addition to double yellow lines. These lines mean 'no parking under ANY circumstance' including blue badge parking. **See attached** for pictures: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-NyVQaoPR5zr8WarsA1eYyZAuhyvg-0p/view>
Please email Graham if this adversely affects you. Lagtac.data@gmail.com

- **Cashless parking pay stations:** Graham stated these are springing up as the older models are being replaced. Although not as tempting to vandals, paying via App, QR code or card isn't always easy, safe or possible for drivers. Be careful with QR codes as scammers are putting fraud QR codes over the top. Also if there is no spaces available, you might be charged for not parking. Please get on to the council about these issues before cash becomes a thing of the past.
- Please note that **Pennington Flash** has 3 pay stations, only the one nearest the cafe has the option of cash because it has more security around it. Blue badge holders do have to pay. Also you get 30 minutes free parking here before being charged.

6. AOB / Updates / Addendum:

- a) Addendum: Last Night of the Proms was a great success. Thanks to Sally from the Social Club for organising and the 3 Lowton East Councillors for contributing Brighter Borough monies to make it a free event. Golborne Brass Band and The Three Town Choir were in good form.
- b) Addendum: As well as the Councillors, LENDF now have a key for the Braitwaite Road new Noticeboard. Thanks Mike.
- c) Potholes are now present on McColls' carpark AGAIN. That crushed stone didn't last long!
- d) *The LHSRG meeting on the 16th September was very interesting regarding local traffic issues. See link for minutes: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jfSvVDSdLrmzbF8VV-igUt6t6GP92XLV/view> . **Addendum: Council Plans are now available to alter the roads at Lane Head and Stone Cross Lane with S106 monies. We will send this information in another email.***
- e) A recent car accident on the A580 right hand turn onto Atherleigh Way shows this is a dangerous piece of road as often the cars are stationary in the fast lane waiting to turn. These incidents will get worst once the new housing estate (200+ houses 1st phase) is built.
- f) The possible Traveller site mooted for the old Kenyon Lane garden centre is an evolving story, hopefully it has now reached a conclusion as owners of the access land would prevent pass and repass for that purpose. Addendum: <https://www.warringtonguardian.co.uk/news/24667948.council-will-not-buy-kenyon-lane-land-traveller-transit-site/>

Next meeting:

Mon **9th** December 2024 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club