

MINUTES OF LHSRG MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2024

IN THE TRAVEL LODGE CONFERENCE ROOM

Kathleen Johnson welcomed everyone particularly Paul Blinkhorn who attended on behalf of Jo Platt MP and the two Council Officers Shaun Alli and Mike Orrell.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jenny Gregory, Emma Fox, Andy & Heather Lomas and Ed Houlton. 26 present.

Minutes of the last meeting on 16th September previously circulated by email were proposed, seconded and approved.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES:

The Council Officers spoke to the following issues: Modifications to the East Lancs Road; Newton Road; Stonecross Lane; safety issues on Kenyon Lane and the public engagement which is still ongoing.

Maps showing the proposed alterations to the service road on the East Lancs were shown on slide and A3 copies passed around, the Council Officers described how these alterations would work.

A number of concerns were raised by residents and the Council Officers took names and addresses of those present who live on the service road, in order to meet with them at a date to be arranged in the future (aiming for w/c 2 Dec).

Residents raised concerns regarding the proposal to ban the right turn from Newton Road to Church Lane. Following the meeting, the council has confirmed it will act on residents' concerns and drop this part of the proposals.

Residents raised concerns regarding traffic rat-running against the one way on the service road. Council officers explained that this would be discouraged by tightening the junction geometry to make it more difficult to illegally turn into the service road from the A580.

Residents raised concerns regarding the air quality impacts of the proposals on the service road. Council officers explained that the proposals should lead to a reduction in standing traffic, which should improve air quality. Air quality monitors will be put in place to compare before and after construction air quality.

Residents raised concerns regarding the narrowing of the service road, adjacent the pedestrian crossing. Council officers explained the narrowing would be no more than 0.75m (2'6"). Sightlines will be double checked and give-way markings can be added to formalise the current give and take operation at the existing narrowing/bend.

A resident requested a crash barrier on the island between the A580 and the service road. Council officers will undertake an assessment to understand if this is feasible, though available width may be a limiting factor.

Graham Wardle requested that the traffic modelling report be shared showing the methodology used to determine traffic flow at the A580/Newton Road junction and Lane Head area. Also to provide traffic data evidence in support of their choices of road layout. The council will make

this available via their website to enable further discussions between Major Projects and local residents.

A resident in Church Lane who lives close to the traffic lights has asked for 'keep clear' road markings to be put in front of his driveway. The feasibility of this and further requests for keep clear road markings on the A580 and Newton Road, at the service road accesses, and Newton Road, adjacent the Travel Lodge car park access, are also being explored.

It was requested that speed restrictions be changed on the East Lancs before Lane Head so the traffic should be doing 40mph instead of 50mph. A request for a speed restriction on the service road of 20mp be implemented.

Once the construction work starts (Summer 2025) it will be one continuous program of work for approx. four months (exact start date and duration to be confirmed once a contractor is appointed).

The topic of heavy goods vehicles using Newton Road was raised and concerns of the speed of traffic as well along that road. The Council Officers reported that the Council is trying to work with Warrington and St. Helens Councils regarding the HGVs. Haydock Island is also one long traffic jam.

A resident raised the issue that will arise when Stone Cross junction is altered to three lanes. The problem will be for pedestrians to walk to McDonalds and the hotel. Further pedestrian crossings need to be implemented. Council officers are exploring the feasibility of incorporating uncontrolled pedestrian crossings, via the islands, at the roundabout.

Winwick Lane: discussions took place regarding the plan to move the traffic lights for traffic travelling down the lane to be set further back so that standing traffic is not in front of the houses. This could then improve the air quality which currently exceeds the legal maximum. The Council Officers explained that there could be compliance issues. The council has explored trialling the proposals, but due to the infrastructure required for a trial, it is more cost effective to implement the full scheme.

A resident raised concerns at the Winwick Lane / Newton Road junction with left turners running the red light and leaving opposing right turners stranded in the junction. Council officers will investigate if a right turn filter can be added without unduly affecting capacity on the other arms of the junction.

The junction with Newton Road, Church Lane and Kenyon Lane is currently being traffic modelled in order to put in a pedestrian crossing. Data is being collected to see how many people cross and the impact the crossing would have on traffic.

PARKSIDE PHASE 3: Gareth Edwards spoke to the plans currently for a rail freight terminal to be built between the M6 and Winwick Lane this will take approximately 500 acres of land. A request was made to the Councillors to assess what Wigan's position will be regarding the development of approximately 200 acres of land within their borough to Tritax which is the developer. Cllr Lloyd reported that Wigan are awaiting the new Government Policy on planning and no comments have been made after meetings which took place with Tritax. LHSRG will be writing to Wigan Council.

DIGGLE GREEN; A presentation can currently be accessed on the LENDF website. A request has been made to the Ombudsman to look at the breaking of regulations regarding lorries

driving to the site at unsocial hours and the amount of flies and smells from the site. There is a new housing estate being proposed opposite the site. A question was raised whether Wigan could pressure the Environment Agency to act. Objections should be sent to enforcement@warrington.gov.uk

DOLLY'S STUD: There is no further information. Wigan are still trying to enforce the enforcement notice.

KENYON LANE NURSERY: There is no further information other than the report in the newspaper that Warrington Council are not proceeding with their plans to buy the site.

CROCUS PLANTING: Kath Johnson has a number of crocuses to be planted in public areas if anyone wishes to volunteer to plant some please contact her.

DATES FOR DIARY: Carols Round the Tree – Sunday 1st December at 4.00pm with Father Christmas and Epiphany Brass Band. There will be mince pies, mulled wine, soft drinks. Proceeds to Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

The next LHSRG meeting will be held on Monday 20th January 2025 in the Conference Room at the Travel Lodge hotel, Newton Road.