

## Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8 July, at Lowton Social Club

<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

- Chair – Ed Thwaite,
- Cllr Kath Houlton, Cllr James Grundy
- Apologies - Cllr Ed Houlton
- Minutes taken by – Gill Turner

No. of attendees - 29

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Minutes from last meeting – not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email, uploaded to website, posted onto Facebook and paper copies were available.

A presentation was given by Professor Graham Wardle regarding traffic/excessive speeding/traffic calming around Lowton and Golborne. Facts and figures were highlighted and data produced regarding traffic around Garton Drive area. Causes of traffic build up were highlighted and possible reasons for this discussed with points of how to reduce it. *Please open the pdf below to view the presentation.*



Lowton Golborn  
Traffic Issues LENDF

### 1. Restoration of Stocks at St Luke's

- It was mentioned that no-one seems to own this and Wigan Council will not restore it.
- A team of volunteers will restore it therefore wood and paint has been sought.

### 2. St Catherine's Land

- No planning permission agreed yet and discussions are taking place around this.
- Post Meeting Note: This has now been approved by Wigan Council. This is one site in Lowton they had enough causes to reject the application. However, having passed this site it tells us all that every other application in this area will be approved.

*Read letter below sent by LENDF.*

Joe Nanson Planning Officer  
Wigan Council  
Town Hall  
Library St  
Wigan  
WN11NH  
04/01/2019

C/C Joe Platt MP, Marie Bintley, Cllrs James Grundy, Kath Houlton, Ed Houlton

A/18/86359/MAJ

Elan Homes Ltd

**For a residential development of 26 houses on the former St Catherine of Sienna Church  
Newton Rd, Lowton**

We object to the possibility of Wigan council passing the above application.

In the 1980s planning permission was refused for six houses to be built on this land due to the only access being on to Newton Rd. The short distance between the A580 and Kenyon Lane traffic lights together with the volume of traffic was considered a problem.

If the traffic was the problem in the 1980s then today it is three times worse. Several hours every day there is standing traffic between these traffic light, causing queuing on both the A580 and Newton Rd.

Apart from the traffic, air pollution in this area is considered dangerous. This is caused by the volume of traffic. Transport for Greater Manchester state that 50,500 vehicles a day pass through the A580 junction. All junctions are running at 150% to 170 % saturation at peak times and 60% to 90% the rest of the day

Lowton is in need of a bypass connecting Atherleigh Way to the M6. Until this happens this land should be left as green space. A small attended area would be appropriate, respecting the graves that remain on site. If the rest was planted with trees and wild flowers it would help nature and relieve pollution.

Ed Thwaite  
Chairman

**3. Oakland's Site on Hesketh Meadow Lane**

- Preservation of trees discussed.
- Density of proposed properties on site and layout to protect trees ongoing all this is being discussed by Wigan Planners

**4. WBC's plans for Lowton and East of Atherleigh**

- Ed read out a press report regarding proposed plans.
- <https://www.wigantoday.net/news/residents-play-waiting-game-on-mass-building-proposals-as-access-road-considered-by-planners-1-9850872>
- Farmers affected had a meeting with Marie Bintley (WBC) and was told their land will not be compulsory purchased for the plans but the council will not take their land out of the plan.

**5. Proposed new junction off the bypass**

- Cllr James Grundy spoke with Joe Nelson from Planning at Wigan Council. Questions asked about what the road is for. The land is owned by Milnes Gaskell Estates. The road is in case planning development is granted on the surrounding land on both sides of the bypass.

- James asked if the road on the Lowton side could be developed and be used for access from the new build on the Poplars estate. Owner of the land (Persimmon Homes) would have to give permission for this to happen it was asked for in the original plans but was changed as builder stated they could not afford to do this. The new build on the estate would use the bypass to access and leave their side of the estate – making two estates. This would alleviate some of the traffic issues Mayfield Drive.
- Wigan Today contacted Ed Thwaite regarding the plans and Ed stated past and present issues. If farmers are not selling the land it needs to be taken out of the plans.

**6. Stone Cross Site**

- The Carlsberg site is being used for an international packaging firm and there will also be a new factory built.

**7. Keyline Company – Pocket Nook Lane**

- They are moving to Widnes in August.

**8. Diggle Green**

- A meeting took place last week with various people and agencies. A further meeting will take place later in the year. Please keep reporting any smells and using emails is best but still notify the Environment Agency.

**9. AOB**

- ✓ The A1 bus route to Manchester was discussed. This is out of our remit, anyone can contact the bus company and/or Andy Burnham (Mayor of Manchester) with queries/suggestion.
- ✓ A discussion took place about the new junction on Winwick Lane (opposite Kenyon Hall Farm) to the airfield. Will there be more planning applications to build on this site? One to keep an eye on.
- ✓ It was mentioned about Hurst funeral cars parking outside Lowton St Luke's Church causing traffic jams at funerals and also wedding cars. This is an issue outside all churches and there are no solutions.
- ✓ It has been mentioned about all the local groups joining together for a social evening. If anyone is interested – this can be discussed and organised.

**NEXT LENDF monthly meeting**

**Monday 12 August 2019 @ 19:30 (7:30pm)**

Lowton Social Club

**All welcome**