

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2019

- Chairman – Kathleen Johnson, Deputy Chairman – Denis Eubank, Secretary – Gill Dickinson, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees: 23

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially new members and thanked them for coming. Apologies were received from: G.Dickinson, D.Eubank, C&A Lowe, C.Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 16th September 2019 which had previously been sent out by email were proposed and seconded as a true record.

UPDATE OF LOCAL ISSUES:

Parkside: This is the dominant issue at the moment. We have to remember there are three major issues to address, all of which need tackling separately. Initially there is Stage 1 which is the development, then the second separate application which is the Link Road to Winwick Lane and thirdly the St. Helens Local Plan. The Local Plan is the request for the land to be taken out of greenbelt which will enable the link road and more warehousing to be built. The Link Road application is likely to go to the Planning Committee on 17th December and it can be assumed this will be passed as St. Helens Council have put money into the development company which is requesting the planning approval. Therefore objection letters need to be sent to St. Helens Council. A pro-forma letter has been inserted into the Newsletter which is about to be distributed and a request made for residents to fill in their names and addresses and forward to the Council.

The Local Plan also needs objecting to and the Inspectorate at Communities Commission needs to know the extent of the opposition. Requests will be sent from this group requesting a 'Call in' once the Planning Meeting has been held. Councillor Grundy is to request that all parliamentary candidates from the area write to object. Wigan Council has submitted a holding objection and subsequent technical objections have been submitted. A request to Dave Rawsthorne to support the people of Lowton (D.Rawsthorne@wigan.gov.uk) . Parkside Action Group will be meeting to discuss the 'Call in' procedure and they will report back to this meeting.

Winwick Lane: Wigan Council have reported that it is their full intention to introduce the 7.5ton restriction on a permanent basis. This information is being advertised on lighting columns in Winwick Lane. The original experimental order was incorrectly advertised. The permanent traffic order will be put in place to help tackle the air quality issues which have been identified since the experimental order was introduced. Gill Dickinson has requested that this group have an input into the new signage which will be placed on the A580. Councillor Grundy announced that this should be possible. It was also reported that there had been seven objections received to the ETO these were from Wigan and St. Helens Councils and Diggle Green.

Air Quality: The previous highest level which was recorded on Winwick Lane was 80 in January, the average levels for 2018 measured 65.6. This figure is double the maximum legal limit of 40ug/m³. A resident who lives on the Lane described how she has suffered twice from pneumonia and ended up in Intensive Care in hospital because of the pollution. Councillor Houlton is taking on the problem as a number of residents are suffering from breathing problems and he is requesting information on other respiratory problems in the area. There is also the problem of noise pollution. If there are any vehicles whose engines are over 90 decibels it can be reported to the Police.

Diggle Green: There is no further information except to remind people to ring Warrington Council 01925 443322 or the Environment Agency 0800 807060 to report any smells. The issue of timings that lorries were given to use the site was raised as it was felt these conditions were being ignored. Some of the vehicles are so wide that when they pass each other on the Lane they have to use the pavement. If anything is witnessed it should be reported to Councillor K. Houlton and she will raise it with Wigan Planning who will raise it with Warrington Council

Footpaths: Paths 81/82 are still not usable due to building work on the new homes. The temporary closure can only last for six months. It has been officially reaffirmed that the footpaths will reopen after the construction project is finished. As traffic increases these paths become more valuable as ways to move around the area and avoid the traffic.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The current bank balance was read out to the meeting.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Saturday 23rd November commencing 12.00noon Christmas Fair at St. Peter's Church, Newton-le-Willows

Sunday 1st December at 4.00pm Carols round the Tree with Father Christmas

Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm St. Peter's Church – Roberts Bakery Brass Band with Pipe Band (£7 payable on the door)

Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm Epiphany Trust Community Carol Concert, IM Church

Tuesday 28th January 2020 – Darts & Dominoes, Golborne Sports and Social Club

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

It was reported that the trees have been cut down at The Oaklands which was a boys home by Hesketh Meadow Lane. The Council is in the process of selling this building. Councillor Houlton has requested to know how many of the trees had a preservation order on them. So far no planning has been granted for the site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

St. Catherine's site: A pumping station is to be put on the ground behind the 26 houses which are being built. The station will be on the edge of the field at the back of the estate.

Speeding on Newton Road: A letter from a local resident has been sent to Wigan Council regarding the volume and speeding traffic on Newton Road. Some of the cars are doing between 60 and 70mph. There have recently been two dogs killed by cars. A neighbourhood app has been set up and a large number of people have responded regarding traffic speed. Warrington Council appear to be more proactive regarding putting speed bumps on their roads. Wigan appear to do nothing. There are 189 houses on Newton Road which are now being affected by speeding, this equates to approximately £350,000 in council tax. Any accidents should be reported to the Council and letters sent to the local Police Inspector regarding speeding. Councillor Grundy mentioned that a pro-forma letter could be issued.

Travellers: Les Bagshaw raised the issue of new legislation. Police are being given new power to arrest travellers who are trespassing and seize their caravans. The Home Secretary has drawn up proposals which will give Police the power to remove offenders from the property.

Traffic Light Filters: Discussion took place regarding the inability of cars to turn right safely at the traffic lights both at Kenyon Lane and Winwick Lane. Lots of cars come through the lights when they are on red which makes turning right very hazardous. Councillor Houlton to bring this request to the attention of Wigan Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Red Lion pub.