

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2019, at Lowton Social Club

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

- Chair – Ed Thwaite
- Cllr Kath Houlton, Cllr James Grundy, Cllr Edward Houlton
- Minutes taken by – Gill Turner
- Visitor – Catherine Jones, Community Capacity Officer, Wigan Council

No. of attendees - 24

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

NOTE – First agenda Stated Hesketh Meadow Lane planning had been passed
This is not correct and should have read Pocket Nook Lane passed.

A second agenda was issued and e-mailed out with correct details.

1. Restoration of Stocks at St Luke's

- A letter has been sent to Northwest Timber requesting a donation of wood for this project. The group can buy the wood if this is not donated.
- A team of volunteers will restore it and wood has been sought and paint.

2. St Catherine's land

- Planning has now been passed, this surprised everyone as out of all the planning requests this was the one expected to be rejected due to previous reasons for being rejected. In 1980 it was rejected to build 6 houses due to access and traffic. This application has been passed for 26 houses and the area has more traffic, no better access and pollution is at 80%, which is 40% higher than it should be.
- The graved area is protected and it is incorporated in the planning as a memorial garden with fencing around and it to be maintained and protected.
- It was stated in the planning meeting that there is no standing traffic (rush hour times). The Council go off what is stated in the report provided by the applicant. No traffic count was done by the Council.
- It was reported in a newsletter from a local church that planning was refused then approved after an appeal and a Government Inspector was mentioned. This is not correct – the application was just passed.
- It was reported that George Forshaw gave the land to the Church for the community. It was reported that the families paid for items in the church and when asked for some of them for the community the Church said the items

were going to be relocated to other churches as they had been gifts to the church.

- There may be no access to the memorial garden and graves while work is going on at the site. Notifications will be sent regarding this.
- It was suggested writing to the Diocese asking questions about the sale, and also to access the minutes from the Council regarding the building of the church around 1955 – 1965.

3. Pocket Nook – now been passed

- Concerns highlighted regarding the possibility of it being a “dumping ground for undesirables” with the suggested flats. Bungalows were suggested for older people but refused.
- Concessions will be given and preferences to people at pensionable age or people in work for allocation of the flats.
- Decontamination of the site from the scrap yard and asbestos before any construction work starts.
- This was signed off by the Council as it was a brownfield site.
- A bell bollard has gone up at the top of Pocket Nook Lane. It is not in the desired position and this is due to the tactile/blind paving on the corner – this is being chewed up by vehicles.
- It was reported that Keyline have now moved to Widnes and they said they have moved to a yard. Who will take over this site or will it be left empty until Hs2 decision is made as it is reported that they have bought the site?

4. Northern Power Rail Hs3/Hs2

- Plans for rail link has been passed for the line to Manchester/Leeds with Northern Rail. Liverpool to access the Hs2 line around Warburton could make the link through Lowton un-necessary.
- Review again of Hs2 - it is running way above suggested costs.
- Investigations are going on with the costings of Hs2.
- Councillors will write to the Prime Minister with the concerns regarding Hs2 going through Lowton and passed Birmingham, and to support the plans for Hs3 and re-opening Kenyon Junction.

5. The Voice, Golborne and Lowton West

- The Group are trying to open Golborne Station and have had meeting with MP, Jo Platt.
- LENDEF sent the copies of report regarding all stations in the Manchester Area from Engineering/Andy Burnham to their local Councillors showing what was mentioned about Golborne Station.
- It was discussed that what we do not want is an argument about the stations – Kenyon Junction v Golborne Station – we want both.
- A Neighbourhood Plan was discussed for this group and they may go ahead with this. Standish now has a Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- LENDEF will not be working on a Neighbourhood Plan as we do not accept the new builds in the area. It will only work if we agree with the Council.

6. CULCHETH PARISH COUNCIL

- They are reporting that the weight limit on Winwick Lane is sending wagons into their area. This is more likely due to traffic from Birchwood area.
- Our Councillors are willing to work with Culcheth Parish and Warrington Council as the more they complain, this may push the Council to look at extending the bypass.
- It was noted at previous meetings about Warrington Council putting weight limits on their road to stop HGV's accessing roads and forcing the use of A580 to access motorways.
- It was suggested Councillors and LENDF Chairman attend their next meeting and discuss issues, but in the past the group have not been forthcoming about others attending their meetings.

7. DIGGLE GREEN

- **PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT THIS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ON - 0800 807 060.**
- It was also suggested in the past to e-mail Warrington Council to complain as the site is in their catchment area. Still notify the Environment Agency.
- Around Lowton it was reported the smells have not been as bad but this could be due to the new builds around The Poplars stopping it but could just be the wind direction.
- A new large piece of machinery has been purchased for this site. It has large wheels and tank like tracks. It is very large and a member reported it was on the wrong side of the road and had to mount the curb when they wanted to pass on their side of the road.

8. GET TOGETHER AT MOUNT TABER

- This is open to everyone Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2019 @ 1pm to 4pm. This will be on the woodlands/Village Green area.
- Gazebos/Marquees will be on site with barbecues. Bring your own food, beer, wine, drinks etc. Cook your own food and socialise.

9. VILLIAGE SHOW AT ST MARY'S HALL – Saturday 31 August 2019

- Please attend and support this event. There are various categories people can enter from gardening to cooking/baking. Various activities on the day for families.

10. LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

- This is booked for Saturday 5th October 2019 and tickets are available.

AOB

- ✓ Greater Manchester Spatial Framework was discussed. James Grundy reported the scheduling for this has been postponed until 2020. This is where 10 Authorities are involved and the Government have delayed it and not signed. If this is passed there could be a lot more building in the Manchester area. At the moment LENDF objects to Wigan and it would be harder objecting to 10 Authority.
- ✓ Wigan Council has reached the 5 year supply plan now.
- ✓ New plans have been put through for Bainbridge/Gorton Drive. Environment Agency stepped in and found a drainage brook, which has been designated as a river.
- ✓ DC Cold Plaining site near the chequered bridge near Diggle Green. It looks like hard-core has been delivered and the question asked as to what is happening on this site. Marie Bintley at Wigan Council may ask Warrington Council about any planning applications.

NEXT LENDF next monthly meeting:

Monday 9 September 2019 @ 19:30 (7:30pm)

Lowton Social Club

All welcome