

Gun terror as shots are fired at home

FROM PAGE ONE

here before. I hope the police can catch the person responsible."

What the man was firing at has not yet been established but some residents believe it was towards a particular house.

Officer attended the scene, supported by colleagues from the Tactical Aid Unit, and found empty shell casings consistent with a gun's having been fired. No-one was reported to have been injured and police say there is no evidence of bullet damage to any properties.

Another resident added: "I was in the back of my house at the time and just heard two really loud bangs.

"A lot of people ran out to the front but whoever had done it had run off at this point so I didn't see anything.

"I thought it had come from the back at first to be honest."

Police are now appealing to anyone with information to come forward.



Scene of the shooting in Ince

The suspect is described as white, about 5ft 10ins tall and wearing camouflaged clothing.

Det Insp Martin Reddington said: "Thankfully, no-one was injured as a result of this incident, which we are treating as a genuine firearms discharge.

"Initial inquiries have established that a man wearing camouflaged clothing was seen with a handgun at the time of the shooting, jumping up and down on the bonnet of a car before he fled. Our inquiries are now focused on finding this man and the weapon itself and taking it off

the streets where it can cause no harm.

"I would appeal to anyone who either witnessed the incident itself or perhaps saw this man in the area at about the time of the shooting to come forward.

"Any time a gun is fired it has the potential to seriously injure someone – in some cases even worse. Thankfully no-one was hurt or injured during this incident but this is probably more by chance than design and it is imperative we find both the offender and the gun itself as soon as possible.

"I would strongly urge anyone with information to come forward and I want to assure residents, who will understandably be shocked, that we will conduct a thorough investigation into this incident and do our utmost to bring the offender to justice."

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.



UNDER FIRE A train similar to ones which will run on the controversial HS2 network, which has been criticised by business groups and residents

Critics try to force HS2 rail link off track

BY ANDREW NOWELL
andrew.nowell@jpress.co.uk
@ANowellIWIG

A FLAGSHIP transport project to link the borough to major cities through a new super-fast train network has suffered a double blow.

The High Speed Two (HS2) railway project, which the Government is promising will slash journey times between London and cities in the north and Midlands, has been dismissed by a leading business organisation as a "grand folly" which should be scrapped.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) said HS2, which is planned to run into the borough through Lowton before meeting the existing mainline at Bamfurlong, was widely believed to have fewer economic benefits than claimed and the money should instead be spent on smaller rail projects across the country.

The controversial project, which is also set to include a maintenance depot at Lowton Common, also received a blow closer to home after a resi-

dents' group said it would not support plans to connect the new network to the Liverpool to Manchester line by building a new loop line and station near the East Lincs Road.

The IoD, publishing the results of a survey of 1,300 business leaders, claimed the £50bn HS2 project was widely perceived as poor value for money and cast doubt on whether the north will benefit as much as London.

Wigan Council has pledged to support HS2 and the Lowton station link, saying the construction work is vital to

the wider economic recovery and will help bring the north-south divide.

Leader of Wigan Council Lord Peter Smith said: "The project is expected to create £43,000 new jobs in the North West alone.

"We simply cannot afford to lag behind other countries, who are investing in their infrastructure.

"We absolutely have to invest in our transport in the short term if we want to recover from the economic downturn in the long term."

Station plans will cause chaos, say residents

●● RESIDENTS living near a proposed station to connect the Leigh area to the national network say the plans will cause traffic chaos and leave the area open to future building work.

●● A spokesman for the Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum

(LENDF) said: "The proposed business plan would attract large amounts of a traffic to a gridlocked area.

●● "The loop line would destroy four farms and once they were gone the land would be easy picking for developers to build hotels, car parks and houses on."

The best deals on hand-picked, quality getaways!



£49

DISCOUNT

£53.85

ORIGINAL PRICE

£102.85

£49 Burn Hall Hotel, York, 2 people, 1 night Bed and Breakfast only £49

- Stay for two, 1 night in a double or twin room at Burn Hall Hotel from £49.
- Stay for two, 2 nights in a double or twin room at Burn Hall Hotel from £69.
- Choose from comfortably designed en suite double or twin room.
- Complimentary breakfast provided for each person.
- Bottle of house wine when you dine in Richardson's Restaurant.

Deal Monster
go.uk travel

For this deal and many more fantastic getaways & hotels, go to:

www.dealmonster.co.uk/deal/travel/

