

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 11 Aug 2025 at Lowton Social Club

PRESENT:

Chair	Prof. Graham Wardle (GW)
Secretary	Liz Brown (LB)
Minutes Secretary	Minutes taken by Kath Houlton and Margaret Mitchell
Guest speaker	Stuart Mann – Councillor for Warrington Borough Council
Councillor	Garry Lloyd (GL)
Councillor	Jenny Gregory (JG)
Councillor	Mike Smith (MS)

Apologies: LENDF Treasurer Irene Thomson
LHSRG chair Kathy Johnson

No. of attendees = 23

1. Welcome and previous minutes

Minutes not read out at meeting, but copies have been sent out by email and posted on the Facebook page and will be put on the LENDF website in due course.

New visitors and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Local Planning issues

a) **Large Biogas Unit Planning application** (*Presentation by Stuart Mann*)

Warrington Councillor Stuart Mann returned to give further information on the proposed Biogas Plant and the issues that will arise for the residents of Lowton if the application were to be agreed.

The Biogas Plant (managed by Severn Trent Green Energy) would be located near the M6 just off J22 on the outskirts of Winwick (see map on attached presentation). It would be a commercial outlet and would process 75,000 tonnes of waste annually. This would mean up to 60 waste wagons per day resulting in 120 individual journeys. These wagons will be up to 16.5m long and all would come from outside the Warrington area. The wagons would also include the green waste kerbside lorries that pick up residential green waste. The planning travel assessment has NOT taken the Parkside development on the other side of J22 into consideration (of course it hasn't) It will also be impossible to enforce their suggested travel plan. **Junction 22 will become a bottleneck, and it is likely tailbacks on Winwick Lane towards Lane Head will get even longer and smellier.**

In addition there are a lot of archaeological underground monuments very close to the site that would be disturbed. This huge project is on farm land in the Green Belt.

See this link to Stuart's presentation for more detailed information:

<https://winwickparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Public-Meeting-Slides.pdf>

It is aimed at Winwick residents but **the transport issues there are also extremely concerning for Lowton.** Please comment via the Warrington Planning Portal:

<https://online.warrington.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=214460>

Or via email at devcontrol@warrington.gov.uk Your email should state clearly the Planning Application Reference (**2025/00859/FULM**) along with the text of your comment.

IMPORTANT: The closing date is the end of Friday 22nd August 2025

b) **Parkside** – this has gone very quiet recently as Freight Liner and Manchester United argue over how much money the Castlefield site is worth. Freight Liner have been persuaded to move to Parkside so their Castlefield site can be redeveloped by Manchester United and Manchester Council. This means Lowton will potentially be the fall guy. Andy Burham, the Mayor of Manchester, has stated that Lowton must get effective traffic mitigation before Parkside goes ahead. Andy Burham is also very much in favour of Parkside as it will solve a number of problems in Manchester and relocate them to Lowton.

3. Progress on Lowton and Golborne Speed Monitoring (GW)

GW gave a resume of the speed monitoring on the roads in Lowton and Golborne and the information he gave us is **attached as a report** written by GW and Kath Houlton. Since August 2024 more than 3 speed monitoring operations *per week* have been carried out!

Some edited highlights include:

Comparing average data from previous years (2012 to 2019) with 2024, the average speed on Barn Lane, Winwick Lane and Derby Lane has dropped by about 4 mph. The average speed on Stone Cross Lane (N) Sandy Lane and Golborne High Street had increased by just over 5mph. The average speed on Newton Road, Church Lane, Garton Drive and Kenyon Lane had risen by over 10mph!

Currently speeding is more common on roads where the posted speed limits are 20 and 30 mph. Where speed limits are 40 or 60 mph significant speeding is less common apart from the few irresponsible excessive speeders. Heyward Ave, Sandy Lane and Garton Drive seem to have the biggest speeding problem. **Warning notices taken** from our data have been sent by out by GMP to a significant number of speeding miscreants. Sandy Lane residents are increasingly worried about the number of speeding vehicles¹, especially if the extension to Moss Industrial Estate goes ahead.

GW also talked about speed watch volunteers, speeding limit guidelines and joint ventures with Wigan Council, TfGM and road safety campaigns. Please see the attached report for fuller information.

4. Councillors' Business

a) A key for the notice board on Braithwaite Road has finally been acquired!! Yippee!

b) Brighter Borough funding has been given for **The Last Night of the Proms** held annually in Lowton Social Club. The date is **18th October**, put it in your diaries!

c) Travellers used an angle grinder to break onto the Civic Hall football field on Wednesday 6th August and they were given an official 72 hour order to move. They ignored the order so on Monday 11th August, 6 vans of Police had to escort the Travellers from the Civic Hall Field. The travellers then moved 100m onto the children's playground on Oaklands Road, Lowton and tampered with the local water supply, setting off the fire hydrant and causing residents water to turn brown. United Utilities had to be called out. Residents have been unhappy with the travellers' antisocial behaviour. Extra security is planned to prevent the travellers breaking onto the Civic field and Brighter Borough funds will go towards it. JG will arrange to speak to Council Officers about the issues on both sites.

5. Feedback from Events

a) The Manchester University Focus Group.

Everyone who attend said it was brilliant. One question was "did residents like living in Lowton", all said they did even though Lowton has become a commuter belt and the traffic

¹ Following this LENDF meeting GW is endeavouring to set up a specific LaGTAC meeting to bring together local residents, GMP and Council officers to discuss the Sandy Lane problem – please keep an eye out for messages on social media and flyers.

is unbearable. Lack of parking both on and off road was discussed, also the lack of public transport, and too much money spent on cycling lanes in Leigh that now have cars parked on them. One cyclist said it was still safer to cycle through the back streets and off road into Leigh as there was far less traffic. The lack of dropped kerbs were also mentioned. The issues that dominated were the desperate need for the Atherleigh Way bypass extension at Lane Head, and the lack of meaningful consultation with residents by Wigan Council.

[Note. Wigan Council officers were invited to attend tonight's LENDF meeting to discuss progress on modifications to the A580/Newton Road and the bypass. No one attended or gave us information to forward. It is rumoured that the dedicated left hand turn from the A580 onto Newton Road towards Lane Head has been put off from this August until sometime next year but no-one affected has been notified.]

b) Broadmead Day Centre Golborne Road Community Day.

Many of the local groups were represented, including the local Councillors. This was seen as a success although there was limited footfall.

c) The Oaklands Park official opening of the refurbished play area has been postponed until **Sunday May 17th 2026**. This is due to the promised funding from Kompan not being forthcoming. We hope that it will appear soon, fingers crossed. The day will now become a more general event where people can come and see what the local area has to offer. With that in mind, **the first planning meeting** will be on **Monday 1st September at 7pm** in Lowton Social Club, if you want to be involved, please come along.

d) Lowton/Golborne Active Travel Consultation (LB)

This deals with a number of areas of Lowton and Golborne including *Heath Lane, Nook Lane, StoneCross industrial estate, the nature trail between Golborne Lidl and the StoneCross industrial estate*. Apart from Heath Lane, in Lowton just the paths along the main roads are being tidied up. You can comment on each of the 4 proposals. There is a 5th comment section that asks you for anything specific you would like to see happen in Lowton to help you walk, cycle or take the bus. **Please, please fill the consultation in**, the link is on the first page of the **attached PDF** along with maps and descriptions. It is quick to fill in and the major projects team will take it into consideration as they prepare to fine tune routes to Golborne station and beyond!

This consultation finishes on Monday the 25th August

5. AOB

Not needed tonight!

**Next meeting, please come and join us:
Monday 13 October 2025 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club**