

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on
Monday 13 June 2022 at Lowton Social Club

Covering Chairperson/Treasurer
Secretary
Minutes Secretary

Irene Thomson
Liz Brown (Chaired the meeting)
Gill Turner

Councillors

Kath Houlton, Edward Houlton, Marie Cooper

Apologies

Lesley McGowan (New Chairperson)
Julie Shawcross, Deputy Secretary

No. of attendees = 19

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 put on the LENDF website.

Irene (IT) said she had been very busy in running Lowton Hedgehog Rescue lately due to the large number of orphaned baby hedgehogs she has to feed around the clock. Liz (LB) will chair this meeting to give IT a bit of a rest.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Hs2 update

- Good news! Hurray! People have been sent an updated HS2 leaflet. It states that in the second reading of the HS2 Hybrid bill over summer there will be an amendment to remove the Golborne Spur from the bill. The Government is looking at an alternative route (West Coast Main Line upgrade) and the Spur will be put on hold until details have been decided.
- The compensation is still in place for residents who have been impacted. You can still apply for it and some people may still be eligible, especially if your application is in progress. See attached pdf leaflet for further details.
[Appendum: there is a public meeting hosted by HS2 on Saturday 2nd July, click here to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/phase-2b-crewe-to-manchester-2022-update-culcheth-high-school-tickets-335230632847>]
- Hs2 will still own land they acquired for another 2 years. The question was asked about what will happen to the land/properties when they come to sell.
- A question was asked about the football field being used by East Leigh Football Club and LB stated the land would continue to be used by the club. LB said she had spoken to James Ridyard and, since the news from HS2, the club will go ahead with their plan to build structures for changing rooms and

toilets and upgrade the pitches. A large amount of Sports England money will be used to upgrade the field/pitches/changing rooms and it will come with a covenant (at least 5 years or more) to protect it from change of land use as otherwise it would be a waste of money. LB to find out more information before the next meeting.

- Village Green status was discussed for the field and this will be looked into, although as long as it is used by the football club, the land would be safe. There is already a village green in Lowton (Mount Tabor).

3. Pennington Flash Country Park licensing application submitted by Leigh Sports Village

- The closing date for the application was 7 June 2022. It was reported there was only 1 sign notifying people of the application and this was close to the current building work at the Flash, where few people would look. A question was asked if the notice was put up with adequate time to object as people were only aware of it a few days before the deadline. This will be discussed at the next meeting when more information is known.
- Relevant objections were discussed. LB said that although the main concern was the damage to wildlife, according to licensing law, this was not relevant. There were only 4 points that the licensing committee could consider: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance, protection of children from harm. This information was found on the licensing website and we posted it on the LENDF Facebook page on the 6th June. As with many laws, wildlife and environment have little acknowledgement in law. EH, Lowton East Councillor, took us through the procedure of licensing although could not discuss any particulars of any case.
- The application on the council website stated dancing, music, alcohol until 1am 7 days a week. This licence application was not mentioned in the public presentation about the new café at Leigh Sports Village on 23 May 2022. Anyone would think that Wigan Council, who own Leigh Sports Village, were trying to keep it quiet. There have now been a large number of objections, both personal and from groups, including LENDF. Concern was expressed that Leigh Sports Village seems to now be 'in charge' of Pennington Flash Nature Reserve, with the inevitable conflict of interests that this has already raised. Usually a nature reserve is managed by an environmental organisation, unfortunately this is not the case here. *[Appendum: Due to the number of our objections, LSV have now changed their alcohol licence request from nightclub hours to slightly better pub hours – these new hours are still not appropriate timings for a nature reserve!!]*

4. Action points from previous meeting.

Morris Homes – 250+ houses – land ownership

- A couple of weeks ago, pre-planning leaflets were sent out regarding another 250+ houses on Pocket Nook. They asked what people want from it – the last meeting advised we say people do not want more houses.
- LB reported that tenants lease and farm the land in question and have done so for over 40 years, they do not want to move out. Morris homes have stated that they have bought the land from the previous owner (The owner was not Mr Adamson; his land is next to the site in question, with the planned access road currently pausing at the edge of his land!) Surveyors have been trying

to access the tenants land and the tenants have been trying to minimise this access. IT will look at the land registry site to confirm more details and report back.

Parking near Civic Field on football mornings

- LB has approached Lowton Social Club about using the car park for the football home team to park in the mornings. They are happy for this to happen. This information will be passed onto James Ridyard (Chairman of the Club).

Speeding monitor on Hesketh Meadow Lane

- The data logger is positioned after Oaklands Road and misses people turning into this road. It has been broken twice by culprits unknown.
- The next meeting Redrow is in about 6 weeks time. It was reported trucks are parking in the middle of the road waiting. Also, On Saturdays trucks should not deliver until 09:30 but a concrete mixer was seen at 09:05 on a Saturday and had already delivered. People were asked to gain proof/photographs and pass on anything they witness.

Bellway Homes, Crompton Way, recreation ground fencing and drainage

- It was reported the area has had topsoil put on and the grass has been re-seeded. The area is dry at the moment. Ariel photographs have been given to the builder and they may not have not done sufficient drainage work. There is a stream that may still need diverting. [Appendum: *EH is also progressing this*]
- It was reported that the ponds that were in the area have been left in a mess but the builders are working on them. There are lifebelts at the ponds with blank signage boards. A suggestion to contact the 'Considerate Builders' was given. [Appendum: <https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/about-partnership/contractor-partners/> Bellway don't appear to be on the list]

Jubilee Celebrations

- Mount Tabor – there was a good turnout last Sunday after the original date was cancelled due to bad weather. The Lane Head group organised it well. It was lovely for the community to come together with music, dance, raffle and free cake. This was the second community party held there and there could be more organised in the future. There is a large sign to be put up at the Newton Road entrance in the near future, funded from our councillor's brighter boroughs pot, to identify it for residents who don't know where our village green is located. Further discussion related to a bin on Stone Cross Lane South that could be put closer to the second entrance to the Mount, for the convenience of dog walkers. KH will progress this idea.
- Lowton Social club had a well attended celebration too.

5. Gathering of any issues

- Health Services – Doctors/Dentists
Doctors – each GP works differently, some appointments you have wait 3-4 weeks and some GP's hold urgent slots open each day and is on a first come/call basis. The population has increased in the area due to the amount of new housing being built but no more facilities have been given.

Dentists – very few are taking on new NHS Patients but many are willing to take on privately. This is reported as a national problem throughout the country. People can personally write the James Grundy (MP) regarding this. People are going to ask their dentist practise what their practice plan/timescales is for taking NHS patients off their lists for not attending regular check ups. It was noted that we have been in lockdown with the Covid pandemic so in theory should account for this.

- Schools – high/junior/infant
There are many new children moving into our areas with the new houses being build but there may not be sufficient places at local schools. Golborne High School is definitely being extended and it was reported that Section 106 monies will be used for this. It was reported there are some vacancies at St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School. It was asked if the area needed an extra school to be built where it would be? Councillor Edward Houlton will speak to the Education Department regarding numbers and any planned upgrades/new schools.

Environmental – this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: 11 July April 2022 – 19:30
At Lowton Social Club