

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting and AGM held on Monday 8th June 2026 at Lowton Social Club

PRESENT:

Chair	Prof. Graham Wardle
Secretary	Liz Brown
Treasurer	Irene Thomson
Councillors:	Cllr Jenny Gregory Cllr Mike Smith

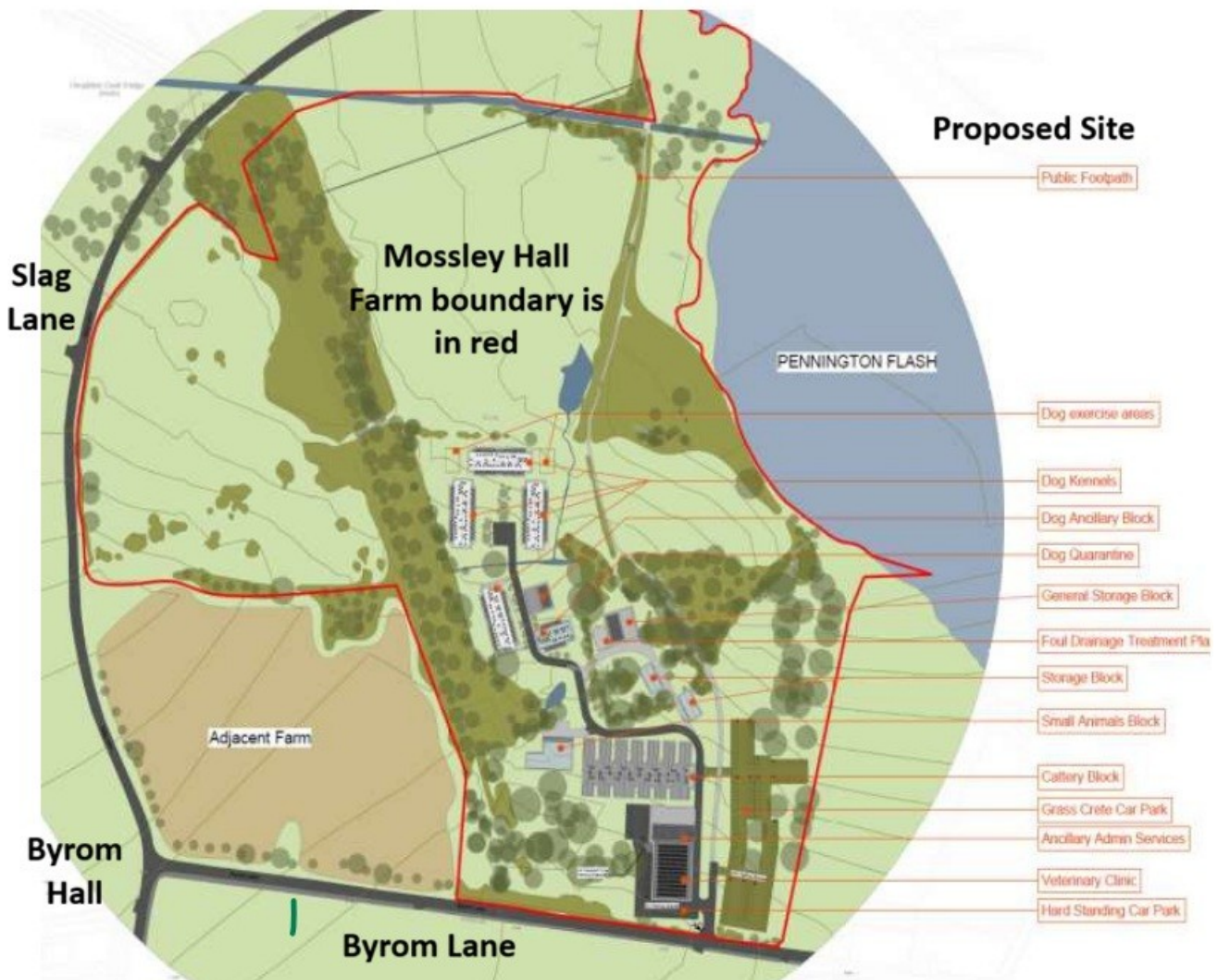
Apologies: Cllr Simon Smith

Total no. of attendees including residents = 40

1. Welcome and previous minutes

Minutes not read out at meeting, but copies 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. RSPCA – Guest Speaker Mark Foster** (Assistant Director RSPCA – Estates and Environment)
Mark Foster gave a presentation about the RSPCA consultation plans for Mossley Hall Farm. He and Amy Gaskell (Planning – Turley) then answered questions from residents. Minutes have already been sent out to our mailing list and put on our Facebook page. Here is the RSPCA presentation: <https://drive.google.com/.../1LEnEtnSx7X0w5kxVMT.../view...>
And here are the minutes :<https://drive.google.com/.../1Q-ve1ojjgurnzCV.../view...>



3. Feedback from the Fun Day on the 17th May

Liz gave a presentation including some photos of the day, thanks to volunteers and feedback from the event. See the presentation here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsMsp0COFAqyxqWzM-BGUq9_ya8-HzB3/view?usp=drive_link

After a lot of hard work to make it happen, the funday across the 3 venues of Lowton Social Club, Oaklands Park, and Lowton Community Hub was a success! About 300 people attended the Social Club and still more attended the park and community hub. Good weather certainly helped. A special thanks to Sally and team, James and team, and Luke and team, for working together with LENDF to make it happen. The general consensus is that it will probably happen again next year, so watch this space! LENDF spent £668.25 of the £1000 grant given to us by Kompan, who refurbished Oaklands Park. We made £144.50 from stall holders and bouncy castle donations. This means there is £476.25 left over for next year. Also more volunteers next year would be helpful.

4. Co-opting to the LENDF committee

The position of social secretary and deputy secretary have been vacant for a number of months despite repeated requests for volunteers. Kath Houlton has now volunteered her time again for the role of social secretary and Julie Shawcross has agreed to be deputy secretary. We are grateful that there are now two extra pairs of hands to help, especially with the fast pace of change in Lowton recently. It will also be 'all hands on deck' when the Tritax transport consultation emerges at the end of this year.

5. Thank-you to Garry Lloyd

LENDF presented Garry with a token of our appreciation after serving our Lowton East community as a local councillor for a 3 year term. He has attended LENDF meetings and other community events regularly and has helped us where possible. He has a genuine desire to make Lowton a better place and has supported residents in fighting inappropriate planning applications and increased congestion. Latterly he has been instrumental in getting the 34 bus times extended so that residents can catch a bus from Newton-le-Willows train station to Lowton beyond tea time! This will be implemented soon. Thanks Garry :)

6. Making Oaklands Park more secure

About 11 traveller vans camped on Oaklands Park from about 2pm on Thu 21st May. They used an angle grinder to saw through the gate lock → They left, on Saturday 23rd May after being served a 48 hours eviction notice. All ward councillors reported the issue. While there, the generators and travellers made noise into the evening and the police were called and responded. Local children and traveller children had a stand off and the water supply was tapped into again. The children as young as 8 rode quad bikes at speed across the park and one child fell off his bike trying to mount the bund. They left rubbish behind, including emptying a chemical toilet onto the park grass. LENDF cleared the rubbish on the fenced park area on the Sunday and the council cleared all the major rubbish on the Tuesday. Love Lowton Litter pickers did a final clear on the Thursday. A resident made the gate secure after they left. The bund, installed last year, was a deterrent; the gate wasn't! Jenny has spoken to the Wigan Council Officer responsible for Oaklands Park and they will arrange a site visit to look at ways to strengthen the gate security. This will include looking at placing obstacles to deter caravans but not grass cutters.



7. Councillors' Business

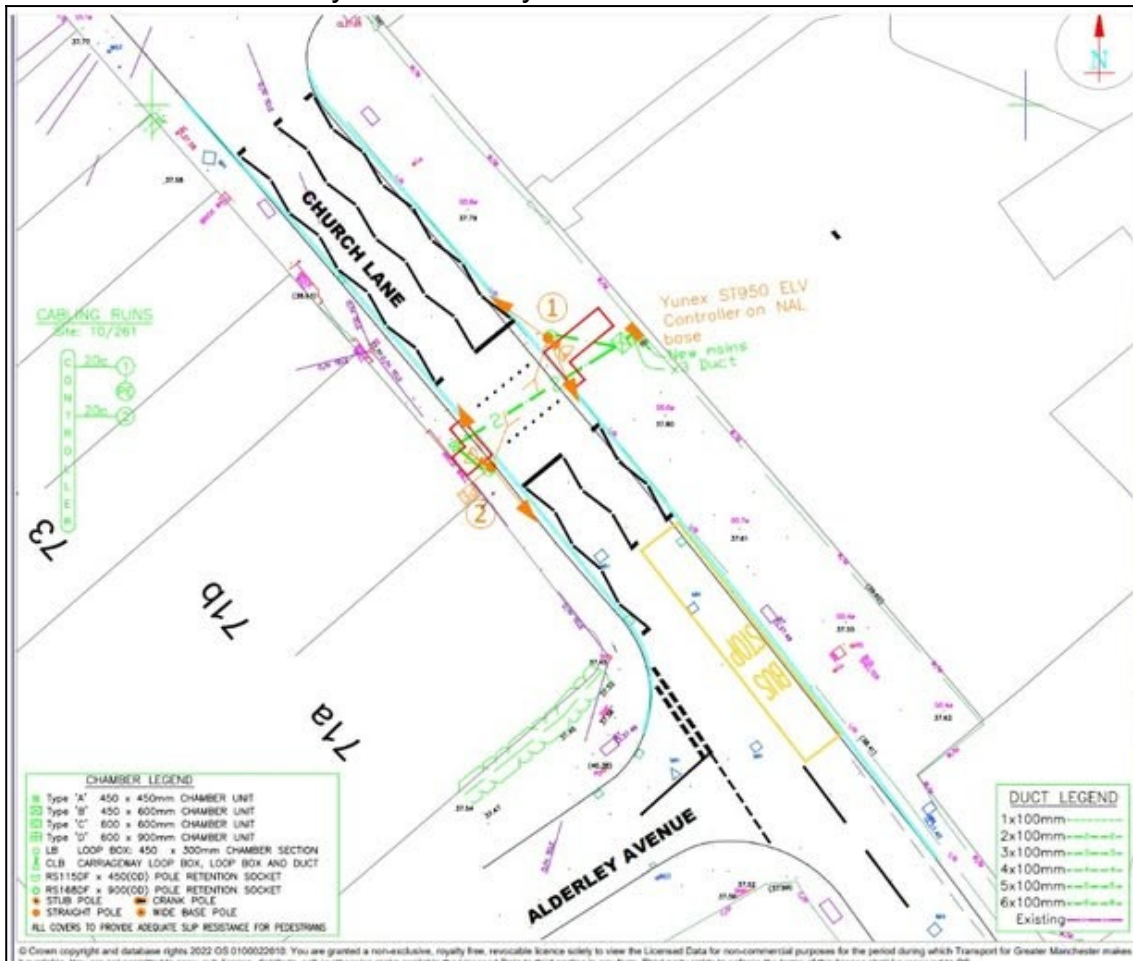
The new local councillor for Lowton East is called Simon Smith. He wasn't present at the meeting but can be contacted via email on s.smith6@wigan.gov.uk His mobile number is **07510823341**. Please note, photos, contact info and surgeries of all Councillors can be found via this link and search on the ward 'Lowton East'.

<https://democracy.wigan.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx?a=1>

Jenny gave us an update on the new executive leader of the council – her name is Nazia Rehman – and she replaces David Molyneux who had been leader for the last 12 years.

Jenny also let us know about plans for a **new crossing on Church Lane**, near Alderley Avenue, something she said that Kath H had mooted a few years ago and Jenny and Mike have then continued the work. This crossing would help those crossing Church Lane to access St Luke's Primary School. The consultation is live on 18th June, the **comment deadline is the 16th July**.

Any comments on the proposal must be made in writing to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Elections, Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1YN quoting reference **RD/LS/LG/16831408** by the 16th July 2026



Contact details for Jenny and Mike remain the same.

Jenny's mobile is : 07808 572451 and Email: J.Gregory1@wigan.gov.uk

Mike's mobile is : Tel: 07501 326803 and Email: m.smith3@wigan.gov.uk

8. Other issues in progress:

a) Winwick Lane new traffic lights are partially working as sometimes there is a gap clear from standing traffic between the houses (It's not a big gap as cars/lorries still 'overshoot'). However, at various times of the day vehicles are fully trapped between the new and original lights at Lane Head because of standing traffic on Newton Road. Thus, there may be a need to re-phase the traffic lights at Lane head in order to keep the traffic light interspace clear.

b) SID – Speed Indicator Devices are likely to go up on Newton Road between Land Head and New Bank Garden Centre at some point to try and curb excessive speeding above 40 mph. Recent speed measurements by LaGTAC and GMP have shown that the average speed in this 40mph zone is approximately 36mph and that less than 3% of vehicles could potentially warrant a speeding ticket. There are vehicles observed travelling in excess of 55mph, but these are rare events. The record is 112mph. In comparison, the average speed measured in the 30mph zone on Newton Road between Lane Head and St Helens Road was 40mph.

c) Road works will start on the A580/Stone Cross Lane South junction this summer. (UPDATE: work will be from Thursday 25th June for at least 12 weeks)

d) **Land behind the Travellers Rest pub** was up for sale at auction. See this link:

https://www.pugh-auctions.com/property/202603121027sq_zibt/at/2026-05-06_161907

We don't know who bought it. Let us know if you know!

Description

A parcel of land sold freehold and extending to approximately 11.46 acres (4.64 hectares). The plot primarily comprises 7 acres of arable farm land along with disused quarry site and woodland. The plot may be suitable for a number of alternative uses, subject to any necessary consents.



Guide Price ⓘ

£45,000

To

£50,000

Additional Costs / Fees will apply.

e) TRITAX – we are hoping that a number of community groups come together to fight this bloated plan. Please let us know of anyone who would be prepared to help fight these plans. Transport plans are supposed to come out at the end of the year. UPDATE: Land has been purchased by Manchester United for a new stadium but it is NOT Freight Liner land!

Next Meeting - Monday 10th August 2026 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club