

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th August 2026 at Lowton Social Club

PRESENT:

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

Apologies: Cllr Simon Smith, Julie Shawcross

Total no. of attendees including residents = 24

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. Cllr Stuart Mann and Cllr Sue Frame were among these guests.

2. Traffic Update - presentation by Graham Wardle

Please see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UyzrJzlsQXJqvQDo7gKj4loHD0C6k3Tn/view?usp=sharing> for tonight's full presentation.

This presentation covers: 1. Summary Speed Measurement Data (Averages) for 38 roads within Lowton and Golborne; 2. Sandy Lane data and recent Sandy Lane meeting feedback; 3. **Traffic congestion at Lane Head** – Data Analysis.

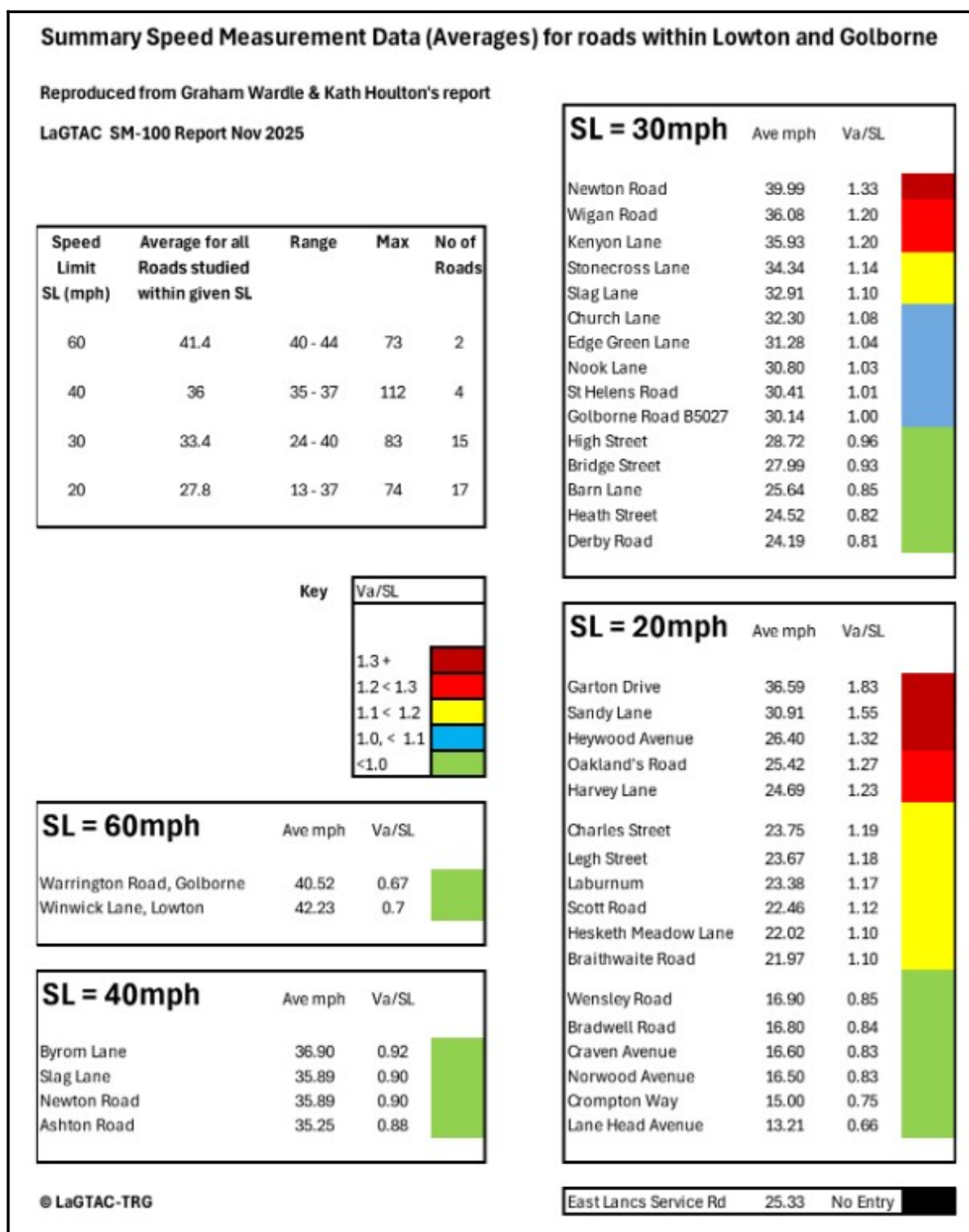
Please note: A further Sandy Lane meeting between residents, GMP, Wigan Council (Highways) and LaGTAC/ GMP-PSVs will take place following ATC (Automatic Traffic Count) measurements which are to take place on Sandy Lane in September.

There were lots of questions following the presentation:

- Methodology – LaGTAC have a standardised procedure for speed measurement and analysis of data that is used for **all** measurements undertaken within Lowton and Golborne.
- Percentage of people speeding – Looking to reduce this percentage as much as possible. Evidence to date suggests that since the PSVs have been undertaking Hi-Viz CSW operations (since 2024) the average speed on roads is reducing as are the number of vehicles excessively speeding. **PSV = Police Support Volunteers.**
- There are currently only 4 PSV volunteers covering Lowton and Golborne.
- Yes, we need more people to volunteer as a PSV. Contact Graham via LaGTAC.data@gmail.com for info regarding the process. Individual volunteers need to apply via the GMP recruitment portal. The process includes vetting, interview and then training. Volunteering only needs to be for 4 hours per month.
- The Council and Councillors are not responsible for monitoring speeding on local roads. This is a police issue. PSVs can instigate warning letters to offenders, and warranted RPU (Roads Policing Unit) officers who are often now working in conjunctions with the PSVs, can also fine motorists.
- Some residents feel cars and HGVs speed more at night when roads are quieter eg: the 40mph section between N/W and Land Head Newton Road. LaGTAC cannot verify this as they are NOT allowed to monitor traffic after dark. Evidence from LaGTAC, GMP and

Wigan Council all indicate that there is not a significant speeding issue on this particular stretch of road during daylight hours.

- On Sandy Lane, there is a serious speeding problem! Vehicles are parked along both sides of the lane, making the lane one car width for much of the 20mph stretch. Speed measurements made within this 20mph zone indicate that during daylight hours approximately one vehicle per minute is travelling above 25mph with some reaching 60+mph. It was mooted that some speeding on Sandy Lane is caused by cars trying to get into this narrow channel of road before the car coming from the other direction!
- The traffic data mentioned in the presentation is shareable. The table below is based on data from the LaGTAC survey 2021 to 2024 and includes measurements prompted by residents asking for measurements to be conducted at specific times on roads when they perceived speeding was highest. New data are constantly being added, and a new table will be available at the end of 2026 and will include measurements on more roads.



Currently, there is no evidence to show that speeding is getting worse on our local single carriageway roads than given in this table.

- Speeding on the dual/multilane A580 is not officially monitored by PSVs as they are not insured. Police RPU officers are monitoring the A580.
- Bypass – when will it be built? It was mentioned in Tritax’s previous plans as road mitigation, we will know more when their travel consultation comes out. However, even this mitigation (see below) will not prevent the congestion crisis at Lane Head!
- The **2013 Infrastructure Assessment previously identified our area as over-capacity** but no notice of that has been taken when granting permissions for developments!!!! (<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Resident/Planning-and-Building-Control/GolborneandLowtonInfrastructureAssessmentNov2013.pdf> – p18 - p31)
- Any road alterations (as already sanctioned by Wigan Council) will not stop increased congestion at Lane Head (not even the current modifications on the East Lancs Road) – A Tritax development (should it be allowed) will be a predictable disaster for the area.
- **Other traffic data** in the Wigan Borough (**including count points in Lowton**) can be found on [Wigan - Road traffic statistics](#) Note the number of guestimates! Also this link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sMLUb0T7CTyZTk4DziGWVt7w6Hjn5cpR/view?usp=sharing> is a traffic data count on Tue 14th Oct 2025 taken locally by Rowland Homes (who had hoped to build 91 houses accessed from Rowan Avenue):
- Please direct further questions on this agenda item to Graham LaGTAC.data@gmail.com

Note of an upcoming event: Dr Joanna Barrow (University of Manchester) is again arranging a focus group meeting (similar to last year) of residents and Wigan Council officials etc. This is to take place in Lowton Social Club, at 6-8pm on Thursday 17th September to discuss the findings of her report on “Walkers, cyclists and drivers travelling around Lowton and Golborne”. This has been sent to Wigan Council (who sponsored the project). Email joanna.barrow@manchester.ac.uk to attend.

3. Golborne Station Update - presentation by Liz Brown

Work has now started on reinstating Golborne Station. They hope to complete it by March 2028 at the earliest. While work is in progress, half the Queen’s Street car park behind the library will be shut off to house work equipment. Once the work is finished, the Council will organise the full car park to be resurfaced with new road markings. It will be CCTV monitored and you will have to get a short stay (up to 4 hours) or long stay ticket. These tickets will be free and show the time you parked. There are 2 entry points to the station: From Queens St Car Park and, on the Lowton Side, via a new footbridge or lift from Gloucester Ave. There is no parking on the Lowton side but there will be a covered section for bikes. There will be no more additional parking! Residents’ permit parking will be introduced at some point for surrounding streets. Regular and reliable buses are therefore key!!

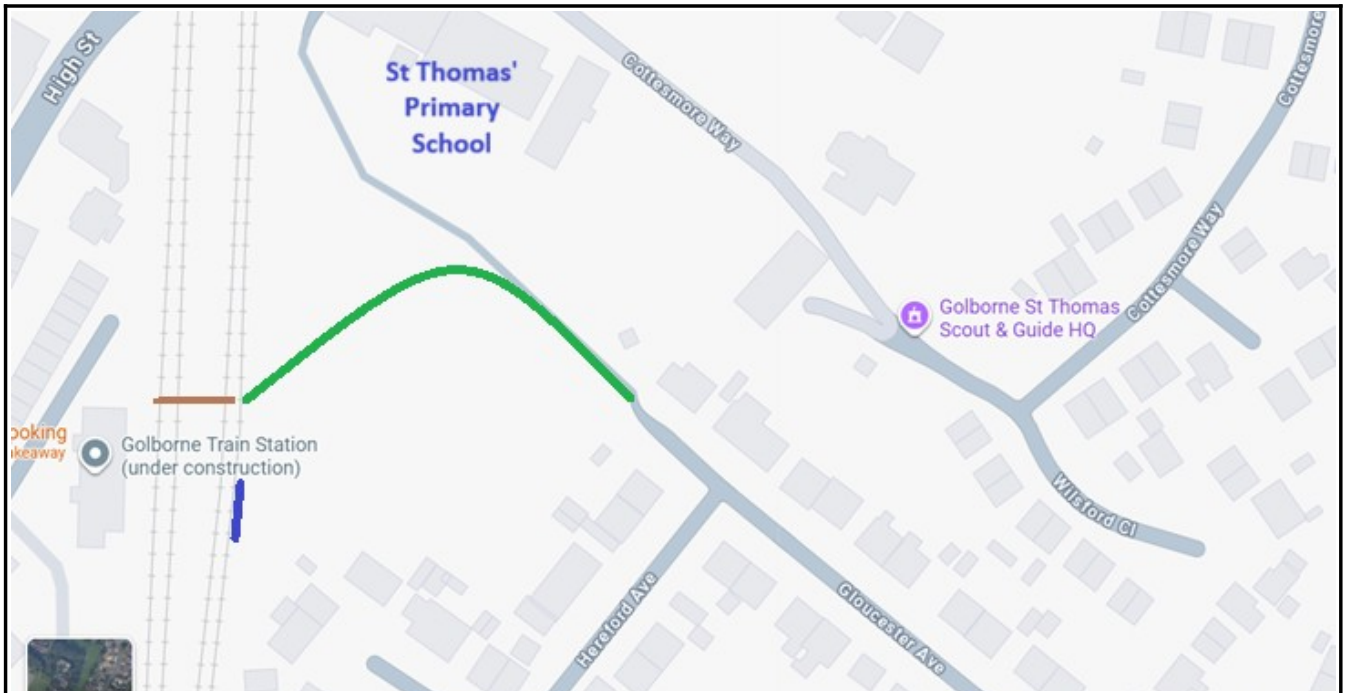
The **360 bus service** will continue as usual, running between Wigan and Warrington, via Golborne. [360 Wigan - Abram - Golborne - Newton le Willows - Warrington | Bee Network | Powered by TfGM](#)

The **610/611 bus service** will continue as usual, running between Leigh, Lowton, and Wigan, via Newton Road and Church Lane to Golborne. [610 Wigan - Ashton-in-Makerfield - Golborne - Lowton - Leigh | Bee Network | Powered by TfGM](#)

A **new 612 bus service** will run between Wigan and St Helens, via Golborne and Newton Station. It starts on 6th September and the timetable is here [612-6Sep26.pdf](#)

Other bus routes will be discussed nearer to the opening of the train station. Liz Brown and Linda Graham have asked about extending the 588 bus service at the recent drop-in sessions.

The diagram below is an approximation of the Gloucester Ave entrance. Green = footpath, blue = covered bike rack, brown = foot bridge and lifts. There will be one Northern Rail train per hour in either direction, going from Wigan via Manchester Victoria, to Stalybridge along the West Coast Mainline fast line. The train will be on the Bee Network and will be useful for getting into Manchester. Avanti trains will NOT stop here, so other direct routes are not available.



Question: What happened to S106 funding to resurface land near **Bank Street** as a car park??

Question: The large Braithwaite Road, Scott Road and Marina estates at the bottom of Slag Lane currently don't have a bus to get to Golborne centre. *Can the 588 be extended to turn around at Golborne centre? Also can the 360 be more reliable please?*

Addendum: Murphy's will be doing loud piling every Saturday overnight at Golborne station for the next few months – they can't do it any other time as it would involve train cancellations.

4. **Councillors' Business**

Jenny gave us an update on the **Wigan Local Plan**. It is being discussed at Wigan Cabinet level at the beginning of September. A public version will then go out for a 6 weeks public consultation. The last version of the plan was bad news for Lowton East as 2 large green spaces were on the cards for coming out of green belt; the Lowton part of the **Tritax** site and the land behind **Moss Industrial Estate**. She and Mike will oppose the Wigan local plan if these two sites remain in this plan. LENDF will let residents know when the consultation is live.

The on-site meeting on security of **Oaklands' Park** has not yet taken place as a common time has not yet been found to bring together the various people.

The new timetable for the **No 34 bus** (Leigh-St Helens via Newton Station) will be in place from September 6th and include buses later in the evening so people from the St Mary's end of Lowton will now have a viable choice to use the bus to commute to/from Newton Station. Here is a link to the new timetable: <https://merseytravel.adidocdn.dev/timetables/Bus/New%20Timetables/St%20Helens/34-34A-6Sep26.pdf>

Simon was not present, although his colleague from Golborne and Lowton West, Sue Frame, was here. She said that she was talking to Danny Orrell, a Wigan Council Officer, about Slag Lane, the lane that divides the two wards. She wants to ask for a puffin crossing outside Lowton West Junior School, in addition to the existing lollipop man. There was a brief debate about a suitable distance to the existing pedestrianised traffic lights on the St Luke's Church junction.

5. Hedgehog talk - presentation by Irene Thomson from **Lowton Hedgehog Rescue**

Her talk in **person** is well worth it. Any local groups who want Irene to give her talk can contact her on irene@lowtonhedgehogrescue.co.uk Her presentation has sound and animation too.

Here are some of the things we found out:

Hedgehogs live for 5-6 years but are finding it hard to survive. Their favourite foods in the wild are beetles, caterpillars and worms, but they will eat other things too. They may visit your garden at night if you are part of their green corridor by having a couple of hedgehog sized holes at the base of your fence. They travel up to 2 miles a night looking for food. Put a shallow dish of water out for them. They don't like milk and bread but they do like cat biscuits! If you see a hedgehog out during the day it is likely that there is something wrong: Roundworm, Lungworm, Coccidia, Fluke and/or an injury. Use two towels, a warm water bottle and a high sided box. Wrap the bottle in the towel and put in the bottom of the box. Catch the hedgehog in the other towel or with gloves and put in the box with the towel placed gently on top of it. Then ring Irene on **07950 933410**.

Depending on circumstances, she may ask you to take the hedgehog to My Pets Vet on Newton Road or to Lowton Rescue, at 2 Rowan Ave, Lowton. Irene gave many more facts too.

If you would like to support Irene's work then there is a donations box at the front door of the Rescue for cat biscuits, tins of meaty cat/dog food and clean old newspapers. Lowton Hedgehog Rescue is a charity Ref:1212569 and accepts money donations for medicines, vet fees, travel costs and bedding. She has a facebook page and website www.lowtonhedgehogrescue.co.uk



6. AOB

a) **National Emergency Briefing Film**: This film is being shown at the cinema in Leigh Spinners Mill on **Wednesday 9th September 7:30pm** – pay what you feel. It addresses the issue of adapting to our average world temperature increasing at an unsustainable rate. We have already seen unprecedented wild fires and drought across the UK and Europe over summer and an increase in flooding over winter. This issue had been forecast over 50 years ago.



There are people who believe that humans are at **least** partially responsible for rapid climate change /pollution/loss of habitat and some who don't. **Either way**, few people can now deny that the climate is changing in a way that has affected both humans and the natural world and that temperatures will continue to rise. Already, **planet biodiversity** has plummeted; plants in particular cannot move their location and cannot adapt quickly enough. We need to be ready for this rapid shift in climate and its repercussions, but **we are not ready**. Food/water security and home insulation are particular issues. Tipping points such as the AMOC and Gulf Stream will accelerate weather changes in Europe and the UK. This film asks the Government, and the mindset of its voters, to prepare **now** for these events **as it will take years for preparations to be adequate**.

There will probably be a discussion after the viewing the film. To get a feel of what it is about there are several short talks by UK scientists on this youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing> There is also a big international independent scientist led website about climate solutions here: <https://drawdown.org/> Climate change is something that will greatly affect us and our children; this, more than anything else, is worth investigating. Let's not bury our heads in the sand! Go and see the film!

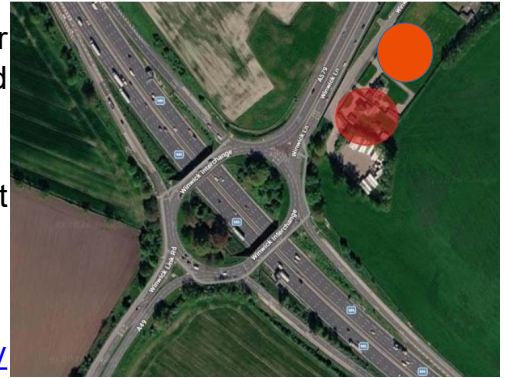
b. **The defibrillator telephone Box on Slag Lane**

This needs work! **Lowton West Residents Group** are organising this. They need £800 via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-restore-our-local-red-telephone-box> Please consider donating, especially if you live near the area. Murphy's are helping to renovate it once the materials are purchased.



c. **New Transit Travellers site at the bottom of Winwick Lane**

Warrington Borough Council have bought a property and land for a reported £1.55million for a transit traveller site. See the two red circles on the map on the old part of Winwick Lane near J22 of the M6. Travellers would book in and can stay up to 1 month. It still needs to go through Warrington Council planning. In theory it would make travellers less likely to trespass. Also apparently, having a traveller site close to the failed Hinckley Point rail-freight interchange, was one of the many reasons why this project failed. [Government refuses plans for huge £750m railway hub near Hinckley - BBC News](#)



d) **Any land need a tree, any grot spots need a litter pick?**

Let us know! We will pass grot spot info to **Love Lowton Litter Pickers** who have got their own Facebook page now. You can report there too.

e) **200 houses planned for behind the General Elliot in Croft.**

This planning application will have closed by the time you read this but it's important to know that our farming community is under threat, especially tenant farmers. This is just 200 houses, but Peel owns the rest of the land nearby too. This land is currently planted with barley. Read more here: <https://croftparishcouncil.gov.uk/developments-for-consideration/turret-hall-farm-proposal/> National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) rules have just changed, technically making it even easier for large estate plans to be pushed through, and why large construction companies are chancing their arm to press for grey belt status for land they own, near to existing villages. It is hoped that Borough Local Plans will stand up to this onslaught.

f) **BREAKING NEWS on the Wigan Local Plan** – GOOD NEWS! The land west of Winwick Lane (part owned by Tritax) and the land behind Moss Industrial estate have been put back in to the green belt in the draft Wigan Local Plan. This will make it more difficult for this land to be built on. We will let you know when the consultation on the Wigan Local Plan opens. Well done to the many people who made this happen.

Next Meeting - Monday 12th October 2026 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club