

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 at Lowton Social Club

PRESENT:

Chair	Professor Graham Wardle (GW)
Secretary	Liz Brown (LB)
Treasurer	Irene Thomson (IT)
Minutes Secretary	Minutes taken on this occasion by Irene Thomson
Councillor	Garry Lloyd (GL)
Councillor	Jenny Gregory (JG)
Councillor	Mike Smith (MS)

Apologies:	Margaret Mitchell (Minutes Secretary)
	Kath Houlton (Social Secretary)

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. Lowton Fun Day

LENDF are currently organising a Fun Day which will take place on **Sunday 17th May 2026**. *Please put this date in your diary.* It will be located across three venues in order to maximise the opportunities for local residents to take part. The three venues will be Oaklands Park, Lowton Social Club and Lowton Community Hub. Each venue will have a variety of activities for all ages to enjoy and residents can easily walk to each one and follow the Timetable of Events.

LENDF are asking for volunteers to help the Sub-Committee with the organising of 'set-up' the day before (Sat 16th May), during the various events/activities at all three venues, and then the 'take-down' and clean up afterwards. Linda Graham has offered to do the litterpicking with her team from Love Lowton.

To whet your appetite, this is a list of some of the proposed activities:

Darts Displays, Five a side football, Magician and Childrens' entertainer, a free packed lunch for children, fitness sessions, line dancing sessions, food vendors, martial arts displays, fire engine and free fire alarms, childrens' crafts, and more to follow....

The next meeting of the Sub-Committee for Lowton Fun Day is Tuesday 4th November at 7pm in Lowton Social Club. If you wish to put forward any ideas or offer your services in any way, then please email lendf99@gmail.com

3. Notice of two important Meetings for Lowton residents

Monday November 10th 2025 @ 6pm for 6:15 pm start

Who: Andy Burham and Jo Platt discuss progress on **Golborne Train Station**

Venue: at Golborne Sports and Social Club on Stone Cross Lane.

Discussion will include: construction working day; temporary carpark; active travel; train once an hour from Wigan Wallgate to Manchester Victoria ...*come with questions*

Monday November 17th 2025 @ 7pm for 7.15pm start

Who: Andy Burnham and Jo Platt to discuss **Parkside** (LHSRG organised this meeting)

Venue: Lowton Travel Lodge meeting room at Lane Head

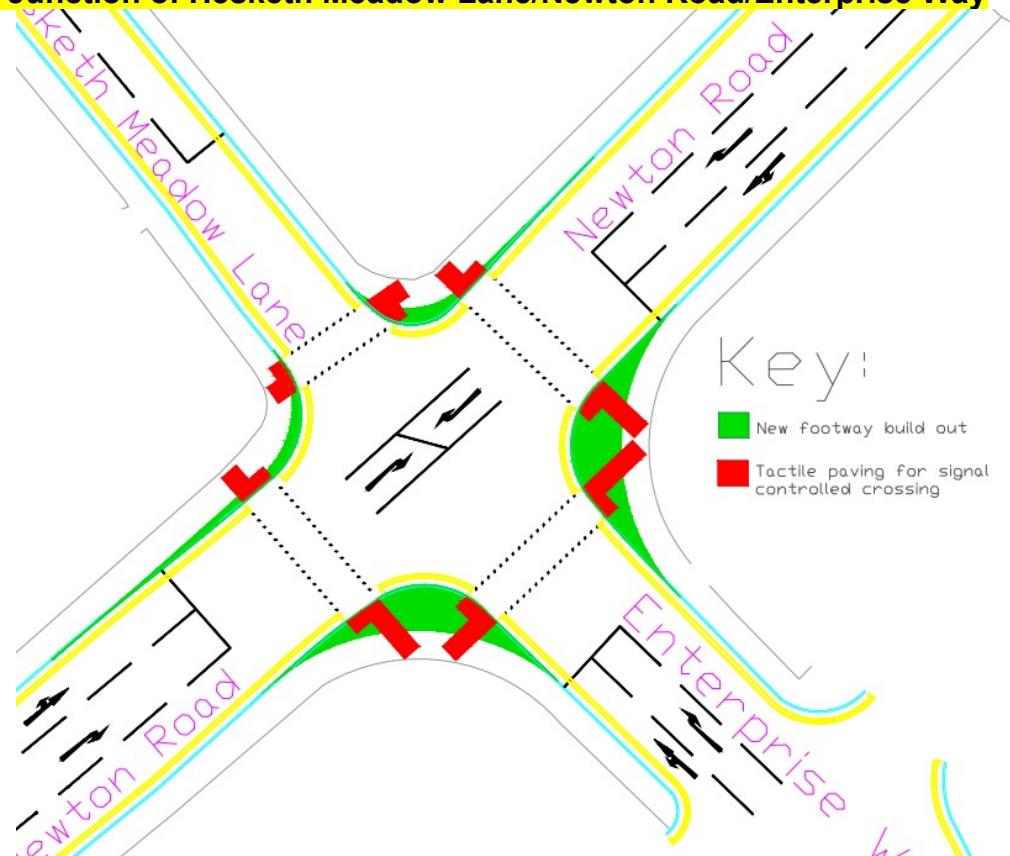
This will take the format of "Any Questions". We hope this meeting will be an opportunity to comment on local issues and the possible developments (SRFI) alongside Winwick Lane.

Please email questions to lhsrg00@gmail.com before 1st November, so we can make sure all matters are covered and there isn't too much duplication.

Background: Parkside Phase 1 and Phase 2 warehousing have been passed already and take up the footprint of the old Parkside Colliery in Merseyside. **Phase 3** is currently being discussed and is planned to be on 500+ acres of prime farm land opposite Kenyon Hall Farm and its run off water will drain into Highfield Moss SSSI causing potential issues. This Strategic Rail-Freight Interchange (SRFI) will result in a **very large increase in HGVs** in the local area, particularly Winwick Lane, J22 of the M6, Newton Road and the A580. Please see many of our previous minutes for more details! There wont be that many new jobs generated as many employees will be redeployed from Freight Liner in Manchester and commute in via Lowton. It is no surprise that many local residents are against phase 3. The three borough councils of Wigan, Warrington and St Helens are reluctant to cooperate with each other to mitigate the potential traffic chaos. Andy Burham is in favour of phase 3 going ahead – what is his mitigation plan and how will he make it work??

4. Local Issues (Infrastructure and Developments)

- Junction of Hesketh Meadow Lane/Newton Road/Enterprise Way**



Work to be done: New pedestrian crossings and tactile pavements at the edge of the footpaths. Work starts Monday 13th October and ends in December. Temporary four way traffic lights will be in place during this time.

- Winwick Lane - Air quality improvement scheme**

***New northbound traffic signals will be installed** approximately 130m south of the Winwick Lane/Newton Road junction. ***Installation of new pedestrian crossings** at the main junction, and improvements to the footway and underground ducting.

The road will remain open for the majority of the works, with temporary traffic signals in operation. There may be lane closures for short periods of time and minor disruption to footways but access for residents, refuse collection, and emergency services will be maintained at all times. Please note that all works will pause during the Christmas period, from Friday 15th December 2025. Works will resume on Monday 5th January 2026. Newton Road and Winwick Lane Junction, Lowton will be closed on 5th January 2026 to 9th January 2026 between the hours of 19:00pm and 06:30am.

This work will try to improve air quality, as this junction has one of the highest pollution rates in the Borough. This is due to the long queues at the lights which are stationary outside residential properties on Winwick Lane. By installing a new set of traffic lights before the houses, the majority of stationary traffic will, in theory, be further away from those properties. The original traffic lights will remain active. It will be interesting to see if this scheme actually generates the intended gap in the traffic between these 2 sets of lights on Winwick Lane.

Note: Council webpage of (some) roadworks updates :

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Roads/Roadworks-bulletin.aspx>

- **Rowan Avenue:** seven acres of arable land has been bought by Rowland Homes.



The housebuilder's LinkedIn profile says the following:

"Rowland Secures New Development Opportunity in Lowton" We're delighted to announce the exchange of contracts on a 7-acre site at Rowan Avenue, Lowton. Allocated within Places for Everyone (PfE), the site enjoys excellent connectivity via the A580, with easy access to the regional motorway and rail networks. Both Manchester and Liverpool are within commutable distance, making this a truly sustainable location.

*Our proposals include two phases of residential development, delivering **around 90** high quality homes. Detailed planning applications for both phases will be submitted shortly, helping to boost much-needed housing supply and support local economic growth.*

Tom Snape, Senior Strategic Land & Planning Manager at Rowland, said: The site is allocated for development and partly falls within the HS2 Phase 2b Safeguarded Area, which is due to be amended following the cancellation of the Phase 2 route. We are looking forward to finalising our plans for submission in the coming months and working with Wigan Council and HS2 to unlock the site and help deliver high-quality homes. This development will create vibrant, sustainable communities, designed to meet the needs of modern families. Paul Johnson of Frank Marshall acted on behalf of the landowner."

This news was a big surprise for the residents of the Rowan Avenue estate and many were present at LENDF's meeting. Concerns were voiced on many issues relating to any proposed development of this land.

The landowners have fought for other 30 years to keep this land within their farming practice and it is currently rented out to another farmer to use as a haylage crop. The land contains a wide variety of wildlife including roe deer, hares, partridge, bats and hedgehogs. Possibly newts as well as the land has areas that collect water in heavy rain creating ponds. Please **can residents forward evidence of the various wildlife that uses this land to LENDF?** We already have already been given a photo and video of Roe Deer.

The above LinkedIn article failed to point out the excessive congestion at Lane Head!! Yet again Lowton is being labelled as commuter belt with only the car in mind! We have a **very poor public transport** network at the edge of the borough so we have no choice but to use the car. Why is the only regular bus service from Leigh to Wigan?

A planning application has not yet been submitted and therefore the exact details of the development are not yet known. The Rowan Avenue residents are **very concerned about access to the new estate**: the route of potential construction traffic and the route of additional cars created by the 90+ new houses. The 90 extra houses will double the size of the estate. Will access be via Rowan Ave, or by a new access created to the A580, or possibly to the Enterprise Park on to Newton Road? (Maybe that's why the junction of Hesketh Meadow Lane and Enterprise Park is being made safer for pedestrians and school children/parents going to Lowton J&I). The location of the access road may jeopardise the peaceful atmosphere of the Rowan Avenue estate. **It might be worth residents monitoring current traffic levels entering and leaving the estate at peak times.**

As the three local councillors were present at the meeting tonight, they have been asked to inform LENDF as soon as a planning application is submitted. LENDF will also monitor Wigan Council's website. Residents who live on the boundary of the land (including those properties at the bottom of Kings Avenue, Maple Avenue and Cedar Avenue) should receive notification when the application is submitted to the council.

We do know that any 'density' of a proposed housing development has to be calculated by the developer. The Council may prefer a higher density to maximise the amount of Council Tax achievable. Rowland Homes <https://www.rowland.co.uk/> does appear to develop high-end luxury properties rather than squeeze in as many as possible.

Lowton's current infrastructure struggles daily with the amount of traffic at peak times. Yet another housing development will increase the number of man hours lost to Lowton commuters. The roads already suffer from over use and poor maintenance, pot holes, weeds encroaching and blocking the rain drains. Tarmac lifting in certain areas, causing potential hazards to cyclists and pedestrians. (We also have *future* traffic from Parkside and the large development behind the fire station to consider)

As soon as Rowlands plans are available, LENDF will organise a special meeting to discuss this potential housing development. Rowland Homes may even wish to hold a consultation with local residents.

5. Councillors' Business

Cllr Jenny Gregory Crompton Way, Lowton Tel: 07808 572451 Email: J.Gregory1@wigan.gov.uk	Cllr Garry Lloyd Newton Road, Lowton Tel: 07852 536169 Email: G.Lloyd@wigan.gov.uk	Cllr Michael Smith Bradwell Road, Lowton Tel: 07501 326803 Email: m.smith3@wigan.gov.uk
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Councillors' Surgeries are held:

First Saturday of every month at Compassion in Action, Oaklands Road 10.30am-12pm

Second Thursday of every month at Lowton Community Centre, Church Lane 6.30pm-8pm

Third Saturday of every month at Bethany Evangelical Church, St Helens Road 10.30am-12pm

Clr Garry Lloyd assured residents that he will make enquiries regarding the proposed housing development near Rowan Avenue and will report back to LENDF with any findings.

Lamppost Poppies – Cllr Lloyd confirmed that once again there will be Poppies on Lampposts to commemorate Remembrance Day. Also there will be wreaths laid at the cenotaphs at Lowton St Mary's and Lowton St Luke's Churches.

Current casework includes the reports of dirt bikes being ridden illegally, increase in dog waste not being disposed of properly, and the many pot holes affecting local roads.

Winton Road Play Area – The current trench to deter Travellers needs to be looked at.

Cllr Jenny Gregory gave an update on bus transportation. Discussions are taking place to extend the routes to include travel to Warrington and extend the number 34 bus availability at night from Newton Train Station.

The Labour leaflet which was recently circulated contained a Wigan Borough survey which many residents completed with feedback for the three Lowton East Councillors to review. This survey can be found here: <https://survey.labour.org.uk/wigan-borough-community-survey> It is quick to fill in and most questions are optional.

6. Update Re Police and Lowton and Golborne Traffic Advisory Committee (LaGTAC)

Professor Graham Wardle (LaGTAC/LENDF) gave an update on Traffic issues:

A detailed version of this agenda item 6 can be found [here](#).

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IUd9U5DLg-TQYWMeqAMWZFRJFP_cMrIZ/view

Below is a summary:

General

- Since 2020 LaGTAC have met regularly with GMP on speed measurement and enforcement issues for Lowton and Golborne. LaGTAC have logged a large statistical database for Lowton and Golborne roads.
- In 2024 four residents were vetted and trained by GMP as Police Support Volunteers (PSVs) to carry out formal community Speed-Watch duties. **Graham would appreciate more volunteers, email LaGTAC.data@gmail.com for more details.**

Feedback from bi-monthly GMP's Speed Monitoring working group

- The group is comprised of GMP inspectors from: Neighbourhood Policing, Citizens in Policing (CiP), Roads Policing Unit (RPU), Road Safety Team Leader, and PSVs Graham Wardle and Kath Houlton.
- Latest 2 sites approved for CSW operation were Stone Cross Lane (North) and Nook Lane, Golborne. See the [detailed version](#) for statistics on these sites.

The Sandy Lane, Lowton excessive speeding problem (Speed Limit = 20mph)

- See the [detailed version](#) for statistics. Vehicles exceeding 60+mph happens daily.
- Kath and Graham want to arrange a meeting between all interested parties (Police, Council, Residents, LaGTAC) to resolve this speeding. **Graham asks Sandy Lane residents to email LaGTAC.data@gmail.com to indicate their willingness to attend** – it's likely be an evening meeting at Lowton Social Club. TBA.

New: LaGTAC's weekly surgery to discuss local traffic issues

A 'Traffic issues' surgery for local Lowton/Golborne residents to express their views on traffic matters in an informal atmosphere will happen **every Thursday** (starting October 2025) at **St Mary's Church Community Hall, Newton Road, Lowton WA3 1DQ** at the 'Coffee and Chat' mornings. Graham and Kath will be available from **10:30 to 12:00**. All residents' views will be anonymised when presented by them at GMP's bi-monthly CSW traffic monitoring meetings and their meetings with Wigan Council officers.

Greater Manchester ANPR Consultation on re-purposing Clean Air Zone (CAZ) APNRs for use by GMP - Closes 6th November 2025

Greater Manchester residents are being asked to give their views on transferring control of former Clean Air Zone ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to help prevent and tackle crime, keep communities safe and support victims. To find out more and fill out the survey at: <https://gmconsult.org/ANPR>

The full list of Frequently asked questions is on the GMP website: Link given below
[Automatic Number Plate Recognition \(ANPR\) & frequently asked questions](#)

The FAQ information on Graham's [detailed version](#) of his notes is well worth a read!

7. Update Re University of Manchester Consultation (Walking, cycling)

Dr Joanna Barrow (UoM) held a further focus group session on 25 th Sept 2025 at Golborne Library. Some of the comments noted by Graham from the recent session are [given here](#):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TWPYB0NSZsnODV8sNlzl-QmNIXex0bxY/view>

Joanna was keen to walk around critical routes within Lowton and Golborne. She will be meeting up with Graham and local residents possibly sometime in November. Graham asks if residents suggest a list of potential sites to be walked asap email LaGTAC.data@gmail.com She will be running additional focus group meeting with local residents early in 2026 once planned development by Wigan Council has taken place.

8. Upcoming Events

- **18th October** - Last Night of the Proms Concert at Lowton Social Club. Golborne Brass Band and Three Towns Choir
- **31st October** - Halloween Treasure Hunt on Braithwaite Park organised by Golborne and Lowton West Residents Group
- **7th December** - Carols round the Christmas Tree organised by Lane Head South Residents Group. Mulled Wine, Father Christmas and Rotary Club Float plus music.
- **Month of December** – Advent Trail around Lane Head with light displays in properties and gardens.

9. AOB

Oaklands Park boundary hardening – a bund (ditch and mound) has been dug all around the park with bollards either side of the path. The grey gate has been moved to the other side of the park to allow access to cut the grass.

10. Next Meeting is Monday 8th December 2025 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club