

LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP - Bi Monthly Meeting
Monday July 20th 2026 at 7.15pm
Conference Room, The Travelodge, Lane Head, Lowton

1. **Welcome** everyone to the meeting by **KJ**
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Jenny Gregory, Mike Smith, Andy Lomas, Lorraine Nordmann, Terry Hewitt, Edward Houlton, Tom Rigby
3. **Minutes of last meeting** circulated online – accepted by Kath Houlton & Garry Lloyd
4. **Financial Update** was given.
5. **Local Issues:**

- (a) **speed signs on Newton Road CW** gave an update to say that there has been no further activity on the installation of these signs, since we were told they are still waiting for an electrician to complete the work. **CW** will chase again for more information.

Most recent update from Wigan Council below ...

The locations for the VAS (vehicle activated signs) are below: Newton Road: All signs to face traffic travelling East Bound. To face traffic travelling Eastbound towards Lane Head 30mph at boundary between 534/536 Newton Road on new pole [534 Newton Rd - Google Maps](#) 40mph on new pole in front of LC 115 Newton Road - 40mph on new pole in front of LC 97. We are working to get these signs installed however as they require an electrical connection, they are installed by our Street lighting team which is taking longer due to staff sickness. Please be assured we are working to get these installed as soon as possible.

- (b) **Winwick Lane traffic lights sequencing** there is a (roughly) 30 second delay at the lights at Winwick Lane/Newton Road, for the traffic coming from The East Lancs to proceed, (giving benefit to the traffic coming from the East Lancs). Residents raised a question; Could there also be a delay or smart filter if travelling in the opposite direction to turn right into Winwick Lane? Also, the right turn lane at this junction is very dangerous and although we've been assured it is set at the minimum width requirement, when HGV's are coming towards you through the junction they are VERY close and often travelling at speed!

(c) Works at Stone Cross, Lane Head and Heath Lane

Stone Cross Junction: the works have commenced at Stone Cross. You can view the information on the Stone Cross Junction works on the Wigan Council website and download a map <https://shorturl.at/Kp7KB>

A580 / Newton Road - Junction Improvements

Wigan Council are developing a scheme to create a dedicated left turn lane at the junction of Newton Road and the A580 East Lancashire Road. Designs have been developed to facilitate the new left turn lane, whilst minimising impact to residents on the adjacent service road. As part of the scheme, pedestrian crossing points will be upgraded and repositioned to provide safer travel across this main route.

- Newton Road works are planned for next year (2027), with minor preparatory works, including relocating or lowering underground services, to take place in advance
- Electricity North West will be undertaking a separate scheme around Church Lane / Kenyon Lane starting in February 2027, and the Newton Road improvements will follow this to ensure concurrent phasing
- We do not anticipate the A580 East Lancashire Road being closed during construction, and any temporary road closures needed for final surfacing would take place out of hours at the end of the scheme.

Heath Lane Scheme (Proposals)

- A new staggered Toucan crossing on the A580 East Lancashire Road, reconnecting both ends of Heath Lane for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The left turn into Heath Lane on the south side of the A580 would be closed off, making it safer to cross here and at the new crossing point across the A580.
- A new multiuser pedestrian and cycleway along the north side of the A580 between Stone Cross Lane and Church Lane, improving links to Thompsons Farm Meadow and the Stirrups Farm Road estates. The Stirrups Farm Road estate is also proposed to become 'quiet streets' low speed and traffic volume streets that make it nicer and safer to walk and cycle on.

(d) CO2 & ANPR Figures. LHSRG keep an eye on regular results for both the CO2 monitoring and ANPR (Winwick Lane South) fines issue. You can always view the latest figures for these on the local news page of our website at <https://www.lhsrg.co.uk/local-news-and-issues>. The Co2 readings for 2025 (at tube 180 – corner of Winwick Lane) was recorded at 32.9ug/m3 – a significant decrease from previous years. The number of prosecutions for HGVs still using Winwick Lane jumped to 422 in June – the highest number since November 2025.

Discussions on traffic led to further points raised on A572 Newton Road and speeding vehicles in particular. Speeding on Newton Road has become a big problem – in particular with HGV traffic since the introduction of the ANPR camera at Winwick Lane and the opening of the Link Road. HGV traffic is now detouring down Newton Road to reach the M6.

Although we received feedback from the volunteer speed watchers that the speeds on Newton Road (at the times that they were monitoring them), were at acceptable levels, it is clearly not the case in real life 24/7 and there was a large number of residents at the meeting who live on Newton Road who state that this is definitely not the case and that traffic speeds are significant to a point of being dangerous. HGV traffic speeding during the night, when there is less traffic, has also become a big problem. There are reports of houses shaking, internal damage being reported and residents continually woken up during the night.

A number of 'live' complaints are currently with Wigan Council from residents who live on Newton Road and we will feedback on any responses given. When the time is right LHSRG would like to commence a campaign to get some sort of 'restriction' placed on Newton Road, whether that is a weight limit – reduction in the speed limits or other traffic calming measures – we will continue to seek ideas and commitment for this to go ahead.

Graham Wardle has issued an invitation to anyone who is interested in becoming one of the volunteers for Speed Watch – to contact lhsrg00@gmail.com and we will pass on your details to him.

(e) Councillor Update – Unfortunately, there were no local councillors present at the meeting and so no further updates are available at this time.

(f) Tritax/LHSRG Statement – A statement on behalf of LHSRG committee members was read out at the meeting by **GE** and copies of the statement were given to attendees. You can read this statement as an attachment to these minutes or on our website at [/www.lhsrg.co.uk/tritax-and-ilpn](http://www.lhsrg.co.uk/tritax-and-ilpn)

(g) Mount Tabor clean up – Thanks were given by **KJ** to all those who gave of their time and effort to help with the yearly clear up at Mount Tabor – the work was completed to a very high standard and BIG thanks go to those who brought tools to help with the job including ride on mowers and a small tractor!

(h) Review of Jo Platt visit to Highfield Moss – A visit to Highfield Moss and surrounding area was organised and a small number of committee members and local residents accompanied Jo on a circular walk. We started at the kissing gate opposite the old bakery, across the fields, through the woods and over to the moss, then back around through the fields to join Newton Road at Stone Cross Lane South. Jo was overwhelmed by the beauty of this area and saddened by the information given when it was illustrated (in real life) the extent of the Tritax plans and possible destruction of the area. Jo has expressed her continued support against Tritax and will continue to monitor the plans. We have been encouraged by this and invited to keep in touch with her and send all updates as and when they come through.

(i) 2026 Bowling Event – KJ asked residents would they be interested in taking part in a community event at the bowling green at The Red Lion like in previous years – there was no take up on the night, but residents were encouraged to send in an email if there is any further interest to lhsrg00@gmail.com

(j) Autumn visit to Lymm Fire Station & Safety Centre – KJ asked residents if they would they be interested in taking part in an arranged visit – the fire and safety centre is a totally immersive training visit comprising a number of themed learning zones. There are already a few names on the list and we are looking to limit numbers to about 12-14 so please email if you are interested – then a date can be arranged to lhsrg00@gmail.com

(k) LENDF update on Rowland Homes plans – Rowland Homes had submitted plans to build up to 75 houses north of the East Lancs off Rowan Avenue, which would seriously add to the weight of traffic in the area. Currently plans feature 2 phases starting with an initial detailed application for 45 dwellings and associated infrastructure. The council's planning officers are currently reviewing the plans (including access points, pumping stations and drainage infrastructure) alongside all the objections that have been submitted by the community and LENDF.

Also noted a proposal plan from the RSPCA to build near Slag Lane/Byrom Lane (Formerly Mossley Hall Farm site). A formal planning application to Wigan Council is expected to be submitted later in the year, following a public consultation period. Again this will significantly add to traffic problems across Lowton and through Lane Head.

AOB

- **Monitoring CO2 and speeds on Newton Road** – Q - can we use a proportion of the monies held in the LHSRG bank account to purchase equipment that we could use to do our own monitoring of these issues?
- **Tom & Julia Rigby at Johnsons Farm** – Tom & Julia are local farmers at Johnsons Farm on Kenyon Lane, and very much part of our local community. Julia mentioned to those present at the meeting that they have been given notice by their milk buyer that they will stop collecting their milk from the farm in February 2027, due to high transport costs. Tom & Julia want to continue milking and are considering if it would be possible/viable to sell milk at their farm gate via a vending machine or honesty box. Currently they are doing lots of research to see if this could work and are asking for any useful ideas – as a meeting we expressed our support to them in this endeavour and asked them to let us know if there is anything we can do to help.
- **Hedgehogs - raised by Gordon Nash as a post meeting addition** - I feel this is a yearly/summer issue in parts of Lane Head and Lowton. There are several hedgehogs that cross Heath Lane from the fields to visit domestic gardens, each evening, including ours, during the summer months, and have done so for years. Unfortunately, a large adult male was killed by a passing car late one evening two weeks ago (the driver was not speeding to be honest and stopped) and that left a female to fend for her babies. We also saw another

adult (looked like a large male), crossing Newton Road (north side of A580), near the Norwood Avenue junction, late one evening earlier this week. It was only by chance he survived the crossing.

I appreciate that erecting hedgehog crossing signs randomly would be impractical, but locations that are known to be established crossings would hopefully prevent losses, due to vehicles. I have seen hedgehog crossing signage displayed in other Boroughs within the North West, so clearly some councils do appreciate that their existence is under significant threat (up to 75% decline in rural areas since 2000). The link below relates to concerns for hedgehogs in York. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1bq7thJXiu/>

Next LHSRG residents' meeting - Monday September 21st 2026 (7.15pm)

Attachments:

- LHSRG Tritax Statement (July 2026)
- Map of the works taking place at the Stone Cross junction
- Map of the proposed works to take place at the Newton Road junction