



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 18th February 2015

at Westhoughton Golf Club

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (22)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bethel Crowd (BADs) | 15. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 2. Community Police (Pcso) | 16. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP) |
| 3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 17. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 18. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA) |
| 5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 19. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 6. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 20. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS) |
| 7. Hope Church (HOPE) | 21. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 8. Rainbow Crafts Group (RBC) | 22. Wingates Residents & Tenants Association (WRA) |
| 9. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW) | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC) |
| 10. Sacred Heart Parish Church (SHC) | ~ Bolton ICD (BICD) |
| 11. Senior Solutions (SenSol) | ~ Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC) |
| 12. Tots and Toddlers (TOTS) | ~ Bolton Magistrates (MAG) |
| 13. Travelliin' Strings (TST) | |
| 14. Washacre Primary School (WPS) | |

Individuals in attendance (41)

Sue Ashcroft (WMC)	Jean Green (WASP)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Susan Nixon (TOTS)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Mike Phillips (MAG)
Chris Buckley (WCN)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Wendy Scott (TOTS)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Corrie Haslam (TOTS)	Peter Sloan (MAG)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Jenny Haunch (WPS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Joanne Chilton (WCQA)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Wendy Tate (RCG)
Janet Colley (WACO/RCG)	Linda James (RBC)	Jason Taylor (BADs)
Jane Darwen (RCG)	Jean Jones (SenSol)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR	Hazel Jones (WRA)	Michelle Todd (SenSol)
Gail Davies (Pcso)	Brian Leyden (FoWS)	Tracey Wilkinson (BICD)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Tim Eden (TST)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Karen Edwards (BLGC)	Michelle Moore (PscO)	

Apologies (10)

Janice Bayliss (National Association of Women's Clubs); Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild);
Anne Burns (Bolton at Home); Pam Clarke (Westhoughton Local History Group);
Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Edwina Gibney (Westhoughton Masonic Lodges);
David Kaye (Wingates Band); Carl Messenger (Washacre Primary School);
Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); James Wilson (St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chair Harold Daniels expressed our thanks to Westhoughton Golf Club for use of their premises and generous hospitality, particularly Dominic & Kath Gaffney and Neil Robinson.

Apologies minuted. Previous minutes of meeting on 19/11/2014 were agreed, moved and seconded. Those present introduced themselves and the groups they represented. All asked to complete the attendance sheet.

3. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)

We welcomed Karen Edwards OBE, Chief Executive Officer of Bolton Lads and Girls Club who gave a presentation and took questions on plans to open a base and provide youth activities and support in the Westhoughton area. The club has been in existence for over 130 years and has a purpose-built state-of-the-art facility in Bolton. BLGC already cater for Westhoughton youths, but believe a facility in the town will both improve and enhance youth provision (8-19 year olds).

BLGC has identified a building at the former Primary School on Central Drive and following negotiations with Bolton Council, intend to refurbish and fit out the facility with a goal of having it up and running by the summer holidays.

A wide range of activities will be available throughout the week including sport, health, recreation and the arts; it is hoped to provide a skatepark facility on site.

BLGC also offers specialist support including work preparation and mentoring. The centre will have a core staff but will also offer opportunities for up to 40 volunteers. Karen stressed that she is keen to work with existing groups in Westhoughton to drive the project forward. The club has a good fundraising record and hopes to attract corporate funding to Westhoughton.

An overview leaflet is [online](#). More information at their website: www.blgc.co.uk.

The room felt that this was a great thing for Westhoughton; Karen undertook to return to next WCN meeting in May to update on progress.

4. 'Westhoughton You Decide'

Following the very successful event (24/1/15) in which 12 groups were awarded funding for community projects as voted for by their community, Pcsos Michelle Moore and Gail Davies came to offer feedback. 225 people attended, 162 votes cast; the event which had a great atmosphere and community spirit – the contribution of The Travellin' Strings a highlight. Those groups that were unsuccessful in their bids were sign-posted to other sources of funding...

It being a first event, there is a learning curve with some lessons to learn from the day and the run up. The importance of community and police relations was stressed – an area to be developed. The Pcsos commented on the structure and organisation of WCN as playing an important part in the success of the event. It is hoped that the event can be repeated in the future.



5. Magistrates in the Community

Peter Sloan JP and Mike Phillips JP, local magistrates, gave a presentation about the role and work of Magistrates in administering justice at local level – Magistrates being the first line, with referrals to Crown Court as required. They explained about different sentencing policies, varieties of offences and training for magistrates. Mike Phillips invited Linda James to assist in a light-hearted role play exercise to demonstrate how witnesses' perceptions could be challenged in Court.

If you are interested in finding out more Justice in the Community contact WCN and we'll put you in touch.

Break for refreshments and networking. After which Neil Robinson, Secretary of Westhoughton Golf Club spoke about the facilities, hire of the venue, membership opportunities and encouraging younger members.

6. Bolton ICD

Tracey Wilkinson, Fundraising Manager, gave a talk on her group: how it came into being, what defibrillators are, and the group's goals of both offering support and information to patients, carers, families (Support Groups meet four times a year), and raising funds to provide defibrillators to schools and clubs. The campaign covers Bolton, Bury and Wigan with events and demonstrations given by the team.

We learned the difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest. Tracey gave a comprehensive and entertaining demonstration with a model of heart massage and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) – by having one and following the clear instructions lives can be saved.

Further information is available at boltonicdsupportgroup.wordpress.com

7. Group Updates / Information Share

Westhoughton Community Queens Association – Sandra Greenall reported that they have raised £1,400 for their three chosen charities. There is a 'Psychic Night' planned for 17th March; a sponsored 12-mile walk to Botany Bay 26th April; with a Royalty crowning event in July.

Tots and Toddlers, a thriving and popular group based at the John Holt Centre, and successful at 'Westhoughton You Decide' were welcomed to their first meeting. The mums are doing a sponsored 'pramathon' (19/3) for the 'Tyler's Wheels' appeal. There will be a Kids' Funday at the John Holt 28th March (1-5pm).

Washacre Primary School – Head Teacher Jenny Hauch informed us of fundraising (target £1,200) to support a 3-day trip for Year 5 to the Colomendy Centre in North Wales in September – a fun and beneficial experience for pupils. Jenny herself will be undertaking the 'Born Survivor' challenge on 4th April to raise funds and is seeking sponsors. The school's summer fayre is on Saturday, 27th June (11-2) – WCN groups are welcome and those wishing to have a stall should contact Carl Messenger (MessengerC@washacre.bolton.sch.uk).



Westhoughton Community Network

Wingates Residents Association is still having difficulties in identifying premises for meetings and activities, currently meeting in the reception area of St John's Church. The area the group covers being extended; they are currently leafleting and carrying out a questionnaire survey to find out about all residents' concerns.

Senior Solutions – Jean Jones introduced Michelle Todd, who is the new co-ordinator for the 'Home from Hospital' pilot scheme – working with Age UK, the project which offers support to old people just out of hospital is due for evaluation in March. At the meeting Jean Jones announced her retirement (end of May).

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight reported that they had been successful in the Bolton CVS £100 challenge, which will be used for insect boxes made by a local school. Their monthly station improvement sessions now take place on Sunday mornings from 10am (next one 8th March).

Bethel Crowd – Jason Taylor reported on the success of their Panto. Two upcoming shows: A Murder Mystery, 'Who Killed the Hotel Manager?' on Fri/Sat 27/28th March (£7.50 inc pasty and peas supper); and the Junior Workshop production of 'Red Macintosh' (Double Bill). Casting and rehearsals under way with performances late June/early July.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – meet for work at station (clean-up/planting) Sundays from 10am. Ted Wisedale reported on current activities and local business support – sessions sponsored by Stateside Foods (Wingates) 3rd and 4th March.

Ted also spoke for **Westhoughton History Group** who now number over 80 members and meet for talks, presentations and socialising the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at the Library. The group is currently doing research into the Development of Westhoughton during the 1950s and 60s.

Westhoughton Town Council – David Chadwick gave an update on Council activities including budgets and possible cross-borough merging of services: there is an Area Forum Thursday, 5th March (6:30pm for 7pm) at the John Holt Centre – Winifred Kettle plans on the agenda. David also gave an update of works related to the electrification of the Victoria to Preston line (Westhoughton station); there will be limited services, station closures and replacement buses during the summer months (altered timetables). Planning ahead and allowing more time advised.

More: networkrail.co.uk/North_West_electrification.aspx

Travelling Strings – Tim Eden spoke of the group of musicians, who meeting weekly in Chew Moor, have banded together to play, have fun and raise funds to support the Alzheimer's Society, mainly through local events like 'Westhoughton You Decide' (where they had the room rocking during the break for vote counting). They also entertain patients at the Royal Bolton Hospital at Christmas which means a lot. They have so far raised over £1,200. They are happy to support local events, and can be contacted via WCN.

Washacre FM 2015 will take place Monday 1st June to Sunday 7th June (National Volunteers' Week), with a 'Showcase Day' at John Holt the Sunday (7th) 12-4pm.



Westhoughton Community Network

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Bill Greenhalgh reported on their current Panto – no. 34 – Ali Baba and the Four Thieves; there is a comedy planned for 15/16th May, and a second radio play in pre-production for broadcasting on Washacre FM this summer. Last year's accomplished 7-part radio play is available to listen to online @ [Audioboom \(Washacre FM\)](#).

Westhoughton Art Group – now in its 5th year, Dave Hendry spoke of the new WAG exhibition upstairs at Westhoughton Library featuring the group's artwork: it opens 5th March running until 21st March – well worth a visit. Help with publicity welcomed.

Westhoughton Methodist Church – Sue Ashcroft. There are friendly, drop-in Coffee Mornings every Saturday (10-12); and a Lunch Club for Over 55s every Wednesday at 12.30pm – two-course meal with tea or coffee for just £3.

This Easter, there will be a special service involving a dramatisation on Good Friday (3rd April); an empty room will be available for contemplation.

At **Sacred Heart Church** on Saturday, 20th March (10-12) **Westhoughton Inner Wheel** is holding a Coffee Morning to raise money for **Senior Solutions**.

Rainbow Crafts are celebrating their first anniversary on 4th March with an event at the Mercury Hotel, tickets £5 with cabaret entertainment and supper included. Linda James informed us that their Christmas Fayre raised £1,300 for the Stroke Association and made a donation to the 'Tylers Wheels' appeal.

Planning has begun for a big summer event Saturday, 4th July in the town centre – a **Yarn Bombing Festival**. This involves decorative knitting to adorn street furniture and stalls. Popularised in Southport, a recent festival has taken place in Leigh, this will be a community event involving local groups/schools, entertainment and attractions; also the market including a farmers' market. Support will be needed to make this happen and volunteers are most welcome. Details to be shared as plans unfold.

WASP (Westhoughton Age Support Project) – Wilf Dillon thanked the supporters at the 'Westhoughton You Decide' event. This seniors group received the most votes and have received publicity from the Bolton News. Money will help support trips, meetings and the 2015 Christmas meal. Meeting at the Winifred Kettle (Monday, Thursday evenings) and the John Holt Centre (Monday afternoons) new people are welcome, especially Thursday evenings.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – Trevor Benn updated the room on current winter activities led by Lancashire Wildlife Trust; conservation sessions on Saturdays 21st February and 21st March (meet 10am at Hoskers entrance). Another successful bid at 'Westhoughton You Decide' means that summer activities, including a Funday at the lodge can be repeated this year.

Hope Centre – Mark Taylor. The Grub Tub initiative continues to help poor people across the borough, with support coming in from companies such as e-ON Energy. The Hope Centre continues to provide space for community groups and activities including Weight-Watchers, dance classes and a toddler group.



Westhoughton Community Network

WACO – a new round of grants of up to £250 is being made available for the end of March. The group is actively fundraising for the Tyler's Wheels appeal, hoping to raise >£2,000 to help a little boy and his family. It is using [gofundme](#) for this; and will hold a fundraising evening at the Mercury, Friday 13th March (7pm) – tickets £5 with entertainment. Details via WACO Facebook page.

WACO are looking for volunteers for the committee and ongoing projects. Contact Janet Colley (01942 790064) or Kellie McGary (07804 010625).

Guide Dogs (by proxy), based at the Gibfield HQ, have an urgent volunteer vacancy at Guide Dogs. Also needed are home boarders for the dogs in advance training to acustomise the dogs to people, routines and homelife. Details [guidedogs.org.uk](#).

St Bartholomew's Parish Church (by proxy). There is to be a classical concert by Bolton Chamber Orchestra at St. Bart's Saturday, 14th March (7.30pm). These popular events feature top musicians. International guitarist Craig Ogden is to perform Rodrigo: Concierto de Aranjuez; other pieces by Jenkins and Haydn. Tickets £10 (£5 if under 16). Details [boltonchamberorchestra.co.uk](#).

Groups are reminded that events can be added to the website and WCN calendar – use the online events form or by sending in information/details and updates.

8. Any Other Business

- Chris Buckley has had a meeting with Edwina Gibney of Brookfield Hall who wishes to support WCN offering the venue for a future meeting (9th Sept).

Edwina has come up with the idea of offering a Christmas Meal, a 'Westhoughton Community Network Christmas Bash' that could cater for smaller groups and even connected local businesses coming together to enjoy a formal meal over the festive period (up to 116 people; 12 tables). The cost would be £25, with welcome drink, 3-course meal with coffee, entertainment (disco) provided. Dates suggested: Saturday 5th, Monday 7th, Friday 11th, Friday 18th, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd of December. We would welcome your thoughts on this and whether it is something that would interest your group.

Separately, given the good work done in the community by our groups, there is the possibility of WCN using Brookfield Hall for a celebration event – the venue provided free with a pasty and peas or canapé food offering. Given WCN will celebrate four years in August, it might be something to consider as a social gathering for our groups. Again your thoughts welcome...

We are most grateful for the kind offer from Edwina and Brookfield Hall.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 20th May 2015
at Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel).

[WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk](#)