



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 20th May 2015**  
at Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel)

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (20)

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|---|---|
| 1. Barking Berrys (BARK)                                    | 12. Washacre Primary School (WPS)                       |
| 2. Bethel Crowd (BADs)                                      | 13. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 3. Community Police (Pcso)                                  | 14. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)             |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)                     | 15. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)                        |
| 5. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)                           | 16. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)    |
| 6. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)                    | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)             |
| 7. George Formby Society (GFS)                              | 18. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)                  |
| 8. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 19. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC)          |
| 9. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)                              | 20. Wingates Band (WB)                                  |
| 10. Rainbow Crafts Group (RBC)                              | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)                       |
| 11. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)                       | ~ Bolton at Home (BaH)                                  |

#### Individuals in attendance (35)

Scarlett Berry (BARK)	Gary Hampson (GFS)	Dave Hendry (WAG)
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Dennis Lee (GFS)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)
Jason Taylor (BADs)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)
Anne Burns (BaH)	Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Val Chadwick (WLHG)
Vicky Hardy (Pcso)	Janice Bayliss (NAWC)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)
Michelle Moore (PscO)	Jane Darwen (RCG)	David Chadwick (WTC)
Jack Speight (FDHS)	Linda James (RBC)	Margaret Curme (WURC)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Wendy Tate (RCG)	Helen Purnell (WURC)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Jenny Haunch (WPS)	Tony Smith (WB)
Brenda Shott (FoEL)	Janet Colley (EAU)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Brian Leyden (FoWS)	Stephen Hesketh (WASP)	

#### Apologies (12)

Karen Edwards (Bolton Lads and Girls Club) | Mark Taylor (Hope Church) | Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton) | Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions) | Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild) | Tim Eden (Travelliin' Strings) | Len Maycroft (WASP) | Carl Messenger (Washacre Primary School) | Kellie McGarry (Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation) | Mark Webster (Westhoughton High School (SSL)) | Ted Wisedale (Westhoughton Local History Group) | David Kaye (Wingates Band)



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## 2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Welcome by Chair Harold Daniels. Thanks given to The Bethel for providing the venue (our 3rd visit). Apologies tendered and noted – best wishes were extended to David Kaye (Wingates Band) for a speedy recovery from surgery.

Previous minutes agreed as accurate. Group introductions around the room as per attendance sheet. Pcsos Michelle Moore and Vicky Hardy joined the meeting.

## 3. Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival

Linda James and Janet Colley gave an overview of the background and current activities in preparation for the event on 4th and 5th July. The idea is to use arts and crafts (knitting...) as the backdrop to a colourful community event with attractions and entertainment in the town centre. Many groups and people of all ages are now involved, including local businesses, schools and nursing homes. An objective of the event will be to raise funds for charities (including for Multiple Sclerosis). The event will be over two days. There will be a craft market on both days, and entertainment including The Houghton Weavers, Travelling Strings and the George Formby Society - the Silcocks have offered the use of the former car park at Mill Street. Attractions include Royalty parade, funfair rides, tractor and vintage motorbike displays, stalls, a 'memory sheep'... Still time to get involved!

The event promises to be a great advertisement for the Community of Westhoughton, and the continued hard work of Rainbow Crafts, providing a social and creative outlet for local people, whilst raising money for charities (£1,300 given to the Stroke Association in March).

## 4. Foodbanks and BL15 School Lunch Scheme

Dave Bagley (Urban Outreach) updated WCN on grub tub collections, distributions, and the positive and significant contribution made by Westhoughton residents and groups. A rota is in place for collections from Grub Tub locations for taking into Storehouse Bolton (Mondays/Tuesdays). There being a slight dip in foods collected, Harold Daniels suggested a meeting to review/boost this support network.

Westhoughton College has a grub tub and is open daily which may help donations

Dave Bagley is championing more activities and education to allow people to do more with less, and reduce the reliance on foodbanks. (The voucher-based system is a short-term help to people with severe financial difficulties.)

Dave spoke of the 'BL15' Scheme. First introduced in 2014 ('BL14'), it is a scheme funded by donations by business and other grants, the idea being to provide a free lunch to school children, who normally get free school dinners, during the summer holidays – children often being caught up in impoverishment through no fault of their own. The scheme requires 2-3 volunteers between 10:30am and noon to handle the distribution; and suitable venues in Westhoughton – one will be the Children's Centre in Washacre (used last year in the smaller scheme); another is needed (Cllr. David Chadwick has offered to liaise with Dave Bagley re possible Council locations in Westhoughton). A town centre location may be preferable.



The lunch packs containing a choice of sandwich, apple, juice carton, cereal bar and crisps are dropped off to be collected by eligible children. Venues will need access to a fridge to store the sandwiches. Collection times 11am to noon. The scheme will operate 5 days a week, from 27th July until 4th September. Although organisers need some record of individual uptakes, Jenny Haunch (Washacre Primary School) reminded Dave of Safeguarding Issues around Child Safety and data collection. Jenny had offered to inform other schools in their network, who should both have a record of who would be eligible and can disseminate information to pupils/parents.

There was a short break for refreshments and networking.

## 5. Bolton Lads and Girls Club

At the previous meeting Karen Edwards CEO gave a presentation on the new BLGC venue in Westhoughton at the former Primary School site on Central Drive (shared with the College and Marital Arts Group). Unable to attend she sent an update read out by Chris Buckley. Progress has been slower than expected...

- Negotiations regarding the lease, etc., with Bolton Council have been on hold during the election process. Now resumed.
- Refurbishment costs to get the building fit for purpose to be anything between £50,000-70,000; currently identifying potential funders for this work. A new Project Co-ordinator is being recruited.
- BLGC expect to open the building after the summer school holidays.
- Local businesses are keen to support the project, and BLGC is working closely with some key individuals to develop a patrons scheme who will support the project financially.
- In the meantime, children and young people are being picked up by coaches from both Westhoughton High and Washacre Primary School each week to ensure they get access to Club facilities and activities at the Spa Road facility.

## 6. Group Updates / Information Share

**WACO** – Janet Colley informed WCN that funding in the form of small grants of up to £250 is still available for projects – allocations panel to meet June/July. The groups raises money for this purpose, already benefiting a number of local groups. There are application forms on the WACO page of the WCN website. Or contact Janet Colley (01942 790064) or Kellie McGary (07804 010625).

Janet reminded us of the new **Westhoughton Community Choir** which is growing in numbers (17) and meets Thursdays 8:00 to 9.30pm at the John Holt Centre – more men are welcome. There is a £3 fee to cover expenses – a professional tutor leads the group. Their first public performances are coming up.

Touching of the success of the 'Tyler's Wheels' fundraising appeal led by WACO – £4000 raised; special wheelchair delivered during June – information was given out



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by a group of volunteer engineers – Remap – known to the Rotary Club who modify and make adaptations to assist those with disabilities.

**Washacre FM 2015** – Doug Cunliffe updated the groups. The broadcast will take place Monday 1st June to Sunday 7th June (National Volunteers' Week) with its mix of local presenters and features; a 'Showcase Day' (funday) takes place at the John Holt the Sunday (7th) 12-4pm. The second radio play, produced and performed by the Westhoughton Methodist ADS, will be aired in 7 parts over the week. Information available on Facebook, WCN and Twitter.

**Barking Berry's Fun Dog Show** – the meeting welcomed 11 year old Scarlett Berry and her mum, Sarah, to brief the group on Scarlett's fundraising activities for animal charities. Scarlett has gained a high profile and media attention for her cause, and the Fun Dog Show in Central Park on 6th June will be the third such event organised by Scarlett – helped by her family. [CB – over £4,000 was raised on the day, taking the total to date to over £15,000.] Flyers were distributed; visitors and dog enthusiasts welcome on the day. The room showed their appreciation for this tremendous effort. Information via Facebook or Twitter.

**Westhoughton Art Group** – Dave Hendry told us of the recent, popular WAG Art Exhibition at Westhoughton Library showing off the vast range of their artists' work. The group has a waiting list – a bigger room needed! WCN groups were reminded that grants are available from Bolton Arts Forum for projects which have an arts/creative element.

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** – a recent production of the May comedy thriller, The Titfield Thunderbolt, was very successful. The radio play is coming up; it will be made available online on Audioboom. After a break, rehearsals (Monday evenings) begin for a both a winter show and the February panto. Details via the WCN website.

**Westhoughton Community Queens Association** – a Rose County competition took place at The Mercury Motel on 17th May involving carnival queen associations from neighbouring towns. Sandra Greenall reported that they have raised over £2,000 for their three chosen charities. The new Queen will be crowned during the Yarn Bombing Festival (Carnegie Hall | 2.30pm | 4th July) – she will be available to support groups at local events. A new information page is live on the WCN website.

**Washacre Primary School** – has its Westhoughton Village Fayre on Saturday, 27th June (11-2). Lots to see and do at this family funday. WCN invited to be involved (visitors or stalls) - contact Carl Messenger: 01942 634756. After the recent break-in/theft, headteacher Jenny Haunch informed us that the Colomendy residential trip, for which funds had been raised, will go ahead as planned.

**Bolton at Home** – question asked about local Incredible Edible food growing initiatives, which continue to be a work in progress. Anne Burns is open to ideas for projects and is looking at possible funding.



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**Bethel Crowd** – the youth oriented drama group has two shows coming up: a 'Red MacIntosh' James Bond spoof double bill Fri/Sat 26/27 June, 3/4 July (7:15pm) with 2:45pm matinees on Saturdays. Jason Taylor informed us of ongoing rehearsals (Wednesday/Fridays) for 'Grease'. Performances 18/19th and 25/26th September.

**Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel)** – the Bethel is used for Daisy Hill pre-school sessions. There is a Saturday Lunch Club, the first Saturday of the month 11:30am to 1:00pm offering a nice lunch and social activities for all (50-60 senior citizens usually attend). Later in the year there will be a Craft Fair (17th Oct) and a Houghton Weavers concert (31st Oct).

**Friends of Westhoughton** – with better weather, improvement and ambient work continues at the station (1st / 3rd Sundays from 10am). Excellent results for all to see, including a new 'station master'. Thanks to media attention, the group has been giving guided tours around station to a learning disability group.

**Wingates Band** – with David Kaye absent we welcomed Tony Smith, who gave an update on upcoming concerts, projects and fundraising during a difficult economic period. The brass band costs £30,000 a year to run (a tuba costs £9,000!). Concerts include a special 'Evening with...' at the Bolton Octagon (29th May) – a nod to the success performing live during the Brass-ed-off theatrical run; a Folk & Brass evening with The Houghton Weavers at Rivington Hall (3rd June), and an open air event at Kenyon Hall Farm Winwick (6th June).

Tony spoke of fundraising activities supporting the Championship programme, with a reinvigorated band with a new musical director moving up the Brass Band League. 2015 is a significant year, the 100th anniversary of their first recording – a new CD will be recorded in late June at St. James Church, Daisy Hill (10 re-recordings plus 2 new compositions). On 24th October at St Bartholomew's Church, the new CD will be launched. David Kaye is to research and write a definitive discography of the band's recording history. An innovative production and show based on the book 'Making Rain and Other Things is our Business' is planned for 2016, to be staged 4 times a year for 3 years to generate annual revenue.

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – meet as usual (library 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10-12). The 10th anniversary of the group will be marked in July - information available on their website.

**Westhoughton Town Council** – David Chadwick reported that following on from the GMP police-led 'Westhoughton You Decide' in January funding allocations were made to 'unsuccessful' groups and local schools through the Area Forum budget.

**WASP** – 7 outings arranged for this year commencing 5th June. The AGM has appointed Len Maycroft as the new Chair, with Steve Hesketh as Vice Chair, Wilf Dillon, Treasurer. Our best wishes to retired Chair Jean Green who is recovering after illness.



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**George Formby Society** – meet monthly on the last Wednesday (7:45pm) at the Mercury Motel. They welcome new members to this International Society celebrating the life and music of the Ukulele Man. 30-40 people regularly attend. Group has a website (access via WCN). The GFS welcomes enquiries regarding the possibility of performing for and with other groups.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – following a busy few months at the lodge, Trevor Benn reported on arrangements for their annual funday on 6th September (12-4), with a range of outdoor activities already signed up, including Bodger, Lancashire Wildlife Trust sessions, and Birds of Prey.

**Women of Westhoughton (WOW)** – meet Thursdays 7.30pm at The Hope Centre. Janice Bayliss spoke of a second successful year with activities (including sing-a-long Zumba), speakers and outings. They support the charity 'Fortalice'. They have an event on 25th June – Outstanding Bolton Tours: a Taste of Asia, with a visit a local mosque. The 80th anniversary of the National Association of Women's Clubs was celebrated by an invitation to a Royal garden party.

**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** – are holding an Afternoon Tea event with entertainment by C.A.T.S. doing songs from the shows, to be held on 14th June at Brookfield Hall to raise funds for a Shelter Box for those effected by the Nepalese earthquake (Tickets £14 – contact Mike Johnson 01942 816720.)

**Travellin' Strings** – (by proxy) local guitar strumming troubadours have had a very successful few months helping with fundraising activities such as the 'Tyler's Wheels' appeal, as well as their own awareness raising and fundraising for Alzheimer's. They are now performing across Bolton (including the Market Place). They are looking forward to playing at the Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival, and will fit in with the event theme! Other gigs coming up include: The Captain's Night at Westhoughton Golf Club (6th June); Boundary Mill (20th July); the Westhoughton Golf Club Beer Festival (28/29th August)... They are planning Christmas shows soon, and welcome invites/proposals to support WCN group activities.

**Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild** – (by proxy) Regular monthly meetings are held at the John Holt Centre on the 3rd Monday of each month (7.30pm). The ladies will be celebrating their Annual Dinner at Brookfield Hall (15th June) when members will have the opportunity to invite their friends; members from neighbouring Guilds will also be present. An evening of friendship, good food and entertainment, at a popular venue. Further information via WCN website.

'Social Media' on the agenda was postponed due to lack of time.

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.



## 7. Any Other Business

- Groups are reminded of the Small Grants Programme through Bolton CVS funded by Bolton Council's Chief Executive's and Public Health Departments. Organisations can make one successful application between 1st April 2015 and 1st February 2016 up to a maximum of £1500. Bolton CVS runs a number training courses that may be of interest to local groups. Details via the website or in the Jumbo magazine (available by e-mail).
- A reminder that should it be desirable a date will need to be chosen for the 'WCN Christmas Bash' offer catering for smaller groups and even connected local businesses coming together to enjoy a formal meal over the festive period at Brookfield Hall (up to 116 people; 12 tables; cost £25 for welcome drink, 3-course meal with coffee, entertainment (disco) provided). To be checked – dates offered: Saturday 5th, Monday 7th, Friday 11th, Friday 18th, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd of December.

## 8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9th September 2015 at Brookfield Hall.

[WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk](http://WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk)