



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 24th November 2015
at Washacre Primary School

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (16)

1. Barking Berries (BARK)
2. Bethel Crowd (BADS)
3. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)
4. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)
6. George Formby Society (GFS)
7. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA)
8. Hope Church (HOPE)
9. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
10. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish (SBC)
11. Washacre Primary School (WPS)
12. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)
13. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)
14. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
15. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
16. Wingates Band (WB)
 - ~ Remap (RMP)
 - ~ Westhoughton Leisure Centre (WLC)
 - ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)

Individuals in attendance (29)

Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Brenda Shott (FoEL)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Jenny Haunch (WPS)	Jason Taylor (BADS)
Scarlett Berry (BARK)	David Kaye (WB)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Dennis Lee (GFS)	Matt Willber (WLC)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Debbie Lee (GFS)	James Wilson (SBC)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Christine Dunscombe (BARK)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Sarah Morris (WLC)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	John Moutrie (RMP)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Karen Openshaw (BLGC)	

Apologies (12)

Sue Ashcroft (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton);
Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Anne Burns (Bolton at Home); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Barbara Dodds (Westhoughton Town Council - Youth Project); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group); Linda James (Rainbow Crafts);
Kellie McGarry (Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation); Michelle Moore (Community Police);
Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions)



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

The meeting started by Harold Daniels (Chair) expressing gratitude to Jenny Haunch (Headteacher) for the use of the school and kind hospitality.

Chair welcomed everyone present; group representatives introduced themselves and recorded attendance as on attendance sheet. Apologies (listed) were noted. Previous minutes moved and seconded as a record.

Matters arising:

Washacre Primary School – Jenny Haunch gave a brief description of the success of the outdoor residential Colomendy weekend held in September. Some 50 pupils were involved in this trip, which was a great and new experience, widening the horizons of those attending. It was noted that there had been a tremendous effort to make sure the weekend went ahead after the earlier incident involving funding for the event.

Bolton Lads and Girls Club – Karen Openshaw updated progress on the works at the Central Drive site and immediate plans for the Club. With refurbishment work completed, the anticipated launch date is January 2016 when it will be open 3 nights a week, increasing to 7 nights in time. A minibus will be used for collecting Washacre youths. Facilities will be similar to the Spa Road hub; with support for mentoring and work skills – volunteers from the community welcome.

Tours are available. Karen informed WCN that she would be moving on from this project in December, and handing over to venue to managers and steering committee. WCN congratulated her for a job well done, and wished her well for the future.

3. Remap

John Moultrie, of both Remap and Rotary Club of Westhoughton, gave a presentation of the history and growth of this initiative which began some 50 years ago. REMAP originated at an ICI factory in Billingham with a family project – a bespoke solution to help a disabled relative. Thus, engineering principles and skills are applied to providing mobility aids to support children and adults when other aids are not available or appropriate. Its mission is “the art of making things possible.”

The local panel of 9 engineers covers Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, East Lancashire and part of Greater Manchester; there are some 90 panels nationally. John circulated a leaflet about the organisation, ways of referral, and gave some examples of the kind of work done. John took questions about the applications, and how they and similar charities can help.

Website: remap.org.uk

4. Rainbow Crafts Christmas Fair

Linda James had sent her apologies, and Chris Buckley gave an update on the upcoming Christmas Fair event at the Carnegie Hall, Saturday 5th December. He confirmed that the 2016 Yarn Bombing event will be held on the first weekend in July (2nd & 3rd).

5. Barking Berry's Christmas Fair

Scarlett and her mum Sarah gave an overview of their latest fundraising event to be held on Saturday 28th November at the Bethel - entry fee £1 or free if tin of dog food donated. With 20 stalls booked, it is in support of Homeless Hounds and other animal charities; Santa Paws will be making an appearance. The Barking Berrys have been busy with their fundraising activities all over the region, with in excess of £16,000 raised to date.

Scarlett was nominated for a Tower FM 'Young Achiever Award', which was presented at De Vere Whites hotel in October – proudly shown off to the group.

Update: the event at the Bethel raised £1,250 (the same as their first Dog Show).

6. Foodbanks / Grub Tubs

James Wilson circulated an information sheet with an update on the impact made over 3 years, and summarised the general work by Urban Outreach. He explained about routes of referral (up to 8 weeks of food parcels), and how the charity interacts with other similar organisations. Winterwatch supports over 400 people through its weekend café. There is also the 'Christmas with Jesus' hamper initiative; James asked that those present nominate families or individuals who may benefit from support. Donations to Grub Tubs can be made up to 22nd December, and locations are listed on his information sheet [and WCN website].

Reference was made to a new initiative at the Healthy Indulgent cafe on Bridge Street when a meal for the homeless will be provided on 23rd December. Further information is available on social network sites.

James stated that Urban Outreach were very grateful for the support coming from Westhoughton and our Grub Tub network.

There was a short break for refreshments. Some took advantage of a chance to tour the school and see both the new facilities and the work of the children on display.

7. Group Updates / Information Share

Westhoughton Leisure Centre (Sarah Morris, Community Engagement, and Matt Willber, Leisure Centre Manager) reported that funding is available to provide free leisure facility access from January to young people (under 18) and pensioners – half price if over 60. Also on future work with local GPs promoting fitness activities. Lots of initiatives including: women in sport; free swimming lessons for Bolton residents; and squash and badminton courts available for just £1 (Saturdays 12-2).



Westhoughton Community Network

Some discounted memberships are available. Call in for more info. A Community Noticeboard is available at the centre.

Hope Church - Mark Taylor gave details about their Carol Service on 13th December 6.00pm, and a fun, social quiz in January. The centre remains a Grub Tub hub and has availability for groups or events.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Bill Greenhalgh announced the dates for the 2016 panto ‘The Princess, the Penguin and the Potting Shed,’ to be performed in February 12th, 13th and 19th, 20th.

The recent Murder Mystery evenings were a success.

Westhoughton Community Queens Association – Sandra Greenall reported on their fundraising activities to support Manchester Children’s Hospital, Bolton and Wigan & Leigh Hospices – cheques for £818 were given to each at a Royalty event. The Christmas Fair is to be held on Sunday 29th November at the John Holt Centre.

W.A.S.P. (Westhoughton Age Support Project) – Len Maycroft reported on a busy year of activities and events. The Christmas Party to be held on 13th December at Brookfields for 120 senior citizens. There will be some temporary reorganisation of activities whilst the Winifred Kettle is being refurbished, with some activities being relocated to Daisy Hill Community Centre. Len expressed some concerns about ‘Ring and Ride Service’ seeming disorganised and unreliable – these were noted, and David Chadwick, Councillor with GMPTA remit, who will look into this.

Friends of Westhoughton Station (Stephen Freeborn) anticipated an end to the ‘misery’ of commuting over the last few months with an anticipated return to normal train services through Westhoughton from 14th December. They have been awarded a ‘Certificate of Achievement’ by the Town Council, which will be presented on 6th December at 10.00am. Donations and support will still be gratefully appreciated and received over the winter months.

Bethel Crowd – Jason Taylor gave an overview of upcoming productions at the Bethel, including the new panto ‘Mother Goose’ in January – Fri/Sat 22nd/23rd and 29th/30th (7:15pm), with matinee performances on the Saturdays at 2:15pm. Tickets are £5.50.

Other shows planned for 2016 are: ‘Wind in the Willows’ 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th June; ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th September. A Murder Mystery – ‘Who Killed the Director?’ is also planned.

Washacre FM – Doug Cunliffe, stated that the 2016 John Holt-based community broadcast will be the 10th anniversary of this HACFRA initiative. It should take to the airwaves in July.



Westhoughton Community Network

St Bartholomew's – James Wilson tabled an information sheet and commented on the Schools Carol Service (27th November) -- all schools contributing, followed by Christmas Lights switch-on.

Churches News: a planned expansion to 6 churches of the Ministry in Westhoughton to include St. Catherine's, Blackrod; an additional cleric will come in. The Bishop of Bolton will retire but expected to be replaced and there will also be a retirement from St John's Wingates – after long service the Radfords stepping down.

David Chadwick gave an update on **Westhoughton Town Council** activities and the planned events around the Carol Concert and switching on of extended display of Christmas lights (27/11). The Annual commemoration of Pretoria disaster on Monday, 21st December with events at Ditchfield Garden at 7:40am and a service/wreath laying at St. Bartholomew's Church from 10am. David commented on return to normal of train services [14/12] (and the Farnworth Tunnel project), and gave an update on the refurbishment work at Winifred Kettle (part funded by Bolton Council). The latter will have a district nursing service; occupational therapy and will have some provision for community groups. A question was raised about a new Heath Centre in Westhoughton – this, an NHS project, has failed to materialise due to lack of money/other priorities.

A new company, Ventura, now occupies premises next to the Bolton Road car park and they have been active in supporting local causes including Westhoughton High School and new Lads and Girls Club.

Westhoughton Local History Group – Ted Wisedale talked about the commemorative event on Saturday, 19th December for the Pretoria disaster – a morning walking tour. The latest group exhibition is now up and running until January at Westhoughton Library focusing on the development of Westhoughton from the years of the Salford overspill to now. [Recommended.]

Ted referenced their website, and also the YouTube channel featuring videos of historical and community events, and presentations. See YouTube Channel 'Ted Wisedale' [Links both on group and WCN websites.]

George Formby Society – Dennis Lee. Currently some 40 members attend the final Wednesday in month get-togethers celebrating the life and music of the ukulele man. There is a growing wider interest; the group are pleased to be part of community events through their involvement in WCN.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – Trevor Benn reported that the poppy seeds planted to commemorate outbreak of WW1 now seem to be growing. It has been a busy and successful year for the group, which they hope to repeat in 2016.

Wingates Brass Band – David Kaye updated on current activities and availability of a new CD - 'Sounds of a Century' - to mark 100 years of recording (only 3 other bands can match this fete), and book/discography. The band will be featured on BBC Radio 2 'Listen to the Band' [26/11] – the radio presence spans 90 years (the BBC began radio broadcasting in 1925).



Westhoughton Community Network

Upcoming events include: 5th December at the Eventura Open Day; a return 'home' for the Wingates Church concert 8th December, and the Christmas Folk & Brass concert with the other Westhoughton legends - The Houghton Weavers - at Bolton's Victoria Hall 12th December.

An interesting anecdote: Wingates Band came into existence in 1873, the year both barbed wire and Levi Stauss jeans were invented.

Westhoughton United Reform Church (The Bethel) [by proxy] – there is a Grand Christmas Concert on Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £12.50 including supper (bring your own drinks and glasses).

Church Services - Christmas Tree Service Sunday 13th December at 10.30am. All donations of toys and games, etc., at this service are collected by Bolton Lions Club for distribution to disadvantaged children.

Candlelight Carol Service Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm. Tea and mince pies in the Hall afterwards

Senior Solutions [by proxy] – Funding through from Bolton Council now confirmed for the next 2 years. After its initial successful run, as confirmed with Richard Slater of Bolton Wanderers Community Trust, the 'Fitter Fans' initiative is starting its second block between 13th January and 30th March.

Michelle Todd is looking at a new project: getting groups from an older generation to show/teach their skills to the younger generation in order to bridge the generation gap and to teach younger people skills which may be lost.

Westhoughton High School has been approached for activities next year.

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

- The WCN Community Christmas Party is booked for Friday, 18th December at Brookfield Hall. A formal event with 3-course meal and entertainment open to WCN groups and the wider community.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 9th February 2016 | 7pm at St. Bartholomew's Church (Annexe).

Meeting finished at 9:00pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk