



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: Tuesday, 10th September 2019 | 7:00pm
at John Holt Youth & Community Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (18)

1. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC)
2. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)
3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
4. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)
5. Grub Tubs / Urban Outreach (UO)
6. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF)
7. HEART (HEART)
8. John Holt Centre/HACFRA (JHC)
9. Hope Centre/Church (HOPE)
10. Howfen Radio (HR)
11. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
12. St. James Daisy Hill (SJDH)
13. Town Crier (TC)
14. Travelliin' Strings (TST)
15. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)
16. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)
17. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCQA)
18. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
 - ~ Bolton Council – Regeneration (BMBC)
 - ~ Bolton CVS (BCVS)
 - ~ Co-op Members (COOP)

Individuals in attendance (20)

Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Elsa Parker (Coop)
David Chadwick (HEART)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Johnny Crook (WPG/HR)	Phil Lamb (BMBC)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Doug Cunliffe (JHC)	Bob Latham (SJDH)	Ian Templeman (DHFC)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Glenys Latham (SJDH)	Stephen Freeborn (FWS) CHAIR
Tim Eden (TST/HR)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Chris Buckley (WCN) SECRETARY
Sandra Greenall (WCR)	Adrian Nottingham (BCVS)	

Apologies (12)

Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton); Ann & Trevor Benn (Friends of Eatock Lodge);
Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Dave Fensome (Westhoughton Methodist ADS);
Peter Griffiths (Bolton College); Brian Leyden (Friends of Westhoughton Station);
Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); Bob Naylor (Daisy Hill FC); Peter Sloan; Veronica Swinburne (Daisy Hill in Bloom); Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Steve Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station) took on chairing duties for this WCN meeting. He welcomed everyone and thanked Doug and Maxine Cunliffe of John Holt Centre for hosting this meeting re-arranged at short-notice.

Apologies were noted and there was a quick review of the last meeting (15/5/19) and matters arising: Elsa Parker from the Co-op was asked to recap and spoke of the new initiative ('Operation Spaces') to help save any community spaces under threat where "people come together to do stuff", e.g., community centres, libraries, leisure centres, pools... Funding and loans schemes available – more info:

coop.co.uk/communities/endangered-spaces.

Those present were asked to introduce themselves and groups they represented.

3. Town Centre Capital Improvements Masterplan

Steve introduced Phil Lamb of Bolton Council, Principal Project Officer (Growth and Regeneration at Directorate of Place) to tell us about the exciting plans for investment accessing a significant Council-approved allocation of £16m of funding from the £100m Town Centre Strategy; funds to be used for targeted intervention in Farnworth, Horwich, Westhoughton and Little Lever Town Centres.

Phil started with an overview of problems facing High Streets – high rents, vacant units, falling sales, online purchasing and the struggle to survive – and the need to support our town centres with new initiatives and investment as well as diversifying their offer and including more residential use by all age groups, with the Council becoming more proactive whilst taking on board what local residents want to see. There are 3 strands: Master-planning; Direct Intervention, and also leveraging into areas as much Public Sector investment as possible.

Residential engagement and feedback given to Consultants will feed into the Master-planning process to determine the share of this £16m pot for Capital Investment; Westhoughton also has a separate fund of £2.5m for the upgrading and refurbishment of the Town Hall (funds left over to go to the Westhoughton Town Centre pot). A Steering Group made up of councillors and stakeholders (including representation for Community groups [WCN]) has been set up, meeting once so far... Already successfully master-planned (GM Mayoral Challenge) and accessing further funds (£25m – Govt. Future High Street Fund), Farnworth is being used as the model for the process. With an outside consultant in place by early October, work and consultations - to include site visits, workshops and accessible public events - will run over the coming months with a report and recommendations to be submitted for approval to the Council by 31/3/20. Whilst led by the Council and Consultants, the key aim is for the Westhoughton Masterplan to be grounded in what residents and stakeholders want, what gives the best social and economic return for that investment, and what represents a clear vision for the Town Centre.

Phil Lamb then took questions from the room covering use of consultants, expertise and timescales; land ownership and possible Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs); clarifying Capital Investment as something new, physical and owned at end. A first



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draft map was circulated which defined the Town Centre area as discussed and debated by the Steering Group; the contributions of the many community hubs around Westhoughton acknowledged.

Phil can be contacted on 01204 336136. Questions, feedback and Ideas can be sent to westhoughtontowncentrefunding@bolton.gov.uk as part of consultation.

4. Bolton College Adult Learning Update

Unfortunately, representatives from the College were unable to attend. Chris Buckley gave a quick overview of Peter Griffith's presentation (M33) and the goals of bringing back some Adult Learning provision to Westhoughton making use of library and community centres. A survey had been undertaken, but was extended due to a low take up (just 31 responses). Having seen the responses, Chris indicated that the general preference was for hobby/self-improvement courses which were outside of the strict 'back into employment' type courses for which budgets were allocated. There were to be some local events and tasters as part of the consultation process... Chris to contact Peter for an update, with a view to a follow-up at a future meeting.

5. Bolton CVS

Adrian Nottingham, Social Value, Quality & Impact Officer, gave a brief overview of the role of Bolton Community and Voluntary Services, its role to get behind and support voluntary groups across Bolton as they do the hard work delivering projects and services in local communities, such as offering information and advice, training and funding; as well as influencing strategic decision-making and policy.

In his role he helps groups demonstrably show the real value and impact that their activities have to show supporters and funders that they are making a difference.

There are many and varied training courses including a current focus on management and trustee development – it is 'National Trustee Week' 4-8 November, with a 'Get On Board' event at The Bolton Hub on 26th October (10am-12pm).

Services are free to members, with a committed and enthusiastic team to help. The AGM is on 25th September open to the 550 CVS member groups, this accounting for about 1/3 of Bolton's community organisations, charities and faith groups.

Membership is open to constituted community organisations within Bolton.

Bolton CVS currently administers some £670k of funding allocated by Bolton Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and other grant-giving bodies.

Adrian recommended visiting boltoncvs.org.uk and also subscribing to newsletters.

6. Co-op Local Causes

Elsa Parker, Member Pioneer, was asked to give an update on its community initiatives. She recapped on the 'Community Spaces' scheme to save, create or maintain those spaces where communities gather. Elsa gave an update on this year's Local Causes – vetting and short-listing has been done, with colleagues now to assess those groups based on values and knowledge; the 3 new, supported 'Local Causes'



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announced late October for the coming cycle (2020) – a celebration to take place at the Westhoughton store.

Steve Freeborn, thanked the Co-op for sponsoring a skip, helping Friends of Westhoughton Station undertake clearance work at the station.

Elsa spoke of presenting recently to Westhoughton Town Council as per discussions ongoing for 'Fairtrade Town' status. Further discussions were taking place and she is awaiting the outcome – the Co-op is a major supplier of Fairtrade products.

Elsa can be contacted on 07971 251405 | elsa.parker@coopmembers.co.uk.

There was a short break for refreshments and networking.

7. Information Share

Rotary Club of Westhoughton – Steve Harrington gave an update on the 2019 Poppy collection which Rotary is taking on as there is no longer a Royal British Legion in Westhoughton; he passed around a sheet for people to volunteer for collection duties outside Sainsbury's on 2nd & 9th November. The Rotary continues and has a Charter Evening 4th October at Brookfield Hall (£26); and will be doing its usual fundraising Santa Sleigh runs in December. Involved with the Harold Daniels Legacy Fund, the Road Safety Quiz has 5 Primary Schools entering, which is pleasing. Steve added that there is a new priest at **Sacred Heart RC Church**, with Father Richard retiring and Father Barry taking over – he is also the chaplain for the Manchester Police and the National Police.

W.A.S.P. – Wilf Dillon, Treasurer and Events Organiser, who reminded us of his soon to be 97th birthday milestone this month getting warm applause. Sadly he related the news of the recent death of Chairman Len Maycroft, who attended many WCN meetings and is greatly missed by W.A.S.P. Impressing us all Wilf gave a full and humorous update for the year of this active and busy social group for older people. It was involved in the organisation of a 100th anniversary WWI commemoration event at the Winifred Kettle, with W.A.S.P. funding the buffet. From AGM to Afternoon Tea at the John Holt Centre to several trips to seaside hotels for a meal and entertainment, to events later in the year including being entertained by the Travellin' Strings at the 'Georgian House' and the Christmas Party at Brookfield Hall catering for 120 guests including many non-W.A.S.P. members... Wilf proudly concluding that W.A.S.P. makes such a big difference to the lives of older people and those who could be lonely and isolated were it not for the weekly social get-togethers and other organised activities. All this could not be done without funding, W.A.S.P. being the grateful recipient of a 2018 Co-op 'Local Causes' grant of £8,724; he thanked the Co-op and especially Elsa Parker for all the help and ongoing support.

Hope Centre – Mark Taylor talked about activities at the Centre ranging from Slimming World to art groups, home education to WOW! (Women of Westhoughton) and Sweaty Mamas – a fun exercise group that helps young mums get back into shape. Whilst generally having a full programme, there is availability on Mondays; as unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers the Tots and Toddlers group has ended (he



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hoped just temporarily). A recent Funday at the centre using the courtyard proved popular. **Grub Tubs** still necessary, and picking up after a lull last year; a busy time coming up for **Urban Outreach** activities – harvest donations and Christmas collections. It was noted the late Harold Daniels and WCN played a big part in getting a Westhoughton Grub Tub Network going with collections covering churches, shops and community centres, plus a rota to get the donated items to Storehouse in Bolton.

Travellin' Strings – Tim Eden. The guitar-singalong group continues to be busy and successful, and is involved in supporting and fundraising for a number of local groups and charities; their fundraising for Alzheimer's now may take the form of a donation for doing a gig. They have performed for the Horwich Inner Wheel at Rivington barn; St. John's Church Wingates; HEART (raising money to fight the Hulton Park planning application); a newly created community space in Farnworth; Blackrod Mayor's Ball... on top of that there are the regular gigs such as the Westhoughton Golf Club Beer Festival (September) and private parties. A special gig took place on St. Annes pier at the request of the café owner with them playing for 3 hours, raising buckets full of money for Bolton Dementia Support (funding Memory Cafés and trips). Upcoming and much-anticipated is the W.A.S.P. event (15/11/19); Dunscair Social Club (25/10/19) for Macmillan; and back to St. John's Wingates for the Early Bird Christmas Fayre (16/11/19). Such is their popularity the Travellin's Strings have bookings until March 2020. They are enjoying it, and with experience are getting better and better. Tim thanked the room for the support and encouragement given to the 'Strings' over the years.

Howfen Radio – Johnny Crook spoke about the Hub-based online radio station run by volunteers, serving the community and broadcasting 6 days a week with a wide mix of music and shows; also offering a chance for local people to get on the radio – some slots still available! Johnny's Poetry Corner show is on a Wednesday; Tim Eden has a show on Thursdays. They recently put on a Howfenbury Music Festival at the White Lion promoting local artists. Howfen Radio is available via an [app/internet](#).

Westhoughton Art Group – Dave Hendry joined us for possibly the last time before his and Elise's move to Cumbria; he thanked WCN for all the great work over the years in bringing this community together, supporting each other and sharing resources. The Art Group will continue as it has for nearly 10 years with classes continuing at the John Holt Centre (Monday 9:30am) with Dave attending 2 weeks out of 3; Elise's classes are at the John Holt Centre (Wednesday 12:30pm) and the Hope Centre (Thursday 10am). Having sprung from a small acorn, both groups are going from strength to strength producing extraordinary art – there are 29 members for the Monday group (which exceeds the 26 capacity!). The group had another successful Art Exhibition at Westhoughton Library, and thanks to donations at the launch event raised £173 for Macmillan Cancer Support. One bonus of the Cumbria move, the opportunity to organise 'art holidays' in the Lake District in the New Year...

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight, monthly station clean-ups ongoing; the tubs and plants (some donated by Daisy Hill in Bloom) doing well. They are looking to put some winter plants in. The station work on the platform extension is complete, with a new fence at the bottom end; a long grass strip has the potential for planting,



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and creating seating to admire the nearby wildlife. Station looks so much better once tidied up. Unfortunately and frustratingly, there has been two acts of vandalism: someone trying to set fire to the noticeboard in the ticket hall, and a Network Rail donated bird table was “smashed to bits” though it has been repaired.

St. James Church (Daisy Hill) – Glenys and Bob Latham spoke about next week’s (September 17th to 22nd) Heritage Open Days at the church with a series of events and activities for all to enjoy, and much to learn about the history of this Grade II* listed building, the unique stained glass East wing window, and community connections. Part of the programme will be a Daisy Hill history talk by Westhoughton Local History Group. A nod to WCN for the link-up with Daisy Hill FC for use of its carpark for non-clashing events. Good news in that that the scaffolding is up and essential repairs to the landmark tower is now under way. The ‘Daisy Hill Concert Series’ is going very well bringing up and coming classical musicians to Westhoughton. Upcoming concerts: Polaris Duo [Harp & Saxophone] (18/10/19), the return of the Meraki Duo [Flute & Guitar] (15/11/19), and a Christmas Concert [Woodwind Trio] (7/12/19, morning). The church has ‘Open Doors’ (10-12) on the first Saturday of the month with tea/coffee, cake, toast... as well as a second-hand book stall, children’s activities, and church and local community information.

Westhoughton Local History Group – Val Chadwick reminded us of the meeting schedule (1st and 3rd Thursdays 10am to 12 noon at the Library), offering a variety of talks, history-related projects, as well as local outings and trips further away. This popular group regularly attracts 70-80 people to its meetings. Keen to work with other local groups, it has collaborated with Westhoughton Methodist ADS as part of its current Peterloo bi-centenary exhibition (the launch 15/8/19 seeing a theatrical enactment); also St. James’ Church as it celebrates and uncovers more of its history.

Harold Daniels Legacy Fund – Susan Missin joined us for an update... there is to be a third Road Safety Quiz next spring in memory of dad Harold involving local primary schools. Donations are still available from the fund, which Susan and family are still adding to with fundraising initiatives. There is a twin approach with both helping causes in Westhoughton and also the Melbourne Road church and its work with asylum seekers – there was a recent refugee day trip to St. Annes which they supported, and was greatly enjoyed. Steve Freeborn mentioned Harold’s memorial plant at Westhoughton Station (Flame of the Forest) which is really doing well.

Daisy Hill FC – Ian Templeman told us of the team’s great start to the season winning 5 out of 8 games, and with a young relatively inexperienced team, which bodes well. Off the field, the match programme has been revamped and now included 2 pages devoted to Westhoughton Community Network with contributions by Chris Buckley who writes about each community group as the season progresses; an electronic copy is available via the [club website](#) or via WCN website. Match days at New Sirs Saturday 3pm (occasional Monday evening 7:45pm). Entrance £5, concessions/U16 £3.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – Chris Buckley gave an update on the group’s activities at the Daisy Hill Local Nature Reserve during a busy year. The Summer Funday took place on Sunday, 1st September, which the usual mix of outdoor attractions and



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activities (Birds of Prey, 'The Den' (local Scouts group), pond-dipping, woodcrafts, and a number of stalls... as well as Pcsos with the car – kids loving the sirens!). Bane of all outdoor events, the weather wasn't too kind hitting attendance, and later making egress through the mud a challenge! Hopefully access paths can be improved for the future... With Lottery funding, the group has organised with 'Playing For Success' a number of educational sessions and nature-related activities on the lodge involving older people from the Winifred Kettle (summer) and schoolchildren (September). In addition there have been regular litter picks and a bat walk is planned. The group is working with the Council to ensure maintenance work is planned, and any issues (such as anti-social behaviour) dealt with – Bolton Lads and Girls Club (Westhoughton) have the lodge as one of its targeted outreach areas.

HEART (Hulton Estate Area Residents Together) – Chair David Chadwick spoke of the activities of the group trying to defend the untouched historic park dating from 1150 from development. The Public Enquiry coming in October (1st-11th) David gave an overview of key players involved. Fundraising initiatives include: community walks through the estate (15/9/19), as well as social events at the Over Hulton Conservative Club such as the Travellin' Strings concert and Hallowe'en Night (31/10/19, tickets £5); plus online donations, and the 'Calendar Girls' calendar! This well-supported group needed to fund a Barrister (£20k) to take on the might of developer Peel Holdings and its golf course/mass housing scheme. HEART quietly confident with the expertise, evidence and support assembled it can put a good case forward. The public will have a chance to speak if requested at start of the Enquiry.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – Steve Freeborn was able to give an update on activities... going since 2012, they meet every Sunday between 9:30am and 1pm for work at the station (planting, cleaning and tidying up); people drop in when they can and it is a very sociable and friendly group that enjoys what they do and seeing what a difference they can make. After some frustration getting nowhere with Network Rail and Northern, they finally contacted Transport for Greater Manchester who funded the paint and the group took on themselves the painting of a long white fence on the Wigan side over a few weekends – now so much better! An annoyance is the pilfering of the old-style metal advertising signs, as well as the disappearance of 10 out of 13 gnomes (these painted by St. George's School for the group). That said, Steve is happy with all of the help and support and the compliments paid by users of the station. Donation pots at local shops such as Hibbert's and Glass Onion helping enormously. Plants welcome too! Long may it continue!

Johnny Crook mentioned his role as **Town Crier**, it was a relatively quiet summer for him with regard to events (one at the Winifred Kettle). He's been doing some events further afield such as East Lancashire Railway, but would be more than happy should his ceremonial services with his bespoke poetry be requested locally.

John Holt Centre – Doug Cunliffe. Busy with a full programme following some reorganisation, and used by many groups and other services to reach the local community. There is currently an ambitious project to install a new and floodlit all-weather MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) with gym facilities; this will support sport, health, and provide much-needed facilities for local youth. Total cost likely to be in



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the region of £150k – some funding in place, with additional grants being sought. Residents association HACFRA has organised coach day-trips to Whitby (14/7/19) and York (1/12/19). Details about activities at the centre on the WCN website.

8. Any Other Business

- Brookfield Hall organises Christmas Party nights for group bookings including 3-course meal, mince pies and a disco. There is one on Saturday 14th December 2019. Contact 01942 813125 or enquiry@brookfieldhall.co.uk.
- Senior Solutions was awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Volunteering having been nominated and undergone vetting. The award (equivalent to an MBE) for "Making a positive difference for older people by combatting loneliness and isolation" was announced in June, with staff and volunteers receiving a scroll and a QAV badge at a celebratory thank-you party, and was formally awarded a ceremony at The Monastery, Gorton with a citation and presentation by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants. Its AGM is on 24/9/19.
- For the third year running Wingates Band performed in competition with the brass banding elite at the 'British Open' at the Symphony Hall Birmingham. However in spite of a busy schedule of rehearsals, and a creditable performance, a 16th out of 18 result means the band drops down to the Grand Shield competition to be held in May 2020 at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.
- Westhoughton Methodist Church hall has suffered some outer wall subsidence and cracking necessitating expenditure on a repair whilst Panto rehearsals (Dick Whittington, 7th-15th February) get underway. Work is expected to be done by late October and the stage soon returned to normal.
- The Beer School on Market Street now has a small cosy room upstairs available for use for free by community groups for meetings. It will hold 8-10 people. See owner Rachel Birch for further information.
- Following the death of Tony Berry in June Westhoughton Town Council has commissioned a memorial bench to be sited near Ditchfield Gardens with the inscription "Sit Thi Deawn". A tribute concert organised by friends, featuring the remaining Houghton Weavers takes place 22/11/19 at St. Bart's church.

Finally Chris Buckley thanked Steve Freeborn for his most able chairing of the meeting, adding that it was good to see him recovering well from his health scare earlier in the year.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at

**Westhoughton Methodist Church
Wednesday, 27th November 2019**

Meeting finished at 9:05pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk

