



Westhoughton Community Network

Sub-committee for Urban Outreach mission

Meeting: 7:45pm Tuesday, 5th March 2013

at St Bartholomew's Church

Minutes

Present

1. James Wilson (Chair and Westhoughton Parish - Anglican)
2. Margaret Curme (United Reformed Church)
3. Kellie McGarry (Communiversity)
4. Andy Glynn (St Johns Church - Anglican)
5. Mark Taylor (Hope Church - Evangelical)
6. John Howard-Norman (Methodist Church)
7. Harold Daniels (Rotary Club of Westhoughton)
8. Dave Bagley (Urban Outreach)

Apologies: None

Notes

1. The Meeting

We started the meeting with a short introduction. As we had no new members to explain to, we went straight into planning.

2. Planning

We discussed at length the best way to plan our mission, Dave Bagley (Urban Outreach) helped us with this. To start the first initial task is to house a 'grub tub.' Then Kellie McGarry offered the Communiversity as a central depository for the town. Each 'grub tub' owner must take the foods and products to the Communiversity by Monday (11th) close of play.

Hope Church is open on Sunday and it was suggested that after 12.30pm, we can take our collections down. Dave Bagley explained that food parcels go out every Monday evening from Urban Outreach.

It was agreed that once we take our products to the Communiversity that will be it, till the following week as the Communiversity being a busy centre is unable to accommodate food drop offs continuously. If we had an abundance of products in-between, each 'grub tub' holder would take the products directly to Salop Street in Bolton.

3. Logistics

There are 40 volunteers travelling in pairs at Urban Outreach. Westhoughton will have an ongoing need 4 or 5 volunteers to help with distribution. After training, we will go out with existing staff, then ongoing supply food parcels in our own town. As we are likely to have 12 or more bins around town shortly, should the collections get too big, Urban Outreach will arrange a van collection once a week. Kellie McGarry to co-ordinate this issue as we go.



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Then on a rota basis each member will collect the produce from The Communiversity and take it to the Urban Outreach storage facility in Salop Street, Bolton. (Environ House, Salop St, Bolton BL2 1DZ Tel: 01204 385848.) Goods must be with Urban Outreach by 1:00pm as staff work part-time. Dave Bagley explained that the Vision IDs to have a distribution network of our own serving the people of Westhoughton.

Proposed rota to take foods to Salop Street as follows once all the bins are in place, in the meantime it may be easier to keep a status quo, bins will be in place at all check points in about 3-5 weeks:

- Week one: Hope Church
- Week two: United Reformed Church
- Week three: St Johns church
- Week four: St Bartholomew's Church
- Week five: Wigan Road Methodist Church
- Week six: Rotary Club of Westhoughton
- Week seven: Communiversity

If we are stuck, we should make contact with fellow members to swop our weeks.

4. Other Matters

Margaret Curme reported that Cllr. David Chadwick and Julie Hilling MP had both expressed a desire to be involved with this mission in order to add weight to what we are all volunteering to do with the hungry in our borough. It was stated by the group that it must not now or ever become a party political or religious mission but the community at large doing what we can to help our fellow man and woman.

Dave Bagley insisted that we keep on top of our care agencies who are the pinnacle of voucher-giving to families, and that the agencies must also ensure Urban Outreach they are visiting and mentoring the receivers of food parcels so that these vulnerable families are not just left to their own destiny. He said his long term vision is to reinvent Co-operatives in every town in Bolton.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Communiversity on Wednesday on Wednesday, May 8th at 7.30pm.