



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 19th November 2014**

at Sacred Heart Parish Hall

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (23)

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| 1. Bethel Crowd (BADs)   | 13. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)          |
| 2. Community Police (Pcso)   | 14. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)                     |
| 3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)                                  | 15. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA) |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)                            | 16. Westhoughton High School (WHS)                   |
| 5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)                           | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)          |
| 6. George Formby Society (GFS)                                     | 18. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)               |
| 7. Rainbow Crafts (RBC)  | 19. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)              |
| 8. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)                               | 20. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC)       |
| 9. Sacred Heart Parish Church (SHC)                                | 21. Wingates Band (WB)                               |
| 10. Senior Solutions (SenSol)                                      | 22. Wingates Residents & Tenants Association (WRA)   |
| 11. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas<br>& St. George LEP Parish (SBC) | 23. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)                      |
| 12. Townswomen's Guild (TWG)                                       | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)                    |

#### Individuals in attendance (42)

Sue Ashcroft (WMC)	Mark Flannery (PscO)	Dennis Lee (GFS)
Janice Bayliss (NAWC)	Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Debbie Lee (GFS)
Doreen Booth (TWG)	Jean Green (WASP)	Brian Leyden (FoWS)
Anne Broadley (RBC)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Chris Marshall (FoWS)
Claire Brodmann (WHS)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Joan Leyden (SenSol)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Vicky Hardy (Pcso)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Steve Harrington (SHC)	Nilda Speight (FDHS)
Lita Bridge (FDHS)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jason Taylor (BADs)
David Chadwick (WTC)	David Kaye (WB/WLHG)	Jonny Thornley (Pcso)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Linda James (RBC)	Hillary Welsby (SenSol)
Joanne Chilton (WCQA)	Hazel Jones (WRA)	James Wilson (SBC)
Pam Clarke (WLHG)	Davina McKnight (WURC)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Gail Davies (Pcso)	Michelle Moore (PscO)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR

#### Apologies (13)

Anne Burns (Bolton at Home); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Jayne Caldwell, Annaliese Sims (Guiding UK); Hannah Baker, Mark Taylor (Hope Church); SWAN; Jean Jones (Senior Solutions); Andrew Glynn (St. Johns Church Wingates); Jenny Haunch, Carl Messenger (Washacre Primary School); Janet Colley (WACO); Jean Watkinson (Westhoughton Community Queens Association); Margaret Curme, Helen Purnell (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Cath Higham (Westhoughton Market).



# Westhoughton Community Network

## 1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chairman Harold Daniels welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the priests and parishioners of Sacred Heart Church for the use of their parish hall. Those present introduced themselves and the groups they represent (as attendance sheet). Apologies were read out. Minutes of September meeting agreed with no matters arising.

## 2. 'Westhoughton You Decide'

Pcsos Gail Davies, Johnny Thornley and Mark Flannery explained the history behind the setting up of the project to use the proceeds of crime fund (P.O.C.A.) to promote community building across Greater Manchester.

The intention is that bids are made by groups in Westhoughton to access a total of £15,000. The date for applying for access has been extended until 10th December and applicants will then be invited to give a 3-minute (non-PowerPoint) presentation at a community event on Saturday afternoon, 24th January 2015 at Westhoughton High School, before an audience of Westhoughton residents, who will vote for their preferred applicants. Application forms were tabled at this meeting (available online); Mark is happy to assist with forms if required. There was a general Q&A session, which also covered the positive impact made by the Community Police in Westhoughton. The criteria for applications is flexible and is not necessarily crime-related (community benefit). Individual projects or non-constituted groups can apply if funds are managed by an established, constituted proxy account.

Westhoughton Pcsos, Michelle Moore, commented on the positive community spirit in Westhoughton which had been a factor in choosing Westhoughton as an early district in setting up the project.

## 3. Victorian Day Events – Saturday, 6th December

Victorian themed events (traditional costume/fayre) at Westhoughton Market and Carnegie Hall/Library (upstairs). Some stalls and entertainment on Market Street itself.

Linda James (Rainbow Crafts Group) informed the network about the above event in the Carnegie Hall. Stalls cost £10 and sales of proceeds will go to the Stroke Association. There will be a variety of craft and community stalls (History Group, Friends of Westhoughton Station and Wingates Band), a 'Grandma's Parlour' with presents for children, mince pies and mulled wine, afternoon teas served (groups need let Linda know numbers required). There will be school choirs and a pianist for the day; Wingates Band will have ensembles performing.

This event will be complimented by the annual Westhoughton Victorian Market event involving Santa's Grotto, raffles, normal and speciality stalls; with entertainment from The Travelling Strings and covers band Time Shift. All proceeds will go to Alzheimer's Society and Local Heroes.



There was a short break for refreshments.

## 4. Group Updates / Information Share

**Healthwatch** – Trevor Benn did a short presentation on the work of [Healthwatch \(Bolton\)](#), who are the consumer champions for residents of Bolton in relation to health and social care services. Leaflets and contact details were shared; there is a monthly forum for members of the public at the Friends Meeting House in Bolton covering health topics.

**Mercury Motel Christmas Day Lunch** – a traditional festive meal for those on their own is going ahead thanks to donations and the offer of volunteers on the day. Drivers needed to take people to/from venue and also help out (kitchen/serving).

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – gave a summary regarding Eatock's Alive, the summer of outdoor activities for children and the September Funday, and reported on its success in applying for funds to commission Lancashire Wildlife Trust to carry out a series of winter activities around the lodge.

**Sacred Heart Church** – Steve Harrington announced their Christmas Fair is to be held on Sunday, 30th November from 12.00noon, raising money for the church and their community. The church takes foodbank donations, supporting Revive, a charity which helps asylum seekers and refugees.

**WASP (Westhoughton Age Support Project)** – Wilf Dillon said the group continues to be active with events and activities for the elderly. They have organised over the year several day out, which involve a coach trip, sustenance and sometimes entertainment at their destination. They are looking for new people to join them, especially for the Thursday evening sessions at the Winifred Kettle.

**Senior Solutions** – Hillary Welsby gave an update on their work in the 'Home from Hospital' scheme helping the over 60s rehabilitise to being home after a stay in hospital. The scheme is in addition to their normal visiting service and luncheons, and involves working in partnership with Age UK. Two new part-time, temporary positions have been created to administer the scheme.

The Christmas Party is planned for 12th December at Brookfield Hall. The Network congratulated Senior Solutions on their success in being voted first in the TSB Community Funding initiative where green coins determined the popularity of nominated projects – social networking helping. They received £3,000.

**Wingates Residents Association** – tabled their concerns regarding problems getting a suitable venue for meetings – the Wingates area having lost facilities in recent years. Fortunately, the discussions raised possibilities of a solution.

**The George Formby Society** – were welcomed to their first meeting and Dennis Lee gave a short talk about themselves, remembering George and having fun with ukulele music at their regular gatherings. They meet on the last Wednesday of the month, 7:40pm at the Mercury Motel. Free entry and all welcome to join. The group is available for hire for parties, functions and events. Details via WCN.



## Westhoughton Community Network

**Bethel Crowd** – will be presenting their 2015 Panto – The Beauty and the Beast – 23rd/24th and 30th/31st January with matinees on the Saturdays, and will be presenting a Murder Mystery – Who Killed the Hotel Manager? – around March.

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** – Stephen Freeborn reported on the improvements resulting from clean-up operations and planting. Much achieved but still much to do. There have been generous donations and offers of help from businesses and residents. The AGM is to be held on 4th December, 7.00pm at the Wheatsheaf. They will have a stall at the Victorian Fair in the library on 6th December.

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – reported on the great success of their WW1 Exhibition upstairs at the library; there will be a display at the December 6th event. Pam Clarke's book about Westhoughton and WW1 is ready and soon to be published. Their website is continually updated with information about events, trips and links to videos and to other similar sites.

Ted Wisedale has produced a video incorporating the Tower of London poppies and local World War One commemorative events – [‘westhoughtonhistory’](http://westhoughtonhistory.com) on YouTube.

**Westhoughton Town Council** – David Chadwick commented on the tremendous community support given to the annual Remembrance Sunday events. The popular Christmas Light Switch-on and Schools Carol Service is on Friday, 28th November from 7pm outside and inside St. Bart’s Church. The Pretoria Memorial Service – marking the loss of 344 local miners in 1910 – for this year will be on a Saturday (20th December) to avoid clashing with Sunday services. 7:40am for an Act of Remembrance marking the time of the explosion, with a Remembrance Service at St. Bart’s at 10am, followed by the laying of wreaths.

David also informed WCN of the consultation event to be held on 25th November at the Carnegie Hall (1-8pm) regarding the proposals for a large housing development by Persimmon housing on ‘protected’ land at Lee Hall (off Park Road). David gave a brief overview of its significance and the current Council position. Meetings with developers have already taken place with local councillors and SWAN.

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** – Bill Greenhalgh told us that the group held a successful Murder Mystery event the previous week. Their 2015 Panto, Ali Baba and 4 Thieves, will be held on 13th / 14th and 20th / 21st February. A comedy-play is planned for 15th / 16th May. Rehearsals are on a Monday and new people are always welcome, especially to help behind the scenes. Info page in WCN website.

**Westhoughton Methodist Church** – Susan Ashcroft informed us of the appointment of their new Minister the Reverend Lesley Dinham. A table-top sale will be held on Saturday, 29th November 10am to 12 noon.

**Westhoughton United Reformed Church** – three events were announced: the annual Houghton Weavers Christmas Show is on Saturday, 6th December 7:30pm (only a few tickets remain); the Tree Service on Sunday, 14th December (10:30am) and a traditional Carol Service is on Sunday, 21st December (6:30pm) followed by tea and mince pies in the hall.



## Westhoughton Community Network

**Westhoughton Art Group** – Dave Hendry reminded WCN of the Bolton Arts Forum which can give Westhoughton groups access to funding to support arts related activities. This £7,000 fund has been used to support artwork and mosaics at both Westhoughton and Daisy Hill stations. The Art Group has tentative plans for another exhibition of their work possibly in February.

**WOW (women of Westhoughton)** – has nominated Fortalice as their charity for this year and requested donations of toiletries and such like for women at the refuge. These can be left at the Hope Centre which is open most days. Janice Bayliss stated that the group remains busy with a full programme of events and trips; they are looking ahead to 2015.

**Wingates Band** – David Kaye gave a review of recent and upcoming activities. A 'free' concert was to take place at Georgian House on Sunday, 23rd November to rehearse music for the 2014 Scottish Open Brass Band Championships in Perth (Saturday 29th November) where Wingates Band will be representing the North West Region, competing with 20 other elite bands from across UK. Dates for the diary include: the Victorian Fair (6th December) at which Wingates Band ensembles will be entertaining the public; the St. John's Wingates concert – Tuesday, 9th December; and Christmas Folk & Brass with the Houghton Weavers at Victoria Hall, Bolton – Saturday, 13th December. Details via WCN, the new website [wingatesbrassband.co.uk](http://wingatesbrassband.co.uk) or through David 01204 696984.

**Westhoughton Community Queens Association** – Carnival Royalty have raised £600 for their chosen local charities (Manchester Children's Hospital; Bolton Hospice and Wigan & Leigh Hospice). Future events include: a Community Queens Competition on Saturday, 29th November at the Hope Centre; their Christmas Fair at the John Holt Centre on Sunday, 30th November; and a fundraising, bag-packing session at B&M Bargains in Westhoughton on Saturday, 13th December (10-2). They are also hoping to do a sponsored walk and organise a Ladies Evening, and more... during 2015.

**Friends of Daisy Hill Station** – although slowing down activities for winter, they are working with a new station manager and continuing work sessions on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (may change in 2015). Their AGM is on Saturday, 20th December 7pm at the John Holt Centre. Jack Speight reminded us that the 27th November is Lancashire Day; there are moves to make the day more of a celebratory event in 2015.

**St Bartholomew's Parish Church** – James Wilson confirmed the formal institution and induction of new Team Rector for Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates – Chris Bracegirdle. A leaflet was distributed giving details of upcoming events including: St. Thomas School Fair (22nd November); Coffee Moring at St. Bart's for Bolton Hospice (Saturday, 29th November); Christingle in aid of The Children's Society (Sunday, 30th November); St. Bartholomew's School Christmas Fair (Thursday, 4th December – 4-6pm); On Sunday, 14th December there is a Toy Service at St. Bart's where donated toys are handed over to Westhoughton Lions for distribution. Full details are on the website [westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://westhoughtonchurches.org.uk).



# Westhoughton Community Network

James reminded the group that details of events and services can also be found on Social Media (Facebook/Twitter). He asked that consideration be given to donations and support for the Mercury Motel Christmas lunch

James gave an update was on the WCN Foodbank Network. Both collection and onward distribution is going well, with 11 grub tubs around the town. Urban Outreach is delighted with both our efforts and example as a community working together – we are helping a good number of families and individuals during hard times. Recent Harvest Festivals had enough donations to fill the Urban Outreach van twice over.

Chris Buckley was able to tell the group that the **Incredible Edible (Westhoughton)** initiative brought to a previous meeting will, with a lead from Anne Burns (Bolton at Home), be moved forward from January with meetings to take place. Present this evening, Claire Broadmann (Westhoughton High School) said that the school is keen to make use of allotment areas for growing food accessible to the public. Contact has also been made with the Horwich Allotment Community, which may be helpful in getting similar projects off the ground in Westhoughton.

Chris was also pleased to inform the group of an approach through the website by Middlebrook-based utility supplier **eON**, who will be collecting foodbank donations by their staff to drop off one of our Westhoughton collection point in December.

**W.A.C.O.** (by proxy) – Janet Colley has asked that the group be informed of their fundraising activities. In November they have been able to give out grants of up to £500 to a number of local groups and projects: John Holt Tots & Toddlers group, Washacre FM, Friends of Eatock Lodge, Westhoughton Community Queens, Westhoughton Rangers Under 7's FC, Hindley FC under 11s, Rainbow Crafts Group, Westhoughton Card Craft Group, White Horse Grove Group. They are supporting the Mercury Christmas Lunch for people on their own and are helping with promotion of Victorian Day events on December 6th.

As a group, W.A.C.O. in order to continue with their community activities and fundraising, sought new people to join them, which has happened.

**'Choralation'** – A new Community Choir is being started hoping to bring people together to sing and have fun with music. First meeting is Thursday, 27th November at the John Holt Centre between 8:00 and 9:30pm. Weekly subs will be £2 to cover costs.

**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** – Harold Daniels told the group that the annual fundraising activities with the Christmas float begin on Saturday, 6th December at Sainsbury's with the tours around Westhoughton starting on the 9th and continuing until 23rd December. Not only is this a great spectacle and wonder for local children, but it raises a lot of money which is given to local causes and projects in the Spring.

Harold mentioned the charity 'Winston's Wish' which supports bereaved children.

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.



# Westhoughton Community Network

## 5. Any Other Business

- Neighbours Horwich, with a nod to our activities in Westhoughton, have established a similar networking organisation to WCN to promote community groups – **Horwich Communities Working Together (HCWT)** – they held a busy and well-attended launch event at Horwich RMI Club on 8th November.
- Julie Hilling (M.P.) is holding an event on Friday, 28th November (1-3pm) at Horwich RMI club to identify and discuss issues important to older members of her Constituency.
- Ann Benn mentioned that Poppy Seeds donated by Bolton Council (to Commemorate WW1) can still be obtained via the Friends of Eatock Lodge link on the WCN website.
- Janice Bayliss hoped that a discussion on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter), postponed from the last meeting, could be covered at the February meeting.

The meeting finished at 9:20pm

## 6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 18th February 2015 at Westhoughton Golf Club.**

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