



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 11th May 2016**

at Woodlands Care Home

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (21)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Barking Berrys (BARK)                 | 14. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 2. Bethel Crowd (BCD)                    | 15. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)             |
| 3. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHIB)            | 16. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)                        |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)  | 17. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCR)                |
| 5. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)        | 18. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)             |
| 6. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 19. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPS)                     |
| 7. George Formby Society (GFS)           | 20. Westhoughton Youth Project (BLGC)                   |
| 8. Guiding UK (GUK)                      | 21. Wingates Band (WB)                                  |
| 9. Howfen Radio (HFR)                    | ~ Bolton College - Westhoughton Centre (WLC)            |
| 10. Rainbow Crafts (RBC)                 | ~ Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)                     |
| 11. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)    | ~ Westhoughton Leisure Centre (WLC)                     |
| 12. Senior Solutions (SNS)               | ~ Woodlands Care Home (WCH)                             |
| 13. Travelliin' Strings (TST)            | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)                       |

#### Individuals in attendance (39)

Ann Benn (FoEL)	Sandra Greenall (WCR)	Colin O'Brien (TST)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Gary Hampson (GFS)	Pat O'Brien (TST)
Scarlett Berry (BARK)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Lorraine Patel (WCH)
Pam Black (WB)	Linda James (RBC)	Brenda Shott (FoEL)
Paul Buxton (SCA)	Sam Lancaster (WDC)	Annaliese Sims (GUK)
Jayne Caldwell (GUK)	Dennis Lee (GFS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Jason Taylor (BCD)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Joan Leyden (SNS)	Michelle Todd (SNS)
Johnny Crook (WPS)	Tony McGarry (WACO)	Hillary Welsby (SNS)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Kellie McGarry (WACO/HFR/BLGC)	Matt Willber (WLC)
Christine Dunscombe (BARK)	Joy Mooney (WB)	Gill Williams (DHB)
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Sarah Morris (WLC)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)	Chris Buckley (WCN)

#### Apologies (12)

Sharon Sargent (Blessings In Disguise); Shirley Pinches (Westhoughton Learning Centre); Edwina Gibney (Brookfield Hall); Mark Taylor (Hope Church); Janice Bayliss (National Association of Women's Clubs); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Chris Bracegirdle (Westhoughton Parish Churches); James Wilson (Foodbanks); Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Ted Wisedale (Westhoughton Local History Group); Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church)



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## 1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chair Harold Daniels welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked the staff of Woodlands for their kind hospitality in hosting our 21st groups gathering.

Apologies noted; attendance as per signing-in sheet. Minutes were moved and accepted. Those in attendance gave a brief introduction.

### *Matters Arising*

Dawn Lythgoe of Bolton council sent an update regarding the **Community Empowerment Fund**. The pot has received an additional £500,000 investment. Following feedback, they are currently working up some criteria and guidelines to encourage proposals from the voluntary and community sector on how they can help to create 'Age-friendly Communities' – with an emphasis on active adults.

They are also interested in talking to groups that might be up for taking on the running of community buildings.

In partnership with Bolton CVS, Dawn will be developing some information/workshop sessions on applying for the funding.

No timetables as yet but working hard to get things moving. They will keep WCN informed. Dawn happy to attend future meeting to give a verbal update.

Contact: [dawn.lythgoe@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.lythgoe@bolton.gov.uk) | [www.bolton.gov.uk/cef](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/cef).

## 2. Westhoughton Community College (Bolton College)

Carmen Gonzalez-Eslava (Director of Curriculum, Bolton College) gave a brief history and update of the review of the learning offer at Westhoughton Community Centre, from where Bolton College has delivered some Community Learning provision for a number of years (topic from previous WCN meeting), and explained the differences between the two separate sources of funding – Adult Skills Budget and Community Learning Budget – strands with a traditionally different focus, and how government priorities about how these budgets should be spent have been changing over the last few years to make the provision more focused on employment and progression. Rumours about closure are unsubstantiated – the College has invested considerably in the building and is keen on providing courses that meet the needs of the local community; but needs to balance that with funding priorities. The reduction in budgets and less flexibility around syllabus have created difficulties when local choices/interests do not align with current government policy.

Colleges are expected to concentrate on employment-centred education, as well as English and Maths (which do not always fit in with local requirements/need), leading to reduced take-up of unsubsidised courses. New, charged courses for Term 3 have had mixed success. The syllabus is being reviewed; there have been expressions of interest to run a Nursery from part of the building; consultations ongoing, with talks with third parties – such as Bolton Lads and Girls Club –



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regarding best use of space/resource and how to sustain it. Sharing the lease is being discussed but no decisions have been made.

Some courses now being offered/delivered in the wider community – Eatock, St. George's and Washacre schools, as well as the John Holt Centre and Westhoughton Library (Tablets course) – this should help reach local residents and raise awareness for Further Education. The Westhoughton Centre will continue after September, but may operate differently in an attempt to meet all obligations – a mix of learning and community centre – as wanted by residents. There was a short Q&A session allowing for feedback and suggestions from the community.

### 3. It's-A-Knockout

Kellie McGarry updated on progress on this fundraising and community event – Sunday, 22nd May (11-4) at Central Drive playing fields. As well as the team competition, there will be a funfair, a large number of stalls, and entertainment including an appearance from Wingates Band and the Bethel Crowd.

A W.A.C.O. event, Kellie introduced Tony McGarry as the new Vice-Chair of the group, helping organise events and fundraising. W.A.C.O. will continue to offer small grants to local groups.

Kellie, in her Bolton Lads and Girls Club role, spoke of the need for more volunteers to help with activities at the new Westhoughton Youth Club. Initial youth membership (seniors/juniors) take-up has been very good.

Appreciation was shown for Kellie's achievements in the voluntary sector (winning a national award) – and as an example of community learning providing new opportunities and direction to individuals.

### 4. Barking Berry's Fun Dog Show

Scarlett Berry gave information about their 4th Fun Dog Show taking place on Saturday, 4th June (11-4) with some 50 stalls and 15 Dog Show Classes. She distributed posters to publicise this annual event supporting canine charities. To date some £20,000 has been raised. The room showed its appreciation.

There has been some high-profile publicity in the media; with the family doing promotion at other dog shows and places such as Pets at Home (22 May).

Scarlett thanked WCN for her recent nomination and award for 'Young Citizen of the Year' from Westhoughton Town Council.

*Update: The event raised £2,100 on day. Total fundraising now over £21,500.*

### 5. Yarn Bombing Festival 2016

Linda James gave details of this event, building on the success of last year.

Taking place over the weekend of 3rd and 4th July, with a theme of 'Alice in Wonderland', as well as the town centre yarn displays with community groups, schools, local businesses contributing, there will be a Community Royalty Crowning



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at Westhoughton Leisure Centre, a short procession, a number of stalls (£10/day – forms from Choc-la-te). There has been some business support – Stateside Foods and Rijo; though Linda stated it hasn't been easy to raise funds.

Dave Hendry, whose Art Group will have an exhibition at the library to coincide with WYBF16, has been liaising with the 'Blackrod Scarecrow Festival' regarding cross-promotion support.

The Mill Street carpark will again be set aside for some entertainment from local artists including 'The Travellin' Strings' and 'George Formby Society', with hopefully some support from 'Howfen Radio'. Details and logistics to be finalised.

Adding to the attractions – street entertainers and Westhoughton Poetry Group contributing in costume with poetry and town crying.

Info page: [bit.ly/wybf16](http://bit.ly/wybf16).

*There was a short break for refreshments and a chance to network; and also have a tour of Woodlands facilities.*

## 6. Group Updates / Information Share

**Westhoughton Leisure Centre** – Matt Wilber and Sarah Morris gave updates on activities. Half-term (w/c 30/5) will see swimming pool open all day from 9am and new 'Pool Pass' (this to be repeated for school summer holidays). There are a number of activities to encourage sport. Good news! Later this year a 3G all-weather football pitch will replace existing gravel pitch to improving sports offerings in Westhoughton. Liaising with local GPs and Physiotherapists to help with exercise initiatives, WLC is supporting community outreach project ('Neighbourhood Life'). As mentioned, WLC is involved with WYBF16. A new Facilities Manager will help with community engagement push.

**St James' Scouts** 11th Bolton (St. James) & 33rd Bolton (St. Georges) – Paul Buxton gave an update on local groups. In particular, Scout Groups being in need of adult volunteers, both as leaders and in support roles across all sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) and at group level. All roles are flexible - more info contact Paul on 07340 962243 | [info@11thboltonscouts.co.uk](mailto:info@11thboltonscouts.co.uk) | [scouts.org.uk/get-involved](http://scouts.org.uk/get-involved).

Jayne Caldwell spoke of the local (St. Bart's) **Guides, Brownies and Rainbows** activities, including trips away to London, Switzerland, Disneyland Paris and a 4-day sleepover at Legoland Windsor on top of normal social activities. The groups do need more volunteers and leaders.

**Wingates Band** – WCN asked that the long and successful relationship between Wingates and David Kaye be acknowledged, and best wishes sent to David, who has been a popular and much respected ambassador for Westhoughton be noted. With a new committee, Pam Black and Joy Mooney look forward to building on David's work with the community by supporting local activities (quartets/10-pieces). On 27th May the band plays a prestigious concert at Bolton Octagon. Full details of their website: [wingatesbrassband.co.uk](http://wingatesbrassband.co.uk).



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Wilf Dillon of **W.A.S.P. (Westhoughton Age Support Project)** reported on the group's activities and trips for its 80 members. Free for pensioners to join. Social activities Mondays and Thursdays; 8 trips planned for 2016 (hotel day-out with meals and entertainment). The big W.A.S.P. Christmas party caters for 140 OAPs.

WCN wished Wilf well for his forthcoming operation.

**Westhoughton Community Royalty** – Sandra Greenall listed future events including the W.A.C.O. IAK16 event to find new royalty; Westhoughton Market Charity Car Boot 4th June; a fundraising Psychic Night 18th June, and the Yarn Bombing Festival (from 11am at WLC) when new Royalty will be crowned. Money raised this year is in support of 'Fortalice' and 'Help For Heroes'. They are looking to have a memorial bench for long-time organiser Jean Watkinson, who passed away in 2015.

*Update: The new royalty selections, postponed from IAK16 due to poor weather, will take place on Saturday, 11 June from 11am at Westhoughton Market.*

**Friends Of Daisy Hill Station** -- Jack Speight commented new bird boxes at the station, and the wealth of wildlife around it. New franchise operator Arriva seems more involved in community and improvements. Ongoing monthly clean-ups.

Johnny Crook of **Westhoughton Poetry Group** (now in its 3rd year) spoke of the group which meets the last Thursday of month in the Library at 2.00pm to read, listen to and discuss poetry. All are welcome. They are keen to be more involved with the community.

Colin O'Brien updated us on singalong, guitar-strumming group **The Travellin' Strings** and their busy programme of local (and not so local) musical activities in support of dementia charities – a highlight being a performance at Castlefield Market. They will continue to support WCN group activities and events – including the college, some members learning guitar at there. In 3 years The Travellin' Strings have raised some £12,000 with a target of £20,000 for Alzheimer Society.

They will be performing at both WYBF16 and the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival.

**Westhoughton Arts Group** - Dave Hendry announced the annual art exhibition to be held at the library between 23rd June and 11th July. Information and Opening invitations to be sent out shortly. Dave reminded the group of Bolton Arts Forum grants for arts related activities – Travellin' Strings, and both station projects benefiting from funding.

Jason Taylor of the **Bethel Crowd** future events for the amateur dramatic group, with the youth theatre production of 'Wind in the Willows' in June (10th/11th and 17th/18th). Tickets just £4 available online. Later in year, September will see them perform 'Little Shop of Horrors' (16th/17th 23rd/24th); £6 ticket. The January 2017 panto will be 'Puss in Boots'. Tickets can be bought online via [Ticket Source](#).

**Friends of Westhoughton Station**—Steve Freeborn reflected on the incredible improvements seen over the last 3 years supported by local volunteers, businesses, and now new franchise holders Arriva/Carillion Cleaning. They are grateful for the



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plants and bulbs left there. A new welcome sign (cow/gate/saw) planned. The new passenger shelter is an £11k investment in the station.

Group undertaking commuter surveys (target 500). Westhoughton is a very busy station (250k ticketed commuters per year).

**Senior Solutions** – Michelle Todd reported on an additional social group session for clients and their carers meeting Tuesday afternoons 1:45 to 3:45pm at Sacred Heart Church. It is going well; offering social activities, occasional talks and craft demonstrations. Some 'Awards For All' Lottery has been received, allowing them to plan trips and both a summer and Christmas party, and provide respite for carers. They are looking to start a 55+ Walking Group. Volunteers are needed to help with their Thursday luncheon clubs. Some problems reported with Ring and Ride provision.

In January the Befriending Service (and more) will celebrate its 20 year anniversary.

**George Formby Society** (Dennis Lee) meets on last Wednesday of the month at Mercury Hotel. They have a busy year ahead - details on their [website](#). There are Ukulele practice sessions available at their meetings – with tips and help for novice players.

**Daisy Hill in Bloom** (Gill Williams) promotes Daisy Hill at its best... they will be replanting troughs after winter over next 2-3 weeks, meeting at Daisy Hill Community Centre. They are friendly group who also organise litter picks and welcome volunteers. There will be a meeting for the group on 7th June - 7.30pm at Daisy Hill Cricket Club. Further information via website/Facebook.

**Westhoughton Local History Group** (Val Chadwick) meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at library (10am). The group has speakers: upcoming are: 'Rebirth of Westhoughton Station' by Steve Freeborn and Fun with Antiques by Yvonne Woolley – all welcome. The group has just done one of their regular days out – a trip along the Manchester Ship Canal on a Mersey ferry.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** (Ann Benn) have already held activities including a bird song walk and litter picks, and are grateful for Bolton Council support in a clearing of the lodge water itself. They are also grateful to Westhoughton Rotary Club for donating tins of paint for a project to repaint the goal posts on the kick-about pitch, and hope to find volunteers to help. They are in the process midst of applying for funding to help cover the annual Family Funday held on first Sunday in September (4th).

David Chadwick gave an update on **Westhoughton Town Council** reporting on the recent by-election results. There is a new Town Mayor – Anne Graham – whose inauguration is on 22nd May at St. Bart's. Anne's chosen charities for her year of office are: 'Fortalice' (domestic abuse), and 'Day Trippers Bolton' (disabled children).



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**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** – Harold Daniels announced upcoming Rotary events including a talk about football money and a fundraising evening/dinner – Life and Times of a Busker – on 9th June at Brookfield Hall with proceeds going to children’s charity KIDS2GETHER.

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

- Chris Buckley reminded groups of the **Westhoughton Methodist ADS** performance the coming weekend – a comedy play, ‘Inspector Drake’s Last Case’. WCN recorded their Best Wishes to Bill Greenhalgh.
- **St. Thomas Primary School** (Molyneux Road) has its ‘Summer Picnic’ Fundraising Family Funday event Friday 20th May (4:30-7pm). All welcome.
- Local children’s charity **Blessings in Disguise** are holding a ‘Special Day Out’ at DW Stadium Wigan Sunday, 22nd May (10am)
- There will be an ‘Open Day’ at **Brookfield Hall** on Sunday 11th September – a link-in with the ‘National Heritage Day’ when venues or parts of venues that do not normally open to the public, do so. They have plans to open up the Masonic side (upstairs) open to General Public with tours and talks. Downstairs will be set for a Wedding; will be showcasing newly refurbished Lancaster Suite set for a Wedding Ceremony. Plus more points of interest for the day.

Edwina Gibney has kindly offered the use of Brookfield Hall as a venue for a future WCN meeting, expressing the wish to be more involved with the community.

We will look at possibility of a WCN social event later in the year.

## 8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, 7th September 2016 | 7pm,  
at Brookfield Hall, Peel Street, Westhoughton BL5 3SP.

Meeting finished at 9:00pm.

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