



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 20th February 2013

at Westhoughton Methodist Church

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (18)

1. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHIB)
2. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
3. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)
4. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA)
5. Hope Church (HPC)
6. National Association of Women's Clubs (NAWC)
7. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
8. Save Westhoughton Act Now (SWAN)
9. St. John's Wingates Church (SJW)
10. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)
11. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO)
12. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)
13. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
14. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
15. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)
16. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish (SBC)
17. Westhoughton Visiting Service (WVS)
18. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC)
- ~ Bolton at Home (BaH) [Admin]
- ~ Urban Outreach (UO) [Presentation]

Individuals in attendance (24)

Ann Benn (FoEL)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Mark Taylor (Hope Church)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	James Wilson (SBC)
Janice Bayliss (NAWC)	John Howard-Norman (WMC/WVS)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Margaret Curme (WURC)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	Dave Bagley (UO)
Andrew Glitheroe (SWAN)	Joanna Parncutt (FWS)	Anne Burns (BaH)
Andy Glynn (SJW)	Helen Purnell (WURC)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Veronica Swinbourne (DHIB)	Chris Buckley (WCN)

Apologies (9)

Sue Ashcroft (Westhoughton Methodist Church)
Dorothy Booth (Westhoughton Town Women's Guild)
Becky Boydell (Get Active Westhoughton)
Jean Coban, Steve Howarth (Westhoughton Market)
Janet Colley (Enterprise Action Unity/Communiversality)
Pam Clarke, Yvonne Woolley (Westhoughton Local History Group)
Sandra Greenall, Jean Watkinson (Westhoughton Community Queens Association)
Jean Jones (Westhoughton Visiting Service)
David Kaye (Wingates Band)



1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Harold Daniels (Chair) opened the meeting. Apologies were noted and introductions of those attending and who they represented. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Thanks were given to Bill Greenhalgh and Westhoughton Methodist Church for use of the venue and their hospitality.

2. Foodbanks

Dave Bagley, Chief Executive of Urban Outreach gave a presentation on Food Banks in Bolton and how they operated. He also gave an overview of the implications and effects of the Welfare Reform, which is already having an adverse effect on many people and causing a significant increase in the number of people accessing food banks.

Storehouse Project is a partnership between churches in Bolton and Urban Outreach. There are criteria for referral and who is eligible. Broadly, access to the food bank is for a maximum of 8 weeks for those experiencing temporary hardship, i.e., suspension or transfer of benefits, those accessing benefits with a waiting period until claim processed, temporary homelessness, fleeing domestic violence. Agencies such as Bolton at Home can refer and those seeking this help are given vouchers.

Dave explained that food banks had been in existence for several years and had traditionally been accessed by those whose lifestyle choice had often caused the need but now it is necessity with the present economic climate and the growing concern over child poverty. Some significant facts from the last months of numbers accessing the project:

- 1912 Families
- 1108 Single people
- 1000 Christmas dinners delivered
- 197 Admissions to hospital with malnutrition

Containers (Grub Tubs) are situated in many venues, such as churches, community centres, schools etc. and rely completely on donations and generosity.

Getting food out to Westhoughton will depend on placing more 'grub tubs' in the town and more volunteers to aid collection and delivery. It was agreed to set up a sub-committee to take this forward.

Everyone thanked Dave for a very comprehensive, informative and thought provoking presentation on the subject of Food Banks and the effects of the Reforms.



3. Westhoughton Station Clean-up Project

Joanne Parncutt informed that 35 people had attended a public meeting to take this project forward. There is now a constituted committee. A Northern Rail representative was also in attendance.

The volunteers will meet on 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 10.00am to 1.00pm to litter-pick and start work on the bankings. Donations of seeds had been received from Darby's Garden Centre.

Schools in the area have been contacted if they wish to be involved. Young people from Westhoughton High School will be providing planters and bird boxes through art classes. It is planned to now set up a website.

All WCN members expressed congratulations on a job well done by the group's effort and determination.

Daisy Hill in Bloom members to await outcomes before considering this for Daisy Hill Station.

4. Washacre FM

Now in its 7th year, the broadcast will go live on Sunday 16 June. It is going to be for a full week for the first time, which will be a huge undertaking. It will end with a Showcase Day at The John Holt Centre and grounds on 22 June. Anyone interested in training or groups who wish to go on air can contact Doug Cunliffe on 01942 859535 or check out Washacre FM on Facebook or on the WCN website.

5. Community Fayre

Feedback was given by Chris Buckley on the event held on 24 November. In all 17 groups took part and raised the profile of all the voluntary groups across the town. The Guide Group were particularly successful in recruiting new volunteers.

Discussions took place to repeat in June during National Volunteers Week and whether to utilise the Market space or link to another event, such as It's-a-Knockout on 2 June organised by WACO, which would ensure maximum footfall. Chris Buckley to check these out and feedback to WCN members.

6. St George's Day Event/Westhoughton Rotary Club

Harold Daniels informed of the above event to be held on Wednesday 24 April.

There will be a meal/entertainment and transport provided. Names of elderly, housebound people that would benefit from this to be passed to Harold.

7. National Association of Women's Clubs

Janice Bayliss still hoping to set up a women's club but had little success at the Community Fayre. Presently negotiating with venues such as the Cricket Club to see if viable. Janice will continue to explore possibilities.



Westhoughton Community Network

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

All agreed the meeting had been informative and that the Westhoughton Community Network was becoming well established and a positive forum for the sharing of local information and collaboration.

Next meeting to be held at:

Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel)
Wednesday, 22nd May, 7pm

*Our thanks to
Westhoughton Methodist Church and Bill Greenhalgh
for the use of their facilities and hospitality given to WCN members.*

Further information or amendments to Chris Buckley (07981 172552)

info@westhoughtoncommunitynetwork.co.uk