



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: Wednesday, 27th November 2019 | 7:00pm**  
at Westhoughton Methodist Church

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (14)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)      | 9. Senior Solutions (SenSol)                    |
| 2. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC)                   | 10. Travellin' Strings (TS)                     |
| 3. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHiB)             | 11. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)     |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FoDHS)  | 12. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)     |
| 5. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)         | 13. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)          |
| 6. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FoWS) | 14. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)         |
| 7. Howfen Radio (HR)                      | ~ Co-op Members (Co-Op)                         |
| 8. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)      | ~ Health Improvement Practitioner Service (NHS) |

#### Individuals in attendance (17)

Kirsty Gadsby (NHS)	Julie Loughran (SenSol)	John Ritchie (WLHG)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Carly Mack (BLGC)	Jack Speight (FoDHS)
Colin Gradwell (WMADS)	Bob Naylor (DHFC)	Veronica Swinburne (DHiB)
Steve Harrington (RCW)	Elsa Parker (Co-Op)	Tim Eden (TS/HR) CHAIR
David Hartley (WMC)	David Reeve (DHiB)	Chris Buckley (WCN) SECRETARY
Brian Leyden (FoWS)	Cindy Ritchie (WLHG)	

#### Apologies (24)

Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton); Ann & Trevor Benn (Friends of Eatock Lodge);  
Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group);  
David Chadwick (HEART); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station);  
Sandra Greenall (Westhoughton Community Royalty); Garry Hampson (George Formby Society);  
Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group); David Kaye (Westhoughton Local History Group);  
Bob & Glenys Latham (St. James Daisy Hill); Dawn Lythgoe (Fresh As A Daisy);  
Susan Missin (Harold Daniels Legacy Fund); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band);  
Paul Salvesson (Bolton and South Lancs Community Rail Partnership); Andy Simm (Bolton Lads and Girls Club - Hidden Talent); Peter Sloan (Branch of the National Association for Retired Police Officers);  
Mark Taylor (Hope Centre/Hope Church); Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd); Ian Templeman (Daisy Hill FC);  
Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions).



## 2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Meeting was chaired by Tim Eden (Travellin' Strings/Howfen Radio), who welcomed everyone, thanking Colin Gradwell and David Hartley for use of Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall and organising refreshments on this our third visit.

There was an unusually high number of apologies this time round... We send our best wishes to WCN Secretary Ann Benn. Doreen Booth had sent news of Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild folding recently. Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd), who is to chair the next meeting is rehearsing with Bolton Little Theatre.

Those present briefly introduced themselves. WCN M34 minutes (10/9/19) were accepted.

## 3. Town Centre Capital Improvements Masterplan

Following on from the last meeting [[M34](#)], attended by Phil Lamb of Bolton Council (Regeneration), Chris Buckley gave an update on progress with the scheme offering significant capital investment (quarter share of £16m) to boost and attract more people into the town centre. There is a separate pot of money £2.5m for refurbishment of the Town Hall and underused Carnegie Hall. Bolton Council has appointed external consultants (BDP), and a Steering Group made up of stakeholders from across the community, business and local councillors has met three of times to discuss preferences and possibilities. A first proposal has the three available (vacant) sites - Gaiety, Mill Street and adjacent to Sainsbury's - given over to housing. Does Westhoughton need yet more housing? It had been suggested that the Gaiety site could become a public/community asset, such as a functional community space or, with leveraged investment, a multi-purpose leisure venue – something that would draw people into the town centre, and have a ripple effect for other businesses.

There followed some discussion, Veronica Swinburne cited the great job done with Radcliffe (Market Hall), it incorporating venue configurations for community activities/entertainment. Another good model for regeneration is Altrincham, which has had much media coverage. It was felt it would be a pity not to make the most of this opportunity, given a significant sum of money is available for investment.

The Public Consultation on initial proposals to happen early in [2020](#), with any plans signed off by the end of March. It is important for local people get involved.

## 4. Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Social Prescribing

We welcomed Kirsty Gadsby (Link Worker) to tell us about a new Bolton-wide referral initiative being piloted for 6 months involving GPs to tackle social issues to improve wellbeing. Based out of Westhoughton surgeries, and already making inroads within the community, Kirsty takes on referrals, talks and meets with people (home visits), providing support to individuals to tackle non-medical often stress-related issues that put a strain on Primary Care. Initially dealing with agencies to resolve any crisis (money, food, housing), then looking at ways to 'break the cycle' or combat isolation by introducing people to appropriate community activities (social groups, volunteering) in the hope that patient's health and wellbeing can be improved. Contact Kirsty: 07912 750582 | [Email](#).



## 5. Co-op in the Community

Elsa Parker first gave an update on the Co-op's 'Local Causes' funding. It has been a busy time with final payments for the last round – three groups in Horwich receiving £12,000. The new round sees 'Bolton Lads and Girls Club', 'W.A.S.P.' and cheerleading group 'HeirForce Cheer', all of whom are Westhoughton-based, and in line for payments over the coming 12 months. In the scheme Co-op Members can choose their cause and 1% of spending on Co-op own brand products and services goes into the pot. This is an important scheme for local groups, helping them keep going, fund projects and serve their community.

The 'Community Spaces' project has had Elsa involved with the 'saving' St. Bartholomew's Church Tower (community tie-ups to support fundraising). She has been working with St. James' Church as part of their History of Daisy Hill project (the churchyard having historic significance) and goal of connecting with the local community. The local store on Market Street has also been supporting Daisy Hill FC with a donations pot and separate fundraising to cover the costs of the match programme. Elsa has featured in a Co-op advertising campaign 'It's What We Do'. Elsa can be contacted on 07971 251405 | [elsa.parker@coopmembers.co.uk](mailto:elsa.parker@coopmembers.co.uk).

## 6. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (Westhoughton)

Head of Operations, Carly Mack gave an informative update on BLGC activities and projects locally. Her work with the 'Outreach and Detached' team helped identify the need for a centre in Westhoughton; this work continues Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, engaging youths in activities and signposting to services in order to help reduce anti-social behaviour. A challenging task, the team has this year worked with 252 youths on the streets of Westhoughton (170 now use the centre).

Carly gave an overview of the issues: 'safe' Westhoughton drawing in youths from other areas. This work and intelligence helps push anti-social behaviour up the agenda securing more resources locally (police time and presence). They are working with stores (training) to help them deal with these issues fairly and consistently. They involve youths in projects such as litter-picking and community clean-ups, e.g., with the Co-op. They get involved with low level social prescribing; health and wellbeing projects, and run 'Empower' aimed at young girls (role models, project work and community action). A new initiative is the Greater Manchester-wide 'Hidden Talent' project aimed at targeting 'under the radar' 16-25 NEETs (not in employment, education or training); designated workers will provide help and support, finding opportunities that enhance and change their lives, boost confidence and self-esteem, and can hopefully get them into long-term work. [Overview and report](#).

BLGC has a CV boosting 'Young Leaders' project - volunteers (aged 8-12) prepared to help others – 84 young people volunteering since 2016. Addressing the issue of social media unfairly amplifying a 'youth problem', in January, celebrating 3 years of operation, BLGC Westhoughton will be marking this with a campaign, events and an awards evening showcasing the achievements and positive contributions of our young people. Meeting a clear need, the new year will also see an expansion of the current Monday to Thursday operation with the club opening on Saturday evenings. [Info](#).



# Westhoughton Community Network

*There was a short break for refreshments and networking.*

## 7. Information Share

**Senior Solutions** – Julie Loughran. Things going well and the team continues to be busy with its activities: two luncheon clubs, recruiting new volunteers for visiting service and befriending. Lots of clients referrals coming through. There has been a tie-up with Asda in the Community (Sarah Taylor), who has helped with £500 funding towards a new bingo machine and fridge freezer; also hampers for clients.

Upsetting and causing some difficulties for Senior Solutions, there is one fly in the ointment, after 3½ years based at Sacred Heart Church, with a new priest and room hire charges to triple, the popular 'Tuesday Social Group' will have to move. The community has rallied round with support, a January change of venue in the offing.

**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** – Steve Harrington. Rotary volunteers took on the Remembrance poppy collections on behalf of the defunct Royal British Legion in Westhoughton – a total of £11,625 was collected. The important fundraising Santa Float evening runs and supermarket collections are due to begin on 9th December over two weeks. This is an important community fundraising activity, and is much appreciated by the Westhoughton community. Supporting the **Harold Daniels Legacy Fund** the 'Road Safety Quiz' has five Primary Schools entering next time round. The annual Rotary Christmas Carols evening at Brookfield Hall is on 11th December.

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** – Brian Leyden gave the update. In keeping with themed on-station displays Remembrance Day was marked; a festive Christmas display will soon be in place. Sadly – and frustratingly given the hard work – there have been issues with vandalism (plant chimney posts destroyed, gnomes stolen...); evidence of drug taking (laughing gas canisters, which seem to be everywhere!). The group to now concentrate on garden displays rather than the ornamental. The group has taken on fence painting with paint supplied by TfGM. There are some eight regulars who attend on a Sunday morning; Brian said it would be nice to see some youth getting involved and would welcome tie-ups with High School/BLGC. The group is very grateful for the community support and donations to in-shop charity boxes.

**Daisy Hill FC** – Bob Naylor thanked the Co-op for their funding of the match programme. The club needs to fundraise to cover its operation, e.g., the 50-50 Club; but will need to look at funding to improve the building (grants). The team is doing well this season – in the top half. Match days at New Sirs are Saturday 3pm (with occasional Monday evening games at 7:45pm). Entrance £5, concessions/U16 £3. The match programme continues to feature two-pages devoted to Westhoughton Community Network written by Chris Buckley covering news, events and individual community group write-ups. An electronic copy is available via the [club website](#).

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – Cindy Ritchie gave the update and an overview of the busy schedule and activities serving the 90 group members. The group meeting twice a month - 1st and 3rd Thursday 10am at the Library (£1 entry) – for speakers, occasional events such as performances from the 'On The Go' drama group, and covering items of local interest. In addition there are regular trips away (recently the Houses of Parliament). The Christmas meal will be at Rivington Barn.



# Westhoughton Community Network

**W.A.S.P.** – Wilf Dillon, 97 year old Treasurer and Events Organiser, informed us that the year's trips taking some 50 OAPs and friends on a coach and mini-bus to a seaside hotel for a meal and entertainment have concluded. Very recently they were entertained by the excellent Travellin' Strings for the first time at their '49er Club' party at the Bolton Mercure (Georgian House). The remaining event of the year is the W.A.S.P. Christmas Party, which caters for 120 people (80 non-W.A.S.P. from the wider OAP community) – it is a free event paid through fundraising. Wilf thanked Elsa and the Co-op for its continued support. The group continues to get older people out and mixing, fulfilling a vital social role in the community. They really do need and would welcome new members (55+), as well as volunteers who can help out.

**Westhoughton Methodist Church** – David Hartley promoted an upcoming concert with the Radcliffe Borough Brass Band (Friday, 29th November). Each year the Church has chosen charities which it supports through collections and events: this year monies raised go to the Winifred Kettle Centre. The Church runs a Luncheon Club every Wednesday (12pm) for the over 55s – a two-course lunch for £3.50.

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** – Colin Gradwell reflected on a busy year with the ADS group, branching out with performances for Westhoughton Local History Group telling the story of the Peterloo Massacre at the Carnegie Hall; also taking their Murder Mystery 'on tour' five times at various locations – this has helped other groups such as Senior Solutions to fundraise. The group is currently preparing and rehearsing for their annual pantomime 'Dick Whittington and his Cat' in February (weekends of 7th/8th & 14th/15th with a matinee on the final Saturday).

**Daisy Hill in Bloom** – David Reeve/Veronica Swinburne. The group has had a good year, with cycles of planting and clearing up. There have been a number of well-attended family-friendly litter-picks, with a first of 2020 taking place 25th January. As have other groups, they have taken advantage of Bolton Council's 'Love Bolton Hate Litter' scheme to obtain free community litter-picking equipment. The group has a few more regulars, and certainly welcomes new blood. Promotion and news now mainly via the [Facebook](#) group.

Promoting her community singing interests, Veronica mentioned the 'Happy Voices Choir' and an upcoming fundraising Christmas Show in Walmsley, 7th December.

**Friends of Daisy Hill Station** – Jack Speight. Monthly station clean-ups ongoing. The station's extended platform is now open with potential for some planting. Where the group's noticeboard was, the ticket hall now has imposing Amazon Lockers installed for customer self-service collection. No news on the lift as yet. Some issues with vandalism. Bill Greenhalgh's (WMADS) memorial bench and planter has been revarnished for an unveiling early 2020. A new planter/second bench is being made.

**Howfen Radio** – Tim Eden spoke of the move from The Hub to The Mercury, which has gone well – the ever-expanding team settling in. Programming is 9-5 most days with plans to extend to 7pm. There will be a 2020 'Howfenbury' concert promoting local talent at the White Lion. Ahead of the 'Pretoria Disaster Remembrance' Tim will be interviewing Houghton Weaver, Jim Berry, and '344' author, Angela Finney. Howfen Radio is happy to promote local groups and events on its broadcasts available via the [internet](#).



**Travellin' Strings** – Tim Eden then gave an update on the guitar-singalong group's activities. They greatly enjoyed the W.A.S.P. party. Their mix of fundraising and private gigs continues with the Strings booked up until September 2020. On a memorable summer afternoon singing on St. Annes Pier they raised a phenomenal £577 with bucket donations for Bolton Dementia Support; recently Macmillan Cancer have also used them for fundraising. In December they return to the Fylde coast for a private party gig the St. Ives Hotel in Lytham St. Annes.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – The 2019 'Everybody Loves Eatock' programme with activities, OAP nature sessions, and a Family Funday, concluded with a Bat Walk and children's outdoor sessions in October. There was thank you meal at Wetherspoon's for volunteers. The group is active within Bolton Green Forum, which is bringing together outdoor groups across Bolton. Nothing further planned until New Year.

## 8. Any Other Business

- A sell-out Tribute Concert for the late Tony Berry took place at St. Bart's on Friday, 22nd November, featuring the Houghton Weavers and friends. A great show with a mix of fun and poignancy. £2,716 was raised on the night, shared by Cancer Research and the St. Bartholomew's Tower Appeal. [Photos](#).
- Barking Berry's Christmas Charity Fun Dog Show is on Saturday, 30th November at Lands Farm, as they continue to raise money for animal causes.
- Wingates Band has upcoming Christmas Concerts: Blackrod Community Centre, Sunday 1st December; St. John's Wingates, Thursday 12th December. They will also be doing some busking around town.
- St. James Church Daisy Hill have a monthly 'Open Doors' with a 'Coffee Concert' (last one of the 2019 programme) featuring Ulmus Wind Trio on Saturday, 7th December. Entrance £6 (children free) with Cake by Lauren and refreshments.
- Bethel Crowd have seasonal productions: 'It's a Party' (Junior Crowd 8-18), a retelling of the traditional Nativity story, 13th & 14th December; then the 2020 Panto, 'Frosted', to be performed 17th/18th/24th/25th January.
- Cindy Ritchie mentioned a group, 'Contact the Elderly', active for 28 years, which organises monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for people aged 75 or over who live alone and may not have the same contact with family and friends that they once had. They need volunteer drivers – CRB check needed.

*Tim Eden was thanked for doing an excellent job of chairing the meeting.*

## 9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at

**Winifred Kettle Day Centre  
Wednesday, 12th February 2020**

**Meeting finished at 9:05pm.**

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

