



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 6th February 2018
at Winfred Kettle Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (16)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Bethel Crowd (BCD) | 10. Travelliin' Strings (TST) |
| 2. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC) | 11. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 3. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 12. Westhoughton Community Hub (WHUB) |
| 4. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 13. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS) |
| 5. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF) | 14. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 6. Hope Church (HOPE) | 15. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG) |
| 7. Howfen Radio HFR) | 16. Wingates Brass Band (WB) |
| 8. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) | ~ Macmillan Cancer Support (MACM) |
| 9. Senior Solutions (SNS) | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC) |

Individuals in attendance (24)

Kate Bridge (FDHS)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Lisa Reilly (HWR)
Chris Buckley (WCN)	Joan Leyden (FWS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Julie Loughran (SNSI)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Johnny Crook (WPS)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Michelle Todd (SNS)
Tim Eden (TST)	Joy Mooney (WB)	Stefanie Withington (WHUB)
Dave Fensome (WMADS)	Bob Naylor (DHFC)	Emma Pawluk (MACM)
Dave Hendry (WAG)	Andy Partington (HFR)	Chris Buckley (WCN) SECRETARY
Kirsty Jacques (WB)	Gaynor Ratcliff (WHUB)	Stephen Freeborn (FWS) CHAIR

Apologies (20)

Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton); Ann Benn (WCN Secretary); Trevor Benn (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Ann Butler (Westhoughton High School); Jayne Caldwell (Guiding UK); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Wif Dillon, Len Maycroft (Westhoughton Age Support Project); Rev'd Lesley Dinham (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (Barking Berrys); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Warren Hulme (Bolton Movie Makers); Bob Latham (St. James Daisy Hill); Kellie McGarry (W.A.C.O.); Veronica Swinburne (Daisy Hill in Bloom); Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd); James Wilson (CoE Parish).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Steve Freeborn of Friends of Westhoughton Station took on chairing duties for this WCN meeting, welcoming everyone to the Winifred Kettle (our second visit), and thanking Bolton Cares (venue) and Senior Solutions (refreshments).

Apologies were noted – our condolences to Margaret Curme (The Bethel) on her recent loss; she had been in touch to promote the ‘Women’s World Day of Prayer’ †... There was quick update on the last meeting minutes: Doug Cunliffe (John Holt Centre) after a prolonged spell in hospital is now home and recovering; Bolton Council’s ‘One-Stop-Shop’ move to the library is due to happen March/April (staff training next month); the WCN recommendation of Town Council ‘Certificates of Achievement’ for High School pupils involved in the ‘HeartBeats2020’ First Aid Training/Defibrillator campaign will be actioned soon (AB)... and the Rotary Club of Westhoughton has confirmed that £7,431 was raised during the December Christmas Santa Float collections to be distributed to local causes and charities in the spring; there is a promise of a further donation of £5,000 from a local businessman.

Those present were asked to introduce themselves and groups represented.

3. Macmillan Cancer Support

WCN welcomed Emma Pawluk, Fundraising Manager for Greater Manchester. She knows Westhoughton well, and has already established links with Westhoughton Art Group.

Whilst best known for Macmillan Nurses, Emma gave an overview of the services and support that the organisation provides for the many people affected by cancer (8,700 people across Bolton; 4 people diagnosed every day) – this could be whilst being treated, in remission or suffering a second time. The range of services include: GPs, pharmacists, therapy, medical professionals, as well as helping with day-to-day living, well-being and mental health, and financial support (claiming benefits, grants for everyday essentials, help with bills)... to get through this traumatic period – to worry less, and get better sooner.

Out in the community there is support and advice available: through visits, the three Help and Support Centres (Bolton One, Royal Bolton Hospital and Bolton Hospice), ‘Basil’, the mobile support unit, a tie-up with Boots the Chemist... as well as a Telephone Helpline (8am-8pm), and an online community linking the world. The aim to reach and be there for as many sufferers, including family, as possible.

Macmillan receives no government support and is totally reliant on its fundraising and donations, thus it links with community, local groups, and will organise events and activities – the Macmillan ‘World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’ is the best known. In addition, volunteers are sought to help with these activities; many cancer sufferers themselves get involved to both give something back and have something to focus on.



Westhoughton Community Network

Emma took questions and spoke about campaigns to raise awareness, .e.g., screening, travel insurance, hospital parking charges... A disease that most will have encountered directly or through a loved one or friend, by 2020, it is estimated that cancer will affect 1:2 people.

Steve and the room thanked Emma for her presentation. She had the chance to speaking with individual groups later at the break.

4. Information Share

Westhoughton Art Group – tying in with the Macmillan presentation, Dave Hendry gave an update on the John Holt-based group... the upcoming 2018 WAG Art Exhibition takes place from Thurs 15th March upstairs at Westhoughton Library, and will last a couple of weeks. Entry is free. Dave remarked WAG members produce “extraordinary art by ordinary people.” There is a special preview evening Tues 13th March (6:30pm-7pm), opened by Tom Newton to which WCN groups are invited; donations/card sales will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. [RSPV \(email\)](#)

Encouraging art further, the WAG exhibition will be followed by a further exhibition featuring the artwork of Elise Hendry and her Hope Centre class (26th March – 9th April). All support for both exhibitions is welcome.

Howfen Radio – Andy Partington gave an update on this fledgling, Hub-based online radio station. A studio is ready, with funding in place for equipment and a licence for 12 months broadcasting to Westhoughton – and the world! They have already found plenty of volunteers and presenters (young and old), offering a variety of styles and content. Training will be provided, and all are welcome to get involved. The group is helpful for the support of the Town Council and Bolton CVS. It is hoped to start broadcasting in the near future. A third ‘Howfenbury’ music festival is planned for late summer.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Dave Fensome gave an update... it is Panto Time for the Wigan Road drama group, the February panto, ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’, is half way through its run - performances 2nd/3rd and 9th/10th February (7:15pm), tickets £5/£4.50. A family atmosphere with everyone working hard to put on entertaining shows. A Comedy Drama will be performed in May. Rehearsals are Monday evenings; new blood always welcome – a new female lead and backstage support especially.

Westhoughton Methodist Church work has begun on Revd Lesley Dinham’s Cantata project (a presentation of the life of Christ in music, drama and narration) to performed over Easter at the end of March. Lent begins 14th Feb.

There was a short break for refreshments and networking.

Harold Daniels Legacy Fund – WCN welcomed Susan Missin who gave an update on fundraising - £795, including HSBC matched funding, was raised on a ‘dress-down Friday’. Working with BRAKE (road safety) and the Rotary Club of Westhoughton, there will be a Primary Schools Road Safety Quiz (15th March) – the HDLF has provided Highway Code booklets. Susan also mentioned making the



Westhoughton Community Network

press in Leeds, and a tie-up with Bolton Wanderers for 35 match tickets for Melbourne Road Church supported refugees.

It being Harold's birthday on the 7th, WCN took a minute to remember and reflect on our much-missed former chair, community giant – and father.

Wingates Band – Kirsty Jacques spoke of upcoming concerts for the brass band, including: a contest preview at the Mercure, Blackrod on Sun 11th March 2pm – it's free, and a chance to hear the band rehearse (with insights from the Musical Director) for a Championship performance at Blackpool Winter Gardens, 25th March. Back amongst the world's elite Wingates Band is currently ranked at 24.

There are upcoming paid concerts: Sun 11th March at Over Hulton Conservative Club (2pm), and a concert with Warrington Male Voice Choir at the Warrington Parish Church of St Elphin, Sat 17th March (7:30pm). Tickets: Sue MacDonald - 07966 364 530 / Cornet1@virginmedia.com.

The Band is looking to be involved in 2018 End of World War One commemorations; work with the Blackrod community in the pipeline.

As regards the Band's fortunes, Kirsty said that Wingates Band have turned the corner, whilst there is still much to do to secure its future, they are extremely grateful and overwhelmed by the support from WCN, individuals and businesses joining the Supporters Club, the Community Hub and Bolton CVS. The Band Hall needs substantial work, and may be the subject of a capital project to rebuild with community use if funding can be found and raised. The announcement of the Band's at the WCN meeting (5/9/17) helping to kick-start and focus on a new beginning and a wider remit to take their music into the community to support fundraising. Supporters Club details: wingatesbrassband.co.uk.

Daisy Hill F.C. – Bob Naylor spoke of a busy time for the football club, however the weather and postponements have created a backlog of fixtures, with many Monday evening fixtures (7:45pm) coming up at 'New Sirs' (St. James Street). Normal fixtures Saturdays 3pm (home/away). The team have been using the new 3G pitch at the High School for practice.

There is a Quiz Night raising money for the Junior team at the club Sat 3rd March.

The Club has a small committee and is looking for volunteers to help run and contribute their skills to function – match days, help with editing programmes, videos and online promotion. It is hoped to get some information on the WCN website soon.

The club hall is good but is in need of maintenance and structural work; unfortunately a relatively short-term tenure (10 years at a time) precludes access for the substantial funding required for major work.

Westhoughton Community Hub – Gaynor Ratcliff gave an update, whilst still in its infancy, just 4½ months on, things are progressing and evolving. The Hub is busy and providing a range of activities and things to do – educational, practical, community, social. A programme of activities was given out; with a special



Westhoughton Community Network

programme for half term (19th – 23rd March). Very popular is 'Minecraft', a computer coding club (100 on the waiting list!) – one goal is for the children to build a robot. There is also 'Bikeability', music projects including work with Wingates Band ('Scatty Music'), and ukulele/keyboard sessions. Now essential electrical PAT testing is available local groups for 50p an item. Gaynor also spoke of a tie-up with the Light Cinema in Bolton enabling community groups to set up in the foyer for fundraising...

Visitors are welcome to pop in and see what on offer and how things are progressing. Call Gaynor on 01942 635082.

Travellin' Strings - Tim Eden said 'The Strings' had been busy performing and supporting different things including Macmillan Cancer Support and work at the Bolton Memory Café. Now well-established, the group feels part of the community events calendar, and enjoys supporting the local causes, for example, the fayres at St. John's Wingates, where they return for a fundraiser in May (18th).

On a practical note, Tim said that the costs of running the Travellin' Strings is significant and needs attention (having working, reliable equipment; practice venues; insurance, and covering general expenses), stating that the band can't help others if they can't themselves! Thus they are looking at putting on a fundraiser for themselves - 'Sing with the Strings!' - likely to take place at Horwich RMI...

'The Strings' have raised over £20,000 (their target) for the Alzheimer's Society, and will in due course discuss other beneficiaries.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – Bryan Leyden. In winter months it had been quiet at the station, but work has resumed on Sunday mornings with bulb planting (donated). There are no weekend trains currently – this is impacting on collections; the group looking at donation boxes at local shops.

The group is grateful to W.A.C.O. for a grant funding a tool storage cabinet. Two new display cabinets are now installed for posters / information – community items welcome. Funded by Northern and Network Rail, there are new large planters for floral displays. With a skilled DIYer on board, the group is able to create seasonal displays – Remembrance Day/Poppies; Christmas Reindeers... and soon something for Easter. The AGM took place 17th January – a project that has come a long way since being started in late 2010...

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight. The project has now been going since 2012, with regular monthly work sessions on Sundays (from noon) and social sessions at the John Holt and Tuesdays (see WCN for dates). Winter weather has limited activities at the station; however the group continues to keep the station and surroundings clean. They need more planters. They are grateful for the support of Daisy Hill in Bloom (plants); and the bird boxes, which are now attracting wildlife. The friends group is happy to be receiving an Environmental Award for its work from the Town Council.

Work affecting the car park related to Hall Lee Bank Park is now completed.



Westhoughton Community Network

Rail Work and Electrification – as Bolton Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Westhoughton Councillor, David Chadwick was asked to give an update on local rail improvements. He spoke of new rolling stock for Northern being tested and coming through this year (December) > [Northern \(Arriva\) News. Refurbished 319 trains](#) will replace the old Pacer trains by 2020. Work on electrification is taking longer than expected due to line engineering difficulties, as well as the Moses Gate water main collapse. This has led to weekend station closures to allow work to catch up. Electrification work on the Bolton-Preston line will allow 100mph trains, which as well as shortening journey times will allow for more trains increasing capacity (electric trains more economical, and can stop/start quicker); the new Platform 5 at Bolton also helps (allowing through trains), as will new signalling... financial constraints have led to a compromise electric/diesel combination allowing travel on non-electric sections (not ideal). Unfortunately, the promised electrification of the Westhoughton-Wigan spur has been put back (no word on if/when this will happen); this has a local impact on passengers, but also on local infrastructure improvements, e.g., when to plan much-needed Church Street resurfacing work. It is frustrating, but progress is being made, stated David.

It was noted that much of the recent housing development applications has made much of electrification and transport improvements in Westhoughton, though these seem to be in doubt. Better infrastructure and more resources have to come if Westhoughton is to cope with the scale of new development being green-lighted.

Senior Solutions – Michelle Todd told us of the success of the Pen Pal/Adopt-a-Grandparent scheme with Westhoughton High School pupils; their clients very grateful to receive presents at Christmas. Senior Solutions is funded by the Council, but they are always looking for new funding opportunities to improve and extend its services; they are looking at ways of supporting carers and volunteers offering advanced training (‘Time For You’), and collaborating with Prevention Services. Michelle says they are looking at Telephone Befriending. The Tuesday Social group is going very well - Sacred Heart Church Hall, Tuesdays 1:45-3:45pm (£2). Senior Solutions has seen an increase in referrals, and now needs more volunteers for the visiting service and luncheon clubs. For more info on Senior Solutions call 01204 335107 (Michelle/Julie).

Westhoughton Local History Group – Ted Wisedale read out a [press release](#) on behalf of new group Chair David Kaye. Last year’s well-attended library exhibition ‘Aspects of Howfen’ was a great success; as were both accompanying booklets and Christmas card collection. The group is extremely proud of the new history timeline mural – a project initiated by the late Pam Clarke. New, regular folios, ‘Keawyed Characters’, will profile prominent personalities of Westhoughton past and present. The major project for 2018 will be an exhibition in November expanding on Pam’s 2014 book ‘Westhoughton and the Great War’ to commemorate the Armistice centenary marking the end of World War I, entitled ‘Westhoughton in the Wake of World War I’ it will examine life in post-war Westhoughton. Watch for updates from the group.

The group meets at Westhoughton Library 1st and 3rd Thursdays (from 10:00am).



Westhoughton Community Network

Westhoughton Poetry Group – Johnny Crook. The group meets at Westhoughton Library on the last Thursday of month 2-4pm. Information on WCN website with new poems published regularly. The group welcomes and needs new members to share in the pleasure of the written word. Johnny is happy to read poetry at clubs and schools. As Town Crier with the full regalia, Johnny said it has been quiet of late and would welcome enquiries for his services at events locally and further afield.

Hope Church – Mark Taylor gave an update on both Centre and Church. It's now 5 years since they established themselves in Westhoughton. The Centre schedule remains healthy and busy, and the church attracts many to its Sunday 10am service.

Work with Urban Outreach continues with the rota in place linking up all Westhoughton grub tubs for collection and taking onto Storehouse in Bolton. These initiatives (such as food parcels, and the 'Christmas Dinner on Jesus') make such a difference to people in hardship – the people of Westhoughton making a great and much-appreciated contribution.

Additional Items (by proxy)

WOW! Women of Westhoughton (Janice Bayliss). Spring programme for events and activities released (WCN). Continuing to raise funds for Target Ovarian Cancer by various means and have managed £450 to date. Meet Thursdays 7:30pm at Hope Centre.

+Woman's World Day of Prayer (Margaret Curme). To take place Fri 2nd March (7pm) at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Lord Street (BL5 3SE). It is an international event with 5,000 services in 95 Languages involving 3m people. Men welcome! Focus on local environment. www.wwdp.org.uk

Barking Berry's (Sarah Dunscombe-Berry). The 2018 Fund Dog Show will take place Sat 16th June again at Central Park. It will be supporting four charities: Rochdale Dog Rescue, Harley's Heroes, Care For The Paw and Dogs Trust Merseyside. Fundraising continues all year round with various initiatives and attendance of animal events. Scarlett's fundraising now approaching £35,000.

Guide Dogs (Janet Harper). Based at Gibfield, the dog charity enabling the visually impaired is looking for any community centre/hall where an occasional puppy class can be held when the space at Atherton is not available (Monday mornings).

The charity is appealing for 'Volunteer Guide Dog Boarders' in Atherton/ Westhoughton area able to drop dog off at Mobility Team offices (Gibfield) 7:30-9:00am, and collect the dog again 4pm-6pm, Monday to Friday. Accommodation and care for dogs is needed full time for up to 26 weeks including weekends. Arrangements for holidays/breaks can be made. Guide Dogs supply equipment, the dog's food, and cover all veterinary costs. Training, held in March, is provided in basic dog handling skills, and the general care and welfare of the dog. Consistent support is available from a friendly team of specialist Guide Dogs staff. It is an opportunity to have benefits of caring for a dog without the full-time responsibility. A rewarding role in that you will be involved in the upbringing and training of a



Westhoughton Community Network

guide dog, which will one day provide freedom and independence to a blind or partially-sighted person. References / interview/ home visit required.

More info Janet 07780 958873 or janet.harper@guidedogs.org.uk or register > [Volunteering for Guide Dogs](#)

Bethel Crowd (Jason Taylor). The Panto, Aladdin, was a great success, the group grateful for the support and great feedback. Preparations are now underway for two shows: in June, 'And They All Lived Happily Ever After', a collection of classic fairy tales performed by the Youth Theatre over last two weekends of June. On February 14th there is an open evening for those interested in being involved in the September show, 'The Wizard of Oz', with auditions 18th & 25th February.

St. James Church, Daisy Hill (Bob Latham). Continuing with their promotion of upcoming talent, there will be a concert by 'The Lotus Trio' (a woodwind trio comprising flute, oboe and bassoon) on Fri 16th March (7:30pm). Tickets, which include complimentary refreshments, are £8 (under 18s free with an accompanying adult). Contact Bob 01942 811691 or the Church Wardens.

Any Other Business

- Following an upsurge in crime in Westhoughton and concerns over coverage by police a public 'Crime Meeting' to discuss the matter has been organised by local councillors at Westhoughton High School on Wed 7 Feb (7pm). Pcsos hold regular, informal drop-in sessions at the John Holt Centre (every other Tuesday 9:30-11:30am [next 13 & 27 Feb]) and Westhoughton Market (last Thursday of month 12-1pm).
- W.A.C.O. grants of up to £250 are available to groups; a simplified form has been produced. The Rosehill Tavern ('The Bug') is available for small group meetings (free). Contact Kellie McGarry 07804 010625.
- Chris Buckley gave an update on Westhoughton Community Network website activity: with activity increasing year on year, visitors number 15,000+, 68,000 pages of information read, bandwidth used reaching 21 gigabytes (4.6 DVDs worth of data), with WCN appearing nearly 300,000 times in search hits. Quite an asset and resource for the town and its community. It is hoped to revamp the website in due course to make it more mobile friendly!

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at
Sacred Heart Church Hall
Wednesday, 16th May 2018

Meeting finished at 9:15pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk
Westhoughton.Net