



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 14th May 2014

at Washacre Primary School

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (15)

1. Bethel Crowd (BADs)
2. Bolton College - Westhoughton Learning Centre (WLC)
3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
4. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FoWS)
5. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA)
6. Hope Church (HOPE)
7. Rainbow Crafts (RBC)
8. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
9. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish (SBC)
10. Washacre FM (WFM)
11. Washacre Primary School (WPS)
12. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)
13. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
14. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
15. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)
16. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)
- ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)

Individuals in attendance (21)

Sue Ashcroft (WMC)	Sue Doyle (RBC)	Brenda Shott (FoEL)
Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Jason Taylor (BADs)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Jenny Haunch (WPS) HOSTS	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Brenda Cartledge (RBC)	Linda James (RBC)	James Wilson (SBC)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Carl Messenger (WPS) HOSTS	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Val Chadwick (WLHG/FoWS)	Shirley Pinches (WLC)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR

Apologies (19)

Anne Burns (Bolton at Home)	Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group)
Michelle Moore (Community Police)	Pam Clarke (Westhoughton Local History Group)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA/WAVE)	Alexandra Ingram (Westhoughton Market)
Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton)	John Howard-Norman
Andrew Glitheroe (Save Westhoughton Act Now)	(Westhoughton Methodist Church/Senior Solutions)
Jean Jones (Senior Solutions)	Michael Waterworth (WH Pentecostal Church)
Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild)	Margaret Curme (WH United Reformed Church)
Kellie McGarry (WACO)	David Kaye (Wingates Band)
Len Maycroft (Westhoughton Age Support Project)	Becky Boydell (Youth Services - Get Active)



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1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chair Harold Daniels opened meeting by thanking Washacre Primary School for providing an alternative venue for this meeting, in particular Jenny Haunch and Carl Messenger.

18 apologies had been received prior to the meeting. John Howard-Norman was added to the list. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: Trevor Benn advised that the Care.Data project (centralised medical database) has been put on hold for the time being. WMADS advised of the upcoming theatrical production for the weekend 16th/17th May, and also the planned radio play serial for the Washacre FM broadcast in June. James, Mark and Harold updated WCN on the continuing value of the Foodbank Scheme whereby 300 families across Bolton (including over 25 families in Westhoughton) had been supported. Urban Outreach has extended its sincere thanks to the people of Westhoughton.

Individuals introduced themselves, stating the group they represented.

Newcomers to WCN, Rainbow Craft Group introduced themselves. Established in February 2014, the group carry out a range of craft and social activities. A not-for-profit organisation meeting at Westhoughton Library Tuesday afternoons (1-3pm), a £1 fee gains admission and the group has about 30 members - mostly women, but men are encouraged.

2. Big Fun Day

Mark Taylor gave a comprehensive update on plans, structure and arrangements for the event on Sunday, 1st June at Central Drive (11am-4.00pm). He produced a diagram of the site divided into allocations for different sectors (College, Funfair, Football Tournament and Community); and a copy of the poster to be displayed widely across Westhoughton. Mark explained that this event was carrying on from the 'It's-a-Knockout' activities of previous years, including more community interest groups and stalls/displays. Chris Buckley explained the procedures for stalls, tables, gazebos etc. which could be set up from 8.00am on the day. To help cover costs incurred by Hope Church, a donation of £10 per stall is sought.

The day will begin with a Spiritual service involving local churches at 10.00am with Dave Bagley of Urban Outreach (Foodbanks) speaking.

The meeting broke for coffee and networking, and the opportunity to see some of the work of Washacre Primary School pupils.

3. Washacre Primary School

Jenny Haunch and Carl Messenger spoke with pride at the achievements of the pupils and staff in obtaining a 'GOOD' assessment by Ofsted - after earlier disappointments and challenges. The school is striving to be a Hub in the community and has extended its intake to include children from the age of two.



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A Baby/Babble Toddler Talk Group meets to include infants from birth up to 5 years of age. Other community activities happen around the school such as baby clinics, health-related events, and social evenings.

The school is taking advantage of social media using Facebook (WashacrePrimary), which it finds an excellent way of connecting with its broader community.

The annual 'Westhoughton Village Fayre' is to be held at the school on Saturday, 28th June (11am to 2pm), including traditional games, football, rugby, fencing, etc., with stalls available to groups. Washacre FM Roadshow will be present on the day.

4. Group Updates / Information Share

Going round the room there were group updates and information sharing.

Wingates Band – involved this evening in a final rehearsal for the production of *Brassed Off*, Chris reported on behalf of David Kaye. There will be a run of 31 Shows at The Octagon – all sold out.

On 21 May the 25th 'Folk and Brass' concert with Westhoughton's two musical legends - Wingates Band and The Houghton Weavers - takes place at Rivington Barn. Ticket details given.

News was given of a third Blue Plaque in Westhoughton, sited at Wingates Square, it will commemorate the world-famous Wingates Brass Band. They are grateful to the Westhoughton Local History Group for sponsoring the plaque. A formal event to mark its installation will take place later in the year.

Westhoughton Local Market – a special 'Love Your Local Market' event will take place on Saturday, 17th May in both halls, with entertainment, special stalls and Birds of Prey. This is a nationwide scheme to promote local markets. In May Westhoughton traders joined forces, to put on a [Fashion Show](#) at Brookfield Hall raising money (£1,485) for Senior Solutions.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – updated on applications submitted for grants to fund some summer activities, and also recorded "Thanks" to Greenspace/Westhoughton Town Councils for the new historical noticeboard which gives a history of the Eatock Coal Mine and Colliery, with a list of those workers who had been killed at the pit – Westhoughton Local History Group having provided information to help produce the noticeboard. There was an update on the theft and prompt replacement of wood stolen (April) from the dipping platform at the lodge.

Women of Westhoughton (WOW) – this thriving group now has 33 members, with a programme of diverse and interesting events on a Thursday evenings at the Hope Centre and out and about. WOW celebrated its first anniversary in May; and has been awarded a £300 grant from Bolton CVS to fund activities over the summer.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – as well as previously mentioned events, after a summer break work on the next Pantomime will begin, with some activities planned in the run up to Christmas. New members are always welcome; rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall (October- May).



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Westhoughton Methodist Church will be sorry to say goodbye to John Howard-Norman who is moving to a new Ministry in Blackburn in the summer. An opportunity to bid goodbye and offer best wishes will be announced later. A new Minister will be in post from September.

Hope Church – currently busy with the BigFunDay, Quiz Nights are held once a month; next one being Sat, 21st June (7.30pm) [TBC] - bring own refreshments. The Hope Centre has slots available for hire by community groups. (Mark)

Westhoughton College – Shirley Pinches spoke of a 'Clothes Swap Shop' event on 22nd May for charity (Children's Opportunity Group). The timetable for the autumn college term is done, awaiting publication. Those interested in courses can contact the college now for information. At the BigfunDay, there will be beauty treatment tasters, as well as college info and fun activities, including a Subbuteo sweepstake.

Westhoughton Community Queens Association – a pageant and Community Royalty Crowning will be part of the BigFunDay event on the 1st June. There will also be a children's fancy dress parade. The group are supporting Manchester Children's Hospital and Wigan and Leigh Hospice in their fundraising. (Sandra)

Westhoughton Town Council – there will be a Service to mark the start of the new Mayor's term at St Bart's (10.00am, Sunday 18th May 2-4pm) – The Mayor's charities this year are Derian House (children's hospice) and the RNLI (lifeboats). A Civic Event at Westhoughton High School on Saturday, 19th July, will mark the 100th anniversary of World War One. There will be depictions of the effects of war through the eyes of drama group 'On The Go.' The Houghton Weavers will be performing at the event. Tickets are via application through the Town Clerk on 01942 819802 or westhoughtontc@tiscali.co.uk. (David)

Friends of Westhoughton Station – reported a busy time; progress with the clean-up and amelioration evident, as agreed by commuters using the station. (Val)

Westhoughton History Group – currently doing research on the effects of World War One on Westhoughton. (Val)

The Parish of St. Bartholomew, Westhoughton – James Wilson circulated the info sheet 'What's Going in at our Churches' listing the activities at all the Parish Churches. St. John's Wingates is celebrating their 155th anniversary this year and is appealing for any photos relating to the church or events at the church. There is a Christian Writers Group afternoon session at St. John's on Saturday, 21st June. On Saturday, 28th June St. Bartholomew's Primary School holds its annual Summer Fayre 11am- 2pm.

HACFRA – The John Holt Centre is currently undergoing some refurbishments to improve meeting room capacity. (Mick)

Bethel Crowd – there is a Quiz Night on Saturday, 21st June from 7:30pm, tickets £5 for pastie and peas supper - bring your own drinks and glasses. A vehicular Treasure Hunt in Westhoughton and the surrounding areas takes place on Sunday, 20th July, an all day event with a BBQ in the late afternoon (£7.50).



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The next show is 'Alice - the Musical' (auditions in June), from 12th September over two weekends. Tickets £5.50. The Bethel Crowd will be in costume for the BigFunDay. (Jason)

Rotary Club of Westhoughton – a big event in the Rotary Calendar, the 'President's Ball' takes place on Saturday, 6th June – tickets £16 with meal. The popular 'Junior Youth Speaker' event involving local school children takes place on Thursday, 19th June – £14 with meal. All Rotary events take place at Brookfield Hall. (Harold)

5. Washacre FM (87.7)

This year's broadcast of community radio station Washacre FM runs from Monday, 16th June until Sunday, 22nd June, ending with a Funday at the John Holt Centre. It is its 8th year of broadcasting. Programmes are between 8.00am-10.00pm catering for all tastes and ages. Thanks to networking at WCN, there will be a 6-part serial written and performed by Westhoughton Methodist ADS (Old King Cole's Treasure Hunt); there will be programmes made by local schools, and the Community Hour (12-2pm) with news and interviews featuring people from community groups.

6. AOB

It was noted at in light of some clashes, e.g., the Hope Church Quiz Night 21st June, and two school fayres on the 28th June, greater use of the Network and online [Calendar](#) facility be used, especially over the busy summer period.

Chris reminded us that June 1st-7th is [National Volunteers' Week](#) - its 30th year - the idea being that the work of and invaluable contribution of volunteers is both recognised and celebrated.

The meeting finished at 9:10pm

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 17th September from 7.00pm at Wingates Band Hall.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk