



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 6th September 2011 at WURC (The Bethel)

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (18)

1. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHiB)
2. Enterprise Action Unity (EAU)
3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
4. Guiding UK (GUK)
5. Hindley's and Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA)
6. Howfenfest (HF)
7. Resident (Guest)
8. Resident (ex Bolton CVS) (Guest)
9. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
10. St Bartholomew's Youth Ministry (SBYM)
11. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO)
12. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)
13. Westhoughton Lions Rugby Club (WLRLC)
14. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
15. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC)
16. Westhoughton Visiting Service (WVS)
17. Wingates Band (WB)
18. Wingates Residents Association (WRA)
- ~ Bolton At Home (BaH) [Admin]

Individuals in attendance (28)

Veronica Swinbourne (DHiB)	James Wilson (SBYM)	Helen Purnell (WURC)
Janet Colley (EAU)	Kevan Prescott (WACO)	Peter Schofield (WURC)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jean Jones (WVS)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Janet Hartley (WLRC)	David Kaye (WB)
Jayne Caldwell (GUK)	Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Lawrence Owens (WRA)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Pam Clarke (WLHG)	Chris Buckley
Mathew Ranicar	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)	Lisa Bradley (BaH)
Peter Sloan	Yvonne Woolley (WLHG)	Anne Burns (BaH)
Harold Daniels (RCW)	Margaret Curme (WURC)	
Christine Andrews (SBYM)	M Dobbs (WURC)	

Apologies (12)

Friends of Eatock Lodge - Brenda Shott
Guiding UK - Annaliese Sims
Hope Church - Mark Taylor
Scouts Association - Paul Mather
St. James Church (Daisy Hill) - Jeremy Brading
Save Westhoughton Act Now (SWAN) - Andrew Glitheroe
Westhoughton Age Support Project - Jean Green
Westhoughton Carnival Queens Association - Sandra Greenall/Jean Watkinson
Westhoughton High School - Ann Butler
Westhoughton Lions Rugby Club - John Thompson
Westhoughton Methodist Church - John Howard-Norman



2. Review of minutes / update for newcomers

After introductions, Harold Daniels, Acting Chair, thanked everyone for another good turnout.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record with just one amendment (p3 Jean Jones representing WVS not Jean Green). They were proposed by Dave Hendry and seconded by Ann Benn.

Harold Daniels, Chris Buckley and Lisa Bradley briefly covered the background to the creation of the network and asked that all in attendance contribute to the discussions around how the network is shaped.

Kevan Prescott commented that although they had missed the previous meeting, they were supportive of the network and outlined WACO's achievements in acquiring the former Central Drive Youth Centre as a community centre for the town. Kevan supported the ethos of co-operation and collaboration and offered the support of WACO volunteers in helping and sharing. Dave Hendry said that the fact that people were unaware of WACO and the centre at the last meeting sums up the problem and demonstrates the need for the network.

Others pledged support.

Jean Jones said that she had found the meetings so far useful and that she supported the idea of moving the network around to different venues as this breaks down territorial feelings. Jean expressed a hope that the network will grow as size would equate to power. Chris Buckley also supported the idea of moving round community venues. Doug Cunliffe offered free use of the John Holt Community Centre at Washacre as a venue for a future meeting.

3. Terms of Reference

Lisa Bradley discussed the decision to develop a draft terms of reference at the previous meeting. The draft was distributed and the group asked for comments.

Yvonne Woolley questioned how the Network could be offered free of charge and how the Network would be funded. There was widespread commitment to the network being free of charge. It was suggested that the costs of the network would be minimal and groups may feel able to provide a venue free of charge. Chris Buckley suggested that maybe a small grant could be applied for in the future to cover admin costs.

Lisa Bradley reiterated Bolton At Home's commitment to administrative support.

In response to concerns about costs of a venue, Janet Colley offered the use of WACO's venue for the next meeting and Doug Cunliffe agreed to host the following meeting at The John Holt Community Centre.



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Ted Wisedale, Local History Group, commented that venues seemed in good supply and said that the Terms of Reference served their purpose and proposed that they be accepted by the group. This proposal was seconded by Jayne Caldwell.

Peter Sloan, attending as a resident, but ex- Bolton CVS, also argued that the strength of the network lay in its informality and that bureaucracy should be avoided. Peter added that if funding was needed in the future, that one of the many groups around the table could 'host' the funding on behalf of a collaborative funding application.

Veronica Swinburne, Daisy Hill In Bloom, suggested that the Terms of Reference be reviewed every 12 months. Some felt there would be a need for this to be reviewed as the group developed.

Added agenda item - The Information Share – brought forward as some people had to leave early; the meeting moved to allow people to share information on forthcoming events so that all could be informed.

4. Information Sharing

The following events were announced:

- Kevan Prescott and Janet Colley immediately off to do radio show on Bolton FM to promote WACO/EAU/Westhoughton Communiversity.
- **Howfen Legends** (The Houghton Weavers and Wingates Band) live at Rivington Barn, Wednesday, 7th September > David Kaye
- **Friends of Eatock Lodge Litter Pick**
Saturday, 10th September (10am - 12pm), The Hoskers
- **Wingates Fun Day** (Free)
Wingates Park, Saturday, 10th September (11am - 2pm)
> Lawrence Owens (park at La Scala)
- **Peter Pan production by The Bethel Crowd** (Tickets £5)
Westhoughton United Reformed Church, 14th-17th September
- **Westhoughton Visiting Service AGM**
Brookfield Hall, Tuesday, 20th September (7pm) > Jean Jones
- **St Bartholomew's Church Black Tie Dinner** (£25 per head)
Brookfield Hall, Friday, 11th November > James Wilson
James also promoted the Parish website and parish magazine. He is happy to promote projects/events if you send him the details.
- **Wingates Band Concert**
St Bartholomew's Church, Saturday 8th October
- **Hope Church Volunteers Available**
Saturday, 12th November (afternoon). 50 young people looking for community tasks to do > contact Mark Taylor to arrange/more info



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- **Westhoughton Local History Group Luddites Bicentenary**
Mill Street Carpark, 21st April 2012. Yvonne Woolley looking for ideas including help with planning a theme day on the site and exhibition.
- **Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel) Craft Fair**
Saturday, 15th October > Margaret Curme
- **Westhoughton Lions...** invite to watch a rugby match?
The Den (The Hoskers nr. Cricket Club), from 10.30am on Saturdays

Pending the establishment of an e-mail circulation list, any enquiries can be sent to info@westhoughtoncommunitynetwork.co.uk for forwarding to the appropriate parties.

Chris Buckley suggested that events/news be e-mailed [to the above address] for adding to the new website.

5. Facilitation of Network

This agenda item was missed and will be revisited at next meeting.

6. Content / Format / Structure of Meetings

Upon discussion of the frequency of meetings, Harold Daniels suggested that the next meeting take place in early November and that we can then start work on developing a calendar of events for 2012, including four quarterly meetings of the network. This was agreed. It was suggested we look at varying the night of the week although others felt it best to stick to Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ted Wisedale expressed a view that the group needs to take more action in order to keep momentum and be sustainable. Jayne Caldwell, Guiding UK, made suggestions for ongoing agenda items including Information Share, Problem Busting and the Website. Chris Buckley suggested we might have presentations from each other or from outside agencies such as CVS. This was welcomed.

Peter Sloan asked whether local residents who were not part of a group are welcome at network meetings. This was echoed by Matthew Ranicar, another local resident. It was discussed that local residents should be encouraged to attend and that this would be beneficial for them and also for groups who might attract new volunteers. There were no objections to this. This would mean amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Doug Cunliffe questioned whether a decision had been made regarding elected members and their presence at meetings. Doug felt that it would be beneficial on both sides for elected members to be involved if willing. Val Chadwick said that elected members were local community representatives and that they could contribute a lot to the meetings and also take a lot from the meetings. Chris Buckley stated that the meetings



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should be non-political and about the groups, and that groups had access to elected members at Area Forums and the Town Council if required.

Harold Daniels and Lisa Bradley clarified that no decision about elected members involvement in the network had been taken and that the views expressed in the minutes of the last meeting were just that. Views had been expressed but no decision had been made. Harold asked the group to try to reach a consensus on this matter.

Peter Sloan noted that in extending the network to local residents, this would entitle most elected members to attend. Veronica Swinburne, Daisy Hill In Bloom, commented that many of their committee were also elected members and would attend albeit in their capacity of member of voluntary group. James Wilson, St Bartholomew's Church, argued that elected members were a valuable part of the community and ought not to be excluded by the nature of the network. Anne Burns, Bolton At Home, spoke of the old Neighbourhood Network which was open to all but attended by only one elected member. Ann Benn, Friends of Eatock Lodge, acknowledged that the old Neighbourhood Networks had been 'top heavy' with staff from statutory agencies and said that there can be friction between paid staff and volunteers from groups. She also said that it had been in the interests of CVS to allow council workers as the old networks were funded by council funds. Dave Hendry, Westhoughton Art Group, said that elected members could be very useful and could be of service to the network. It would be the role of the Chair to keep meetings focused and on track and not allow them to drift into other areas, such as political issues. Chris Buckley argued that elected members just like others could be invited to the meetings when appropriate. Doug Cunliffe, HACFRA, felt that to exclude elected members would be to exclude key members.

It was agreed by the meeting to discuss this further at the next meeting.

In light of Peter Sloan's experience in the sector, he was asked to comment. Peter commented that the value of the network lay in 'people power'. He agreed that in order for the network to be sustainable, there had to be a good reason for groups to attend. This would need to be looked at in the long term. He said that certain things needed discussion in smaller group rather than round a big room.

Margaret Curme asked whether the group had considered being a 'port of call' for people new to volunteering and interested in getting involved, particularly young people. Harold Daniels suggested that we look at planning a large Westhoughton community groups / volunteer opportunity event, maybe in Westhoughton Market. This suggestion was enthusiastically received. Peter Sloan pointed out that National Volunteers Week is around 1st June and many people felt it would be achievable to work towards holding an event around this time.

Jean Jones, Westhoughton Visiting Service, pointed out that her group does offer some volunteer matching with other groups. Jean was happy to refer volunteers to the wider group should there be a better 'match' elsewhere.



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7. Website

The idea of involving the high school was previously suggested and this is still a possibility.

Talking about the website – westhoughtoncommunitynetwork.co.uk – Chris Buckley said that a basic page has been set up, the idea being that there would be information about the groups, events, news, items of interest with links to the websites, social networking sites of Westhoughton groups participating in WCN.

Some of this information would be gleaned from the information provided by the Survey (sent out 4/9/11), which groups have started to return. Chris said that he was happy to continue to get things started on the website and see how things evolve as more content is added.

8. AOB

Harold Daniels, Westhoughton Rotary, said that he was happy to act as Chair again at the next meeting.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 15th November from 7:00pm

Westhoughton Communiversity, Central Drive, Westhoughton

Tea and biscuits to be provided by WACO.

Our thanks to the Westhoughton United Reformed Church for sponsoring this meeting at The Bethel, and to Bolton At Home for their administrative support.

Further information or amendments to:
Lisa Bradley (07715 747606) or Chris Buckley (07981 172552)
info@westhoughtoncommunitynetwork.co.uk