

WESTHOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION PLAN 2020-2021

Westhoughton Town Council Meetings, actions and projects may be limited or curtailed as a result of Coronavirus lockdown/restrictions.

The Westhoughton Town Council has previously obtained Quality Council status and also a re-accreditation for Quality Council status. The Town Council's Quality Council status expired in January, 2016 and in August, 2017, the Town Council was awarded The Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Award, which replaces the Quality Council status.

In 2020-2021, Coronavirus epidemic permitting, the Town Council will continue to be actively involved in the community, and operate in a legal and efficient manner, with Councillors and Officers upholding a high standard of conduct in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

The Town Council usually has two meetings each month but it has been necessary to reduce the number of meetings and hold remote meetings via Zoom, due to the Coronavirus epidemic.. The Calendar of Meetings, and agendas and minutes are posted on the Town Council's Notice Board, which is situated at the front of Westhoughton Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings via Zoom and may raise any item relating to **Town Council activities or items within its powers** under the **Agenda Item – Adjournment to allow public question time relating to Town Council activities and items within its powers**. Bolton Council consults the Town Council on Westhoughton Planning Applications and members of the public who are affected by the application may also speak prior to a Planning Application being considered by the Town Council.

Westhoughton Town Council comprises of 18 Town Councillors whose contact details are listed on the Town Council Notice Board, in the Annual Report of the Council, on the Town Council Newsletter and on the Town Council web site – www.bolton.gov.uk/westhoughton Town Councillors may be contacted directly by members of the public requiring help or advice.

The Town Council will organise and fund the following Civic events if the Coronavirus epidemic/ Government restrictions permit – the Mayoral Sunday Service, the Remembrance Day Parade, the Community Carol Service and two Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial Services.

The Town Council will continue to support the youth of the town by funding the Get Active Westhoughton Youth Project and the Bolton Lads & Girls Club Westhoughton Outreach & Detached Programme, and the awarding of grants for youth/sporting recreational facilities and activities.

The Town Council also has grants budgets for the awarding of grants for Senior Citizens' Projects and for General Projects.

The Town Council is committed to crime prevention and will continue to fund the Town Centre CCTV scheme, to employ a Homewatch Liaison Officer who encourages the formation of new Homewatch Schemes and supports Homewatch Co-ordinators.

The Town Council will produce Quarterly Newsletter which will be left at Westhoughton Town Hall, Westhoughton Library and shops and outlets throughout the Town .

The Town Council will donate funds towards the renovation of Westhoughton Local Nature Reserves and the renovation of Westhoughton Public Rights of Way and Bolton Council will organise the work. The Town Council will request that an Action Plan is produced for the long term, including any investment that would be required to meet the Plan.

The Town Council will, where possible, support activities and work with bodies/organisations/individuals to improve the environmental quality of Westhoughton and its residents, especially the natural environment.

The Town Council will continue to organise and fund the siting of Christmas Lights in Westhoughton Town Centre, along with some donations from local shops and businesses and Bolton Council.

The Town Council will engage with Bolton Council in the possibility of the transfer of functions and powers to the Town Council.

The Town Council will work with Bolton Council and others in the proposed investment in Westhoughton Town Centre and any issues arising.

The Town Council will award a Civic Medal, a maximum of two Young Persons Awards, and an Environmental Award. A Harold Daniels Memorial Award, which has been donated by former Cllr A Price, will be presented to the recipient of the Civic Medal, to be kept for one year only. The Town Council will arrange an Awards Presentation Evening.

The Town Council will award a grant to the Daisy Hill in Bloom Committee to assist with the planting of tubs, planters, shrubs and bulbs etc. in the Daisy Hill area, and will fund the purchase and planting of plants, and the maintenance and watering of the large beehive planters and rail planters, in the Town Centre, which were funded by Bolton Council in 2015.

The Town Council will encourage and co-operate with any voluntary group or organisation which aspires to re-instate Westhoughton Carnival.

The Town Council has strenuously objected to the Hulton Park, the Bowlands Hey, land West of Wingates Industrial Estate, and the land North of Platt Lane Planning Applications and will continue to endeavour to preserve the Green Belt and green spaces

The Town Mayor Councillor David Wilkinson will attend events throughout Westhoughton and he will fundraise for charities which are:

Senior Solutions

Lads & Girls Club - Westhoughton