



**WYCF**  
Winsford Youth & Community Forum

# WINSFORD YOUTH & COMMUNITY FORUM



New Images, Nixon Drive, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2HG tel 01606 593724

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2017 - 2018

## CHAIR'S REPORT

After another year of new developments and expansion in provision for the whole community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed. The body of the report outlines the developments and hopes for the future but this would not, and will not, be possible without the contribution of everyone involved with WYCF.

As Chair, I have needed the support of my fellow Trustees and this has been forthcoming. My thanks to all for their response and participation as demands have been made. Without this group of individuals the future would not appear to be so promising.

The Staff and Volunteers make everything work and their time and commitment has to be witnessed to be believed. It is impossible to single out individuals so I thank everyone of them for their contributions.

Our Partner Organisations provide support and funding for many of the projects and we are confident that we can continue this relationship. Without this support we would not exist.

Finally, and in particular, thanks to our Members and User Groups who ensure the activities are well attended and purposeful. The growth in the use of the buildings by different sectors of the community has been excellent.

My fellow Trustees and I look forward to continued growth in the future and to ensuring that WYCF provide services enabling the Winsford Community to develop and become stronger.

Thank you to everyone.

Alan Badder

Chair

## *ANNUAL REVIEW 2017 - 2018*

The Trustees of Winsford Youth & Community Forum ( WY7CF) present our 36th Annual Report for the year 2017 - 2018, which includes our charitable status, support and work with other organisations, a general overview of operations, base reports and our aims for objectives for 2018 - 2019.

The Financial Report will be presented as a separate document.

### *CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES - of Winsford Youth & Community Forum*

1. Winsford Youth & Community Forum is working with and on behalf of children, young people and adults throughout Winsford and the surrounding area, by providing activities, projects, facilities and services for all regardless of age to assist them via community interaction, involvement and development by working in partnership with other organisations and agencies.
2. To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together in Council representatives of the voluntary orgs and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

Winsford Youth & Community Forum is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was established in 1981 and incorporated in 1986.

### *TRUSTEES / ROLES - for the year*

Chair - Cllr M.Kennedy ( until Nov 2107 - now V.Chair )

V.Chair - A.Badder ( until Nov 2017 - now Chair

Treasurer - G.Bell

Comm Secretary/Acting Coordinator - B.Barton

Cllr T.Blackmore

H.Ranson

S.Doyle

## *FUNDERS and SUPPORTERS*

For the year included - funders

Cheshire West and Chester Council - Youth work provision (Fri/Sat nights )  
Winsford Town Council - Playschemes/ New Images Junior Club  
Individual CWAC Councillors - Canoeing/ Playschemes/ Refurb work  
Weaver Vale Housing Trust - Wharton Junior Club  
The Lottery - Chatterbox Cafe Project  
Darnhall Trust - Playscheme  
The Police Commissioner - Playscheme  
Civil Claims Services - Donation/financial - legal support  
Williams Foundation - Playschemes  
Thomas Cook Charity - Playschemes  
BBC - Children in Need - Play Development Worker ( 3 year post )

Supporters -

Continuing with this throughout the year is the Probation Service 'Community Payback' Team with our ongoing refurb/repair work and cleaning primarily at New Images, but at times at Wharton Y.C. Roberts Bakery for their food donations for special events etc. The Youth Federation for giving a reference, supporting most of our grant applications. The 'Fair share' Project which links in to Tesco's who donate food to the C.Cafe. Asda for their support into the Cafe via a voluntary worker, who also helped alongside C.P.S.Officers with the Playschemes.

Volunteers -

Without our regular volunteers we would really struggle with some of the projects/events, we are also blessed with volunteers who will help at special events, on odd occasions, but this year for outstanding work and contribution we have to single out the 5 volunteers who turn up twice a week to run the Chatterbox Cafe, for without them this would not be able to operate.

Finally a thank you to all our staff - many do more than their hours !

## *PARTNERSHIP WORKING*

Continues via our Partnership Board, Bonfire Project , Youth Strategy Board, Partnership Support Group,Wharton Community Library and Parenting Operations Meetings. Plus invites to a number of one of info sharing, special events e.g `D Fest`. Majority of these are linked to delivery of projects or provision.

## *PLAYSCHEMES*

Playschemes are no longer a `Partner` group, due to the controlling organisation Cheshire Community Development Trust realigning their work and delivery to their primary aims. We suspected that this might happen, so during the winter of 2107 Applied to the BBC Children -in- Need for funding to support a 3 year Play Development Post,( P.D.P ) which was approved in June 2017. Before that we had expressed



Certificate Award Event at the New Images Playscheme

an interest in taking over delivery of the Winsford playscheme sites - which was supported by the C.D.Trust and the main funder Winsford Town Council. What followed during the April -June period was a frantic grant bid writing process to secure the additional funds to run the 4 Winsford Schemes. The P.D.P position was filled during July - temporarily, until a permanent appointment was made in late August . A very hectic period.

### *OVERVIEW - of the year*

The first quarter of the year was as stated overtaken by securing funding for the Playschemes, searching/securing a venue for the Over scheme, recruiting staff which was no easy task and adapting all the policies/procedures into our systems. Alongside this we launched the `Chatterbox Cafe` for a trial period from April - July for the official launch in September. Aim was to recruit volunteers, sort out menu`s ( linked to skills) ensure all operational requirements could be met, undertake the required training and generally promote the new venture.

Our ongoing challenge to United Utilities ( now Water Plus ) regarding a reduction as a Voluntary organisation running a Youth and Community Centre with its `Waste Water` invoices took a pleasant change when we offered help from the Civil Claims Services , a company dedicated to this area of work.From then on we took advice/guidance from them, with all correspondence going through them. This continued throughout the year with numerous duplication of info being asked for due to the constant changes in their personal dealing with our case and their constant claim that we were still being referred to as just a Youth Centre. ( not recognizable for the reduction ) Their reference for this was particularly to the CWAC website - but not exclusively, so a campaign was launched to `advise` all of the County wide org`s who made this reference - plus confirm our name change with the Charities Commission and Companies House. Towards the end of this accounting year our case was escalated up to the Water Council, who are undertaking their own investigation.

During the Autumn as part of the annual review with CWAC over New Images we were Advised of the forthcoming `Community Asset Review` which would be taking part from 31/1/2018, in which New Images would be part. Essentially that would require an updated 5 year `Business Plan` - which took all of the winter /early spring and 4 drafts to complete! Our objectives for Year One 2018/19 ( therefore within the timeframe of this report ) is -



To complete the `Asset Transfer of New Images` and to help achieve this -

1. We will produce a comprehensive `Business Plan` ( completed )
2. We will continue to recruit new Trustees, Board Partners and Business expertise.  
( one new Board Partner to date, one Business supporting with Water Plus, presently Searching for new H.R support. )
3. We will continue to work with CWAC as part of that process ( presently waiting for CWAC to complete their Business Report as a consequence of the Community Asset Review )
4. We will continue to support and develop existing groups and maintain/expand our own delivery. ( example of this is the Playschemes, funding bids for new projects.
5. We will continue to deliver in other areas of the town whenever the opportunity arises.  
( achieved via the Playschemes )

#### New Images - Building

Refurb and repair work for the year continued but at a much slower pace due to the availability of staff and the need for such work being `major` - requiring major funding and CWAC input. However the girls toilet refurb was completed.

What repair work needed to be done was a consequence of leaks to the roof and blocked drains which required professional help. Leaks from the roof continue to `spring` and remain a constant concern.

## *PROVISION*

### ***New Images***

The main new feature at New Images for this year was the `Chatterbox Cafe`, funded by the Lottery and run mainly by volunteers two mornings per week. During the start up period April - July, we were inspected by the Environmental Health, some staff undertook Food Hygiene Training and the project promoted. In September it was launched and has been running since. We have had numerous organisations coming and going, Brightlife have stayed and continue to use it as a base for one of their groups. ASDA have one of their staff members volunteering here and we get almost weekly food contributions from Tesco`s via the `Fairfood Scheme` It is not just a Cafe but a hub for things to happen - regular events are Zumba Gold and Line Dancing. Sadly in April 2018 Lottery funding ended, with it the Project Leaders Post, who orchestrated the

whole idea and delivery - Maggie Anderson. Maggie started as our `Coordinator` back in the days when our office home was the Marina, and when that post funding was available via other grants. She then moved into other posts as and when funding allowed being a true supporter of WYCF. More recently Maggie has become a mother to two boys and spends her time doing just that! We wish her and her family all the best. CWAC Councillors have now funded the Cafe until Xmas 2018 when we hope it will be self funding.



Zumba Gold - for Senior Citizens every Thursday 9.30 - 10.30 am

Junior Club - Still being funded by Winsford Town Council, still runs most Fridays, relatively quieter than the previous year with only 3,659 attendees over the 48 nights that we were open.

Senior Club - Funded by CWAC until xmas 2018, much quieter than the above, attendances fluctuate, no regular pattern except that `special event` nights do attract significant numbers. 609 attendees over 48 nights that we were open. User Groups -



Continue to be Mixed Martial Arts, Meadowbank Lodge, Wrestling, Prince's Trust ( Fire & Rescue Service ) Action for leisure, CHAPS ( Autistic Y.C ) ) CWAC `Buddies group and two bands continue to rehearse here. Bank Hall Farm continue to have training sessions and we now have Cheshire Young Carers meeting here twice a month and Babytime ( mums/babies music group ) meeting weekly. Zumba continues but now operate an additional session in the C.Cafe. The Academy have also used the centre, mainly from xmas for 1 2 1 and small group work sessions.



Wrestling shows at New Images for the family - every 6 weeks.



New Images Senior Club members enjoying the Wi Dance experience



Playscheme Canoeing group - all boys !!

### ***Marina***

Winsford Town Council took over the control and management of the Marina during the early part of the year allowing us to restart the Canoeing programme. Reconnecting with ex members, promoting the sessions and sorting out equipment became our primary aim. Plus being able to help the new Winsford Paddle Boarding group by allowing them the space to store/operate from one of our containers.

So regular Monday Club nights started, along with free taster sessions during the summer holidays, these were supported by a grant from our friendly CWAC Councillors. A session was also allocated to the Playschemes, which proved a big hit with the boys, however for some strange reason the girls believed that it was only for the boys !! So there will be determined effort in the summer of 2018 to address this.

### ***Wharton Youth Centre***

Band edge are now firmly established within this Centre, with their own delivery plus support for local bands and instrument tuition for individuals. They have been busy soundproofing and adapting the building for their needs and that includes installing a dividing door between the two main areas.

Probation Service continue to maintain the outside area.

### ***Wharton Community Library***

Delivery continues here on a Thursday night with the Junior Club, funded by Weaver Vale Housing Trust. We had 642 attendances over the 36 nights that we were opened. On Fridays we deliver the Senior Club which is funded by CWAC. Like New Images numbers fluctuate wildly influenced by `parties`, the `fair` and other events. We had 661 attendances over the 46 nights that we were opened.

Since xmas the Library Services have extended their charging policy to include WYCF, (always free until now due to our support in gaining the Lottery funding for the new library ) which we have had to pass onto our funders.

We also deliver the Playschemes from this venue.



**Wharton Junior Club - every Thursday night from 6 - 8pm**

## ***MOVING FORWARD - aims and targets for the next year***

As previously mentioned we are now working towards completing our targets on our Business Plan. Ongoing work is around -

1. Recruiting new Trustees
2. Developing work in other areas of the town - specifically in the Over area for the Playschemes
3. Expanding our own delivery, especially for adults with targeted projects and for young people, a greater input via new technology linked to skills based activities. Increase use of New Images generally.
4. The exterior of New Images needs to be enhanced, with further repair work to the roof area.
5. Trustees have also given priority towards seeking funding for a full time centre Manager for New Images.