



**WYCF**  
Winsford Youth & Community Forum

# WINSFORD YOUTH & COMMUNITY FORUM

*Proposed “New Image” for New Images*



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

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## ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-2019

## **WINSFORD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FORUM CHAIR'S REPORT 2019**

Once again, it is my privilege to present a positive report to all of our staff, members and users about the activities provided during the past year and, in particular, about the increase in the number of people using the activities and facilities on offer at the various Centres. More details about these activities can be found in the body of the report.

I would, however, congratulate the Chatterbox Café on its success during the first year of operation. This facility, available to all members of the community, has enabled many people to socialise who otherwise may not have, as well as provide a good, nutritious meal in the middle of the day. It has proved to be a valuable contribution to the social fabric of Winsford. The staff and volunteers take great pride in their contribution to the Café and they deserve the plaudits that they constantly receive from users and Trustees alike. Thank you to all of you.

Other activities have all seen increased usage during the year as you will see in the report and this is, once again, due to the commitment of staff and volunteers. The scope of activities available continues to prove the value of Winsford Youth and Community Forum to the town and the people of Winsford.

Many local and national organisations provide the necessary funding to enable WYCF to exist and the thanks of everyone involved are due to them. WYCF is also grateful for the personal donations made over the year. The details are in the body of the report.

Although, financially, the Organisation has strengthened its position, the future is still unclear. Discussions with Cheshire West and Chester regarding the future of the building are on-going and, although we are positive about the outcome and we are grateful for the support, there is still some way to go to reach the outcome that we all seek. With the goodwill and support of the Local Authority and the continued dedication of Trustees we will achieve the outcome that allows WYCF to continue to develop and be an asset to the town.

Once again, my thanks go to all of the staff, volunteers and my fellow Trustees, without whom WYCF would not be able to be in the position that we are. By the time this report is presented to you we will have had our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations and I look forward to the next period in our development.

WYCF are currently seeking 2 new Trustees to join us. We would welcome nominations from, or on behalf of, people who have experience in the provision of services to the local community or associated business procedures. Although being a Trustee is, to all of us, a privilege, it does require a considerable commitment (although it can be rewarding!).

Finally, may I invite any comments on this report to be made either to Bob at New Images, or, indeed, to myself.

**ALAN BADDER  
CHAIR  
WYCF**

## **ANNUAL REVIEW 2018 - 2019** **Of Winsford Youth & Community Forum**

The Trustees of Winsford Youth & Community Forum (WYCF) are pleased to present our 37th Annual Report for the year 2018 - 2019 which includes our charitable status, support and work with other organisations, a general overview of operations, base reports and our aims and objectives for 2019 - 2020.

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 organisations 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. During 2018 - 2019 our changes to the objectives listed above were formally agreed by Companies House and the Charities Commission. Those changes as reflected in our name show our commitment to the wider community and the changes in our delivery.

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

Chair - A.Badder

Vice Chair - Cllr M. Kennedy

Treasurer - G. Bell

Company Secretary / Acting Coordinator - B.Barton

Cllr - T. Blackmore

H.Ranson

R. Kinnear

## **FUNDERS and SUPPORTERS**

### *Funders for the year included:*

Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Winsford Town Council  
Individual CWAC Councillors via `Members Budgets`  
Weaver Vale Housing Trust  
The Darnhall Trust  
BBC - Children in Need  
Asda  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
Comic Relief  
WTC - Mayors Fund  
Chester Energy Fund  
High Sheriff - Fund  
Cheshire Community Foundation  
Anne Duchess of Westminster Charity

### *Supporters for the year included:*

**Asda** - Food donations and practical support via a Volunteer.  
**Probation Service** - Continual support with refurb and cleaning as and when needed for both New Images and Wharton Youth Centre.  
**`Fair Share`** - Organising food donations from Tesco`s  
**C.P.S.O`s** - Direct support working within the Playschemes.  
**Stanguide** - Supporting via `work placements` (ongoing)  
**Civil Claims Service** – Successfully concluded our three and a half years struggle with Water Plus for a rates rebate, valued at £3.7k plus a refund of that amount.  
**`World Freight Services** – Computer donations  
**Linda** - Printing skills and connections whilst producing our latest flyer.  
**Shaun Kirkpatrick** - Donation

### Volunteers for the year:

Once again we have to thank our five volunteers who support the delivery of the "Chatterbox Café" - for the third year. Another two volunteers supported our Canoeing section, another one supported New Images Junior Club, another supported the I.T `gaming` delivery and photo digitisation as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration project for New Images. Additionally, we have five volunteers who have continued throughout the year running adult SEND group – Action for Leisure.

Continuing to support via voluntary input are many of the staff via extra hours.  
Massive thanks to all!

*Christmas Lunch at The Chatterbox Café & Regular customers throughout the year*



### **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

Monthly meetings continue with the Partnership Support Group, led by the Police, primarily linked to A.S.B. and associated issues and the 'Wellbeing' group led by W.T.Council, which is linked primarily to health and lifestyles. Quarterly meetings include the Youth Strategy Board, Area Youth Board, our own Partners Board and the Parenting Board. Our links to the Cheshire Vol. Action Group have led to a number of meetings led by them and these are now becoming more frequent with the ever increasing need to be more involved with adult provision.

Project work based around Playscheme and Operation Treacle (over the bonfire period - led by the Fire and Rescue Service) include many partners. Support for other projects/events have been less frequent during the year, focussing just on the 'D Fest' and 'Smoothie'/Pizza sessions.

### **OVERVIEW of the year (1st May 2018 – 31 April 2019 )**

It was an encouraging start to the new year with the successful conclusion to our three and a half year battle to get the New Images building formally recognised as a community centre. This re-designation resulted in a significant reduction in waste water charges and a refund of previous periods. This was all achieved due to the hard work and voluntary support given by the Civil Claims Services.

Then, like all organisations, we had to respond to the impact of GDPR, which required extensive research and guidance. From that we formulated a policy and then spent most of the summer 'shredding' and reorganising the office to help comply with expectations – with assistance from the appointment of a part time clerical worker.

Policies and Procedures updates and renewals continued to be a key theme for the rest of the year within the office aided by our new H.R consultants

(Wirehouse). In late 2018, a part time admin assistant was appointed and has proven to be an invaluable help in the office.

The year also included submitting a larger number of grant applications - due to their availability and the criteria being particularly relevant to our needs and aims. Our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund being one that succeeded which is to help celebrate New Images 50th Anniversary during 2019. During the 2018/19 period the focus for this was on `processing` all of the photos gained over the last 50 years and putting them into a digital format - most of this work was completed by one of our Volunteers.

This year's targets were -

1. To recruit additional Trustees - one trustee was recruited, however we still have space for a further two appointments.
2. Develop work in the Over area - Playschemes helped with this, however accessing venues still remains an issue.
3. Expand our delivery for Adults - we do have an additional user group but sadly we lost two others. A major grant was instigated during this period, for submission to the Lottery to help with this particular target via a Centre Manager.
4. Improve the exterior of New Images - preparation work for this took most of the year. We are now waiting for `Planning` approval.

### New Images

Other than completing the refurbishment of the ladies toilets, installing storage shelving, repairing leaking window frames and re-covering the front to the office area - refurbishment work for the year was stopped, and is now reduced to a state of just general maintenance. This is due, in part, to our refurbishment needs now being subject to the agreement of a long term lease, and major funding requirements, however, the Trustees agreed to allocate our `reserves` into the first stage of the re - wiring to the front of the centre which was desperately needed (the rear was completed by the Academy in 2004). These works required a partial closure of the centre which took place over the February half term. The second phase is still to be completed, as at October 2019.

Meanwhile Trustees agreed an internal reconfiguration and modification plan which was then submitted to an Architect. At this point no actual plans of the Centre were available, so these had to be drawn up as starting point for any future work and costings.

Discussions with the `Asset Transfer` continued throughout the year which resulted in Cheshire West and Chester Council offering a 30 year lease. Trustees continued to make the point that this was acceptable however the external state, with both leaks from the roof and some windows requiring immediate replacements, as a pre requirement. We were then asked to gather quotes for the work required, which took a further 6 months to produce. To date, we are now working towards the next phase of this process.

## **PROVISIONS**

### **PLAYSCHEMES**

This years Playschemes were delivered from Oak View Academy for two weeks then transferred to Over United Reformed Church, due to availability. Wharton Community Library and New Images were supported by canoeing sessions at the Marina.

Staff recruitment was done via Employment Agencies resulting in a flood of applications - most of which were incomplete or from those unable to work for short periods and this impacted on the process. Eventually via our own contacts a team was put into place albeit last minute which impacted on some prep work. New Images were supported one day a week by a volunteer from ASDA, and the Princes Trust who also contributed by running one session a week. Otherwise, like all the sessions for all schemes, it was a mixture of arts/crafts, sports, projects and games. Sessions at New Images averaged 25 attendees, for Wharton it was 14 and for Over 8.

New to Wharton at Willow Wood school was the `Holiday Food Club` run by Weaver Vale Housing Trust, which some of our attendees joined on the 2 days it operated. This was a pilot scheme which was to impact on the schemes for 2019. Weekly Canoeing sessions were popular averaging 10 per session (minimum age of 10). This year we ensured that both boys and girls were aware of this opportunity.

This was all possible due to our funders - W.T.Council, Darnhall Trust and CWAC Councillors via their own Budgets.

*Sports and games during Playscheme*



### **WHARTON YOUTH CENTRE**

Bandedge continue to use the centre for their own delivery plus supporting other musicians in the area. They have also supported New Images directly by playing at the Chatterbox Cafe Christmas event and our 50<sup>th</sup> Open Day.

Key issue throughout the year was the gradual deterioration of the huge metal security door covering the entrance. This became a liability and a serious safety issue so had to be replaced during the year, and that was by the installation of a roller shutter door.

Meanwhile the Trustees decided that a name change was required since it is not now used as stated – a `Youth Centre` so it was agreed to rename the building as the `Greville Centre`. The change of name has still to be implemented via the signage.

### **WHARTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

The Junior Club, continues each Thursday, funded by Weaver Vale Housing Trust and is supported by our Play Development Worker (Children in Need funded post) Averaging 14 youngsters per week - challenging behaviour and attitudes remains our focus. During the year some of our staff team changed, continuity in delivery however still remains via existing staff. Forty sessions were delivered with overall attendance of 666 youngsters.

Our Senior Club funding via CWAC ceased at Christmas, however, the club remains open and is ran by their own staff. From April - December we ran thirty sessions attended by 410 youngsters. To accommodate the new demands on storage space the storeroom was completely `blitzed` and re-organised with additional storage shelving being installed.

The changes came with limited warning and had potential repercussions for long serving staff, one we had to resolve by relocating to another provision.

Later in that financial year the Library undertook a refurbishment resulting in a two week closure. The new look requires that any posters etc now have to be located on a central notice board and not in the main hall, which is unfortunate to our members as that area is out of bounds during our opening times.

`Operation Treacle` the Fire & Rescue Service led a partnership project based around Halloween and bonfire night involving projects at both our Senior/Junior Clubs. In addition, there was delivery of an `assault course` event for Seniors during the October half term, which was located on the Verdin Exchange fields.

#### *Activites and games at Wharton*



## **MARINA**

The new season (mid April) Monday night Canoeing session started with a full group (10) and maintained these numbers throughout until late September. We suspect that this may have been due to the good summer weather in 2018. Additional users were the Playschemes and the Police with their summer delivery. The increase in users required an additional Instructor as per regulations. One of the adult attendees, an ex Police Officer/Qualified Instructor, was also recruited as a Volunteer.

From April this year the price, per session, had to be increased due to a direct increase to us for hiring out the Marina. With funds from the grant of the CWAC Members fund we were able to deliver a number of free `taster` sessions during the summer holidays.

*Young people on the Summer PlayScheme canoeing at the marina*



## **NEW IMAGES**

The Senior Club attendance throughout the year grew rapidly compared to previous years and has continued to be maintained since May of this year.

From April 2018 until Christmas we delivered 31 sessions, attended by 449 youngsters. From January - April we delivered 12 sessions with 312 youngsters attending with the gender mix being around 60% male to 40% female.

Interestingly the `special nights` that included using our virtual reality equipment which attracted more use and attention from the girls than the boys. Our Junior Club continues each Friday evening with 2,926 attendees over the 46 openings, which is approximately 500 fewer than last year, however the club remains as noisy as ever!

From February we started our `Techno Cafe` for seniors as an after school club, in which we try to focus on new gaming systems e.g virtual reality, drones

and improved gaming systems - all of which involves expensive equipment so this is restricted to smaller older groups. Delivery of this group has been patchy due to funding the required equipment and the response which has been poor. Still in its infancy, this club is presently being reviewed.

The “Chatterbox Café” continued for another full year with a similar programme as the first, with continuation of Country Line Dancing, Zumba Gold and the involvement of Brightlife and Weaver Vale Housing Trust. Funding was available until Christmas by some CWAC Councillors. Trustees then reviewed the situation and agreed that the income generated could do with some reduction in hours funded to the key worker – this proposal was agreed to by said key worker and the cafe has continued to run with support by 5 key volunteers.

#### *Virtual Reality at New Images Senior Youth Club*



### **User Groups**

The groups continue to be the Mixed Martial Arts Group, Princes Trust (Fire and Rescue Service), Action For Leisure, Cheshire Young Carers, Cheshire Autism Group, CWAC `Choices` (SEND) Club, Meadow Bank Lodge (Adult SEND), Winsford Academy and we have three `Bands` who rehearse at the centre.

Zumba sessions ended in January 2019 with this group moving to the Dingle Centre.

We hosted 34 children's parties plus 8 Wrestling Shows - training for which takes place at New Images every Sunday morning.

### *Wrestling and Bingo at New Images*



### **MOVING FORWARD**

For the 2019/20 period our targets are:

1. To increase financial income – the plan is to use the strength of the Asset Transfer to access funding streams new to WYCF.
2. We will continue to strengthen the office infrastructure in support of this objective
3. We will continue to upgrade all promotional opportunities to support and extend additional use of New Images, therefore increasing revenue.
4. We will prioritise expanding daytime use especially for the wider Community.

Meanwhile we need to complete some of last years targets, two of which are dependant on decisions by other organisations. Recruiting Trustees still remains a target along with a greater input into new technology linked to skills based activities.