



Friends of the Tawd forge new path to community regeneration

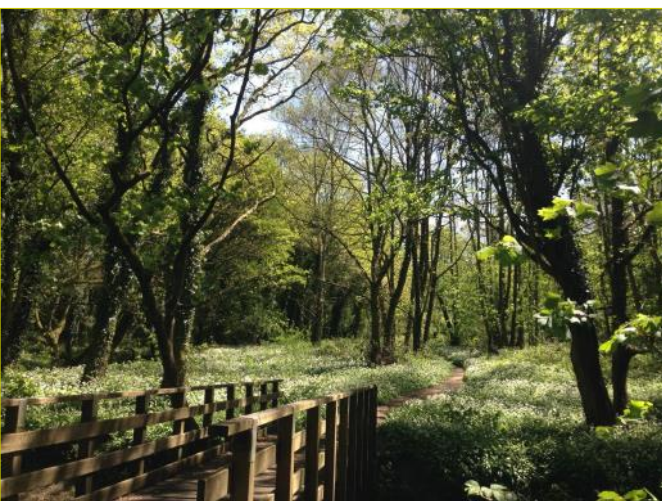
'Of the community, for the community' was the clear message in the room at the initial meeting of the Friends of the Tawd. Gathering in February in the Ecumenical Centre, the 30 strong group actively discussed ideas to drive the development of the Tawd Valley project in partnership with the steering group.

The Tawd Valley regeneration is an exciting project led by West Lancashire Borough Council and a number of partners. With a fully consulted master plan already in place, the project aims to improve the appeal and accessibility of this rich resource. Running through the heart of Skelmersdale, up to the River Douglas, this 65 hectare wooded valley will be revived and maintained for the enjoyment of the whole community now and in the future.

Discussion at the first meeting ranged from establishing the group and getting people involved, to specific events that people would like to see, and conservation campaigns that could be launched.

Communication is key and the development of a website and social media were considered essential and strongly supported. Volunteers with specific skills also explained what they felt they could contribute - including qualified walk leaders, volunteer litter pickers, people with an interest in wildlife, and those who could make links with local business and schools

The meeting resulted in the formation of four sub-groups, eager to start on their contribution to the Tawd Valley regeneration.



To get involved or find out more, go to:

www.westlancs.gov.uk/leisure-recreation/parks-and-countryside/parks-and-countryside-sites/tawd-valley-park-skelmersdale/tawd-valley-park-project.aspx

One West Lancs is a partnership of the local voluntary, public and business sectors which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Lancashire

This One West Lancs quarterly e-newsletter is sent to over 500 people. It is circulated to all One West Lancs Forum members, the One West Lancs Board, our elected representatives as well as members of the wider VCFS community.

If you no longer wish to receive the One West Lancs e-newsletter, please let us know and we will take you off the circulation list.

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Last chance to give your views: Stakeholder Survey 2018

West Lancashire Borough Council has to make some important decisions about the amount it spends and the services it provides. Like other councils in the country, the Council continues to face financial challenges, whilst continuing to improve efficiency.

The 2018 Stakeholder Survey gives your organisation a chance to influence the decisions the Council will make about the services it provides. The Council is inviting you to take part in the 2018 survey to give your views about satisfaction with services, and where in future the Council should make reductions in spending or increase income.

Please take this opportunity to have your say - this survey gives you a chance to influence the decisions the Council will make. The deadline for submitting views is **Thursday 22 March 2018**.

To complete the survey on behalf of your organisation visit <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=151810592330> . The survey will take around five minutes to complete.

Results will be published on www.westlancs.gov.uk later in the year.

There are two surveys – the Stakeholder survey for organisations, businesses and the Citizen Survey for residents of West Lancs. If members of your organisation wish to give their views as individual residents they can do so via the Citizen Survey on the council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/your-views/citizen-and-stakeholder-survey-2018.aspx

Lecture invitation:

‘Dementia - Facts, Myths, Challenge’

Alex McMinn MBE, Chair of One West Lancs Ageing Well Partnership and Aughton Ormskirk U3A invites you to a lecture on **Dementia - Facts, Myths, Challenge, on Thursday 5th April 2018** from 10.30 am at Christ Church, Aughton.

The speaker is Dr. Penny Foulds who is the Executive Health Care Manager for a group of Clinical Research teams working toward new therapies against Dementia.

Founder of the Defying Dementia Campaign, she has established 'dementia hubs' in Lancaster, Blackburn, Darwen and other centres in Lancashire - combining her clinical research with community endeavours in setting up 'Freshers early-onset cafe and information centres' as support for sufferers and carers.

For more information, go to: <https://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk/speaker-meetings/>





Liberty Centre receiving their LGBT Quality Mark in January

Lancashire LGBT Quality Marks awarded in West Lancashire

The Lancashire LGBT Quality Mark offers a way for organisations to check on how well they meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans employees, volunteers and service users, check for any barriers to accessing their services, and support inclusion. It is open to voluntary and community sector and public sector organisations, and potentially some private sector organisations. Holders of the Quality Mark get ongoing support and can display the Quality Mark logo.

In West Lancashire, there is generally little visibility or support networks available. West Lancs CVS therefore made the decision to invite Lancashire LGBT to its Health Network in April 2017 in order to promote the Quality Mark. Following that event, the Liberty Centre achieved the Mark and received its certificate at a celebratory event in January 2018 at Preston North End.

West Lancs CVS has now also attained the Quality Mark and is encouraging existing local organisations and community groups in the borough to do the same. As a result, it will receive ongoing support from Lancashire LGBT, and have access to resources and guidance (such as changes to legislation or new best practice guidelines). It can now better support the formation of new LGB&T-aware or LGB&T-focused community groups, and supply opportunities to connect through existing networks and partnerships.

The display of the Quality Mark on CVS publicity materials is a clear and positive message to LGB&T people in West Lancashire: we are an inclusive and welcoming organisation serving local communities.

For more information, including its benefits and the cost, see <http://lancslgbt.org.uk/quality-mark/> and <http://lancslgbt.org.uk/2018/03/07/west-lancs-cvs-achieve-the-quality-mark/>



Getting creative for BetterPoints

Students from West Lancs College are embarking on a new creative project to support the BetterPoints initiative in Skelmersdale. Students from IT, Performing Arts, and Film Study courses at the college are taking part in the BBC's Apprentice style project to design and produce a short film which will be used across the town, to engage and promote the [BetterPoints Skelmersdale Rewards programme](#) to residents. This will support the ongoing work that the West Lancs CCG, WLCVS and BetterPoints are undertaking in Skelmersdale - encouraging local residents to become more active and improve their health and well-being.

On 22nd March, students will present their finished films to a panel of representative 'judges' from each of the stakeholder organisations, and have a short interview about how they went about producing it. This project looks to support the students' work experience requirements and, through their involvement, aims to recruit more

local residents to benefit from BetterPoints. The film will be aired on all major social media channels in addition to appearing on all key stakeholder websites once it is complete.

Skelmersdale Rewards is a project which uses the free BetterPoints app to track and reward walking, running and cycling of residents in Skelmersdale.

BetterPoints are earned and can then be exchanged for high street vouchers or rewards, or donated back into the local or national charity organisations.



Monthly prize draw launched

BetterPoints is now offering a monthly prize draw to users in Skelmersdale. Users completing 30 minutes of activity per day now receive a BetterTicket which gets entered into the draw. They can receive one ticket a day so the more daily activity they do, the more tickets they can earn over the course of the month.

The winners are picked at random on the 16th of each month. Each winner receives 25,000 BetterPoints to spend on themselves or their family and a further 25,000 points are donated by BetterPoints to a charity of the winners choice.

www.onewestlancs.org





Building Better Opportunities in West Lancashire with Reach IT

A new digital inclusion project is aiming to equip people across West Lancashire with confidence to use the internet and I.T in their everyday lives. The Reach IT project wants to ensure that no one will get left out in the shift towards the need for digital skills. The project hopes to improve job prospects, health and wellbeing, and provide the digital skills necessary to empower those in disadvantaged communities.

This is a new partnership project with four delivery partners in West Lancashire: Disability Advice West Lancs, Citizens Advice Lancashire West, Enterprise4All and Lancashire BME Network. West Lancs CVS is coordinating the partnership activity and providing Digital Champion training. The project is a part of a Lancashire wide scheme and is funded by the European Social Fund and the Big Lottery.

Course participants begin their journey by taking up Learn My Way modules with support from the delivery partners. This online programme, designed by Good Things Foundation, includes the basics of going online and using the internet for a variety of needs, such as job seeking, Universal Credit, shopping and banking. They can then be referred to West Lancs CVS for Digital Champion training, which is a WEA Open Badge certificate. Once complete, they have the option of becoming a Digital Buddy or Digital Champion, and to exit the programme as a volunteer to provide support to new participants.

As part of involvement in the project, West Lancs CVS is now a registered Online Centres Network Centre. Anyone can sign up to Learn My Way, for free, to take up the courses. They may also join a local Centre as a learner.



For more information go to:

<https://www.learnmyway.com/>

and <https://www.wea.org.uk/north-west/projects-and-partnerships/building-better-opportunities-bbo-reachit-lancashire-digital>



GDPR - coming soon!

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) replaces the Data Protection Act on 25th May this year, and it will affect all organisations, companies and public bodies that send out any information.

It is the most significant piece of data legislation for years and the biggest change is that organisations will be held far more accountable for the data they hold. As well as records of what personal data exist within the organisation, the GDPR requires a documented understanding of why information is held, how it is collected, when it will be deleted or anonymised, and who may gain access to it.

Getting to grips with GDPR and what it means for your organisation can be daunting. The CVS has rounded up some of the information resources which can help: www.wlcvs.org/information and is running a training course for anyone interested in finding out more. The session will take place on **Wednesday 28th March 2018** (venue to be



confirmed). There may be a small charge for this but this depends on numbers attending. Limited places are available so please book quickly to avoid disappointment. To book a place please email [Jill Bradley](mailto:Jill.Bradley@wlcvs.org) or call 01695 733737.

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One West Lancs Thematic Groups

To date One West Lancs Thematic Groups have been set up looking at issues in the following areas:

- [Skills, Training and Employment Partnership \(STEP\)](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Partnership](#)
- [Children and Young People's](#)
- [People and Communities](#)
- [Ageing Well Partnership/Dementia Friendly Communities](#)
- [Transport](#)

These links will take you to pages on the One West Lancs website where information on the thematic groups and copies of their action plans, minutes and agendas can be found.

www.onewestlancs.org