



Medlar with Wesham Small Town Entry

Co-ordinator Alan Clayton



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Acknowledgements for Sponsors and Supporters

'Wesham Community Pride Trust' was established on 11th February 2004.

The relatively small committee is made up of like minded individuals who wish to maintain the aims and objectives of the North West In Bloom principles.

The 'Officers' of the committee consist of :-

John Westmoreland Secretary
Alan Clayton Chairman
Paul Stevens Treasurer

In addition to the committee a number of other people offer practical help, when required, and are considered as 'supporters', whose names appear later in this handbook.

OBJECTIVES

The first formal meeting was held in February 2004 when the 'officers' were voted upon to carry out the various administrative functions. The main aim at this meeting was to determine the Objectives and Policy of the newly formed group.

In conjunction with the Town Council, Fylde Borough Council and other statutory agencies.

- ◆ To foster, promote and develop pride in the appearance of Wesham.
- ◆ To plan, develop and execute environmental improvement schemes in the Town, including:-
 - Spring and summer planting schemes
 - Clean streets and alleys
 - Graffiti and dumped rubbish removal
 - Open space management
- ◆ To seek backing and sponsorship
- ◆ To enter local, regional and national competition.
- ◆ To train and educate residents and especially young people to care for the environment in which they live.

During the last two years WCPT has had to readjust its' thinking due to several proposed developments which are now being commenced:

1. Weeton Road Housing
2. Derby Road Housing
3. Weeton Rd/Bypass Roundabout construction

"TO FOSTER, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP PRIDE IN THE APPEARANCE OF WESHAM"

WESHAM HISTORY

Medlar-with-Wesham is an example of a small rural township that was transformed by the advent of industry in the mid nineteenth century. The township lies in the Fylde, immediately north of the ancient market town of Kirkham. The transformation of Medlar-with-Wesham is to be related to the construction of the Preston and Wyre railway. The major reason for the growth of Medlar-with-Wesham is the establishment of the Cotton industry in the 1850's, prior to which there was a small farming community of around 200 people. Today's population is over 3000.

The construction of the M55 motorway and the bypass has led to a significant increase in commuter traffic, both from and passing through Wesham.

At the time of writing, two major Housing Developments are underway along with the provision of a roundabout on the bypass at the Weeton Road junction..

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Since its' inauguration WCPT has had many meetings to discuss the objectives of the group and seek methods to achieve improvements. A working plan for the monitoring of the activities of the Town Councils Contractor has been put into place and is successful in keeping the entire Town under scrutiny allowing for direct feedback to the Contractor if necessary.

In addition to the floral attributes of the Town, the committee have looked wider at environmental issues together with public involvement. This has resulted in the following projects:

- The painting of the Railway Bridge
- The re-establishment of the floral figure
- The seeking of permission for the provision of hanging baskets on lampposts
- The provision of additional hanging baskets involving local schoolchildren

The committee have drawn up an action plan :-

- ◇ To maintain existing commitments
- ◇ Seek funding for projects
- ◇ Maintain Collaboration with the Primary schools
- ◇ Seek sponsorship from Wesham businesses
- ◇ Obtain agreement from Railtrack for the bridge painting
- ◇ Obtain cooperation from the Lancashire Probation Service for 'volunteers' for bridge painting
- ◇ Obtain voluntary assistance from the Prison Service to re-establish the floral figure.
- ◇ Re-establish the solar powered watering system at the floral figure
- Enter the 'In Bloom' competition

ACHIEVEMENTS to date

- Entered competition.
- Arranged for a local garden competition and have a 'Presentation Evening'
- Attended Fylde Borough Council Co-ordination meetings
- Liaison with the Primary Schools
- Close cooperation with the Probation Service
- Close cooperation with Railtrack
- Close Cooperation with the Prison Service
- Close Cooperation with Wesham Interact (**see Annex A**)
- Broader environmental issues concerning traffic congestion at the local schools. (Drawing up of Travel to School Plan)
- Liaison with Doorstep Green Group
- Refurbishment of the solar powered water system
- Obtained agreement for hanging baskets on lampposts from LCC
- Obtained funding from the community foundation for merseyside



FLORAL DISPLAYS



Floral displays enhance the Town, together with a combination of hanging baskets/ tubs and hayracks. Many houses and businesses are brightened up by hanging baskets, many of which are supplied and maintained by the Town Council. Additional hanging baskets are now a feature of installations on lampposts. Many of which have been planted up by local schoolchildren. A more detailed summary of the children's involvement is given later.



Stalwart Supporters of the Wesham Community Pride Trust play a key role in keeping the floral displays free from litter and help to beautify Wesham.



The War Memorial has become a focal point for the centre of Wesham and provides a very pleasing colourful area consisting of a combination of tubs, hanging baskets and hayracks.

FLORAL DISPLAYS



Flower beds at the playing fields provide pleasing displays throughout the year. The picture above showing the spring flowering and later the same bed at the summer season.



Raised bed at the Fleetwood Road Playing

Since its' inauguration the Trust has striven to encourage members of the community to participate in making the Town look more attractive. This has been achieved despite having several developments and road work activities. The distribution of a newsletter has led to more involvement of the local community.

Apart from the flower beds provided by the contractor to Medlar with Wesham Town Council, residents volunteer to provide and maintain additional beds such the one at the Fire Station.



Volunteers provide pleasing flower beds



Setting up the 3 Tier Display at Ash Bend

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Many local residents take a great deal of pride in the appearance of their properties throughout the year. During the Christmas festivities, long after the growing period, many houses adorn their homes and gardens with decorations and lights to bring colour to the Town. Whilst many gardens are conventionally cultivated there are others that bring colour and aesthetically pleasing designs to add to the value of the area. A good example is shown below.



Wild Flower Experiment

By way of an 'experiment' the committee identified two specific areas for the planting of wild flower seeds. In addition, later, 5 trees (Kindly donated by Mr Joe Lee) have been planted at the rear of the wild flower areas. The pictures opposite and below show the 'before and after'. In early spring there was a marvelous display of many types of wild flowers including an abundance of beautiful poppies.



Pleasing raised flower bed at the Playing Field



Wild Flower Experimental bed BEFORE



Wild Flower Experimental bed AFTER



The DOORSTEP GREEN PARTNERSHIP

The Wesham Community Pride Trust is delighted to include in its itinerary the 'Doorstep Green Partnership' Park located at Derby Road.

The scheme is the direct result of the work done by a handful of dedicated individuals. Reproduced below is a report from the Committee on the current status of the scheme.



DOORSTEP GREEN

REPORT FROM CLLR ANN WHITBY JUNE 2006

The work on the Green is now completed. And the trees and bushes have matured. We are still awaiting the agility equipment for the dog walking area which is very well used. This year benches, which were vandalized, have been replaced by new ones made from recycled plastic bags. The trees have been protected by tree guards which were purchased with money from our fund together with a contribution from the Police and Brack-enwood Nurseries. We are hoping to start a Friends Group to help with maintenance, so far we have two volunteers who are anxious to improve our wild areas.

The highlight of 2005 was winning the Green Pennant, we have entered again this year and are hoping to repeat our success.

Litter picking & weeding take place at regular intervals to maintain our high standard.

Ann Whitby



Dog Walking Area with suitable waste collection



The DOORSTEP GREEN PARTNERSHIP

Wesham Community Pride Trust continues to work closely with colleagues from the Doorstep Green project which is located at Derby Road. The project was officially opened by the Mayor in 2005 and well attended. It has proved to be a very attractive facility for the residents. In addition, dog owners make full use of the dedicated dog walking area. Whilst the Doorstep Green committee is relatively small they have all worked extremely hard to achieve this success for the benefit of the Town.



The Opening Ceremony by Cllr Ann Whitby



Cllr Ann Whitby with the Committee at the opening.



“.....with over 1000 daffodil bulbs planted by The Scouts and Volunteers”

“Wesham Jubilee Doorstep Green is a partnership between the Countryside Agency and The New Opportunities Fund (Lottery Distribution Body), with support from Wesham Town Council and local residents. A committee was formed to find out what could be done with the land at the corner of Derby Road and Park Lane. After public consultation it was decided to create a park area, open spaces and, a dog walking area. Funding was obtained from The Countryside Agency, upto 70% of the cost of the project. The balance of 30%. 20% being provided by voluntary labour and 10% in cash.

Donations were received from Wesham Town Council, Fylde Borough Council and Local Businesses. The committee of 6 started to do fund raising work in July 03. On what was just an open field progress took place throughout 2004.

IN May 2005 the green was opened The Mayor of Medlar with Wesham Town Council, Cllr Mrs. Ann Whitby. In excess of 300 people attended the event.

Various local groups had fund raising stalls and there were donkey rides a Fair Ground Organ and a Fair Ground for the younger children of the town. The day was such a success that many residents have asked if it would be an annual event.

Unfortunately this years event had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Wild Flowers have been planted along the back of the site with over 1000 daffodil bulbs planted by The Scouts and Volunteers.”