

[illegible]

Paula Gamester	The Sewing Rooms	speaker
Gerry Allen	WLBC	speaker
Carly Morris	WLBC	speaker
Helen Porter	Trinity Church	speaker
Jenny Ashcroft	Trinity Church	speaker
Claire Cooper	Made In WN8	speaker
Cath Carmichael	Made In WN8	speaker
Cameron Lathom	Upholland Community Hub	speaker
Terri Millar	Barnardos Supported Lodgings	
Paul Cotterill	Bickerstaffe Children's Services	
Jan Fitzimmons	SWLICAN	
Rita Newby	Friends of Tawd Valley	
Sarah Murphy	Asda	
Adam Soothill	Active Lancashire	
Jeanette Newman	Greenhill Community Hub	
Carol Canipa	Home Instead	
Phil Rigby	WLBC	
Vic Citarella	WLCVS	
Jill Roberts	The Liberty Centre	
Mel Grice	The Liberty Centre	

Julie Thompson	Skelmersdale Heritage Society	
Barry Carr	Skelmersdale Heritage Society	
Gill Blane	Social Prescribing	
Elaine Brooks	Friends of Tawd Valley	
Dave Gibson	Friends of Tawd Valley	
Paul McConnell	SWLICAN	
Marion Flanders	The Liberty Centre	
Louise Doyle	Woodlands Animal Sanctuary	
Sally McDerby	Woodlands Animal Sanctuary	
Dave Beeston	E Rooms (Community Rooms CIC)	
Kathryn MacDonald	ODFHS	

Group discussion

- Identify the community assets in Skelmersdale and the surrounding area.
- Identify what the main issues are that need attention.
- Look at how the network can help.

Community Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Trinity Church - other churches – faith network • Ecumenical Centre and the groups / organisations located there. • Community buildings - Community Centre, Family Hubs, Up holland hub, Children • Children & families groups/ council support, • Youth Centre – Youth Zone – Arts z (Young People) – youth centres. • Excellent schools, Library • Social Enterprises, Local Businesses/ The Concourse • Green Spaces / Open Spaces/ Tawd Valley Park / Beacon Country Park • Sports • Local Businesses • Community Leaders, a strong sense of community, people wanting to work together. • People’s attachment to the town • People – supportive and generous • Willingness of local companies / organisations to collaborate and help. • Welcoming and diverse community. • Interesting heritage - Farming, Coal Mining, Old Skelmersdale, the New Town • Relatively low crime.
Local Issues identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Housing – poor standard issues such as damp, lack of housing, can’t get through to the council to sort issues • Homelessness, poverty, rising costs of heating. • Drug dealing – including young people • Accessing help • Lack of public transport infrastructure, no train station - limited options - dwindled down, particularly at night, not able to go out.

- No night time economy, no town night life. Lack of local amenities, cinemas, entertainment, diverse shopping.
- Can feel unsafe/ intimidating walking behind trees or along the roads, especially when dark, poor lighting.
- Lack of pride in their estates, public spaces etc. Litter – fly tipping. Not aesthetically pleasing, lack of pride in the area- lack of hope!
- Lack of parking.
- Looks neglected
- Needed - Regeneration of Digmoor and Tanhouse
- Young People's behaviour- viewed negatively
- Negative reputation (perception of rising knife crime).
- Stigma, deprivation
- Poor Health – COPD, Obesity, poor children's health.
- Isolation and loneliness
- Poor connectivity - between different parts of Skelmersdale.
- Segregated areas & districts – less accessible

How can the network can help?

- Share knowledge and improve connections
- Improve advocacy
- Work in collaboration on the bigger issues to make change happen
- Influence – taking feedback and forwarding the voice!
- Become better informed
- Remove barriers by working together
- Connecting with each other, letting people know just what is out there.
- Talk to the council regarding improving access to them
- Get housing and health together,
- Get people on the ground to get together e.g District Nurses
- Lobby local council as a group – as single issue at a time - Skem First/ ATT
- Celebrate the work achieved and share best practice.

Feedback

What was the most useful part of the event from your perspective and why?
Meeting others, seeing how well everyone is doing
networking
To know about what's going on in the local area
Giving me a better understanding of WLCVS
Hearing what others are doing in our area – what's actually happening
Listening to great achievements
Meeting people
As a relatively new organisation to Skem, it was great to get to know what else is happening in the area and what gaps we might be able to fill
Meeting other organisations
Networking - seeing what's available within the borough
Learning about this area – what's here, what the areas of issues and assets are – particularly for an organisation newly operating in this area having previously just covered North Lancashire.
The talks and the discussion at the end

Finding out that others are doing amazing things. Massive amount of hope that together we can change things.
Awareness of the variety and depth of community interest companies and their commitment.
Finding out about grants. Different charity organisations in the area. Connecting where we can get more help.

How often to meet?:

	4 times a year	3 times a year	2 times a year	Once a year
Geographic groups	5	5	6	
Thematic groups	5	6	3	

Any other comments?
Would have liked more time to speak to others at the meeting
There is a diversity of opinions of whether Skem is the forgotten town or whether it has a good/bed town centre. We have no agreement of how "Skelmersdale should look". We will never be a city with all these facilities but if we could do we want to be at the centre of shopping areas/towns and remain rural and green
To see more of these network groups on a regular basis
Perhaps start a Mutual Appreciation Society where people showcase their achievements
Is it possible to hold events in the evening. A lot of organisations can't attend during the day but would find these events useful
I feel really hopeful that the connections made at this network will lead to some great collaboration between local VCFSEs (including us – Barnardo's)
PS thank you for the socks – we will use them to inspire young people
Found it very informative
We would like contact details from other organisations here today