

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 5.8.19 **Time:** 10am **Location:-** Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), P.Pinto, O. Whitmore, Matt Axford, S.Foster, Peter Hall, Dewi Jones, P.Ranson, Barry Speed, Glen Williams, M.Smith, M.Gartside,

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>Peter Aston chaired the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies.</u></p> <p>B.Fox, J.Cockell, P.Minshull.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting (2.7.19) and matters arising</u></p> <p>Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising.</i></p> <p><i>Item 3. Local Compost Project.</i> Still to be actioned, carry over.</p> <p>All other matters will be picked up on the body of the agenda.</p>	<p>DJ</p>
4.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></p> <p>Agenda taken as written.</p>	
5.	<p><u>New Town Council Sustainability Initiatives</u></p> <p><i>As reported at 2.7.19 PA explained that he had presented the draft Congleton Green paper to the Communities and Environment Meeting, the principle of which was well received. It was agreed to form a sub-group between CSG and Congleton Town Councillors to discuss initiatives. PA to organise. Volunteers from CSG: Heather, Matt, Steve, Barry, Peter H and Glen.</i></p>	

<p>Since last meeting the sub-group has met twice. Kay Wesley (Chair of Community , Environment & Services) will take what was discussed to the next CE&S meeting on 26th September. Looking for CTC to declare a Carbon Emergency for Congleton (not an Environmental Emergency)</p> <p>A plan is being drawn up based on our SLIC course content (Barry has circulated his SLIC Booklet). Kay Wesley and Suzy Firkin to convert the content into an E Learning programme. This is to be raised at the next CE&S meeting with a plan for all councillors to go through a 4 hour SLIC course programme in the near future.</p> <p><i>Transport Element.</i> CTC will then take on the transport element of the SLIC programme, M.Gartside to be the link between CTC and CSG.</p> <p>This development will be followed up by an article in The Chronicle, PA to contact Jeremy Condliffe for his support on the subject.</p> <p>CSG to organise a Sustainability Green Fayre (similar to our Community Wellbeing Fayre) around Oct/Nov to coincide with The Makers Market when footfall is at its highest. Look to use the Town Hall, Cygnet Club as available , MS to check out the situation for community stall and Town Hall availability.</p> <p>The idea of a repair and reuse stall to be taken at the Makers Market was discussed, need to book a stall early if required. Stall still available for 30th Nov. Idea may need more work on it before progressing.</p> <p>Food element. MS to circulate Margaret's No Beef email and future emails on the subject as received. Need some research on what locally produced food is available, its supply source and encourage people to choose to support this Initiative. Alec and Val's website is no longer up to date , MS to discuss with Jo Money her contacts she has for food and drink and research other areas that may help us build up a picture with a possible support leaflet being put together in the longer term.</p> <p><i>Press release form Macctastic:-</i> <i>Perhaps the issue that dwarfs all other concerns. Macctastic has joined with Transition Wilmslow and Transition Bollington as 'The Cheshire East Climate Action Alliance', to present a combined approach to local government. Next meeting of this group will be late August:-</i></p> <p>Second meeting of Cheshire East Climate Alliance 22nd August, Wilmslow Quaker Meeting House, 7.30pm.</p>	<p>PA action</p> <p>MS action</p> <p>MS action</p>
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	<p>Saturday 31st August 9.30-4.30 Bollington Reach Out for Climate Emergency. Hear what Bollington are planning to do locally and have your say...and what should we be doing in Wilmslow? https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bollington-reach-out-for-climate-emergency-action-planning-tickets-64204320852</p> <p>If you can offer any support by attending these meetings please let PA know.</p> <p>A copy of the minutes of the first meeting of The Cheshire East Climate Alliance will be sent out with these minutes.</p> <p>Plant a Tree Campaign. Need to do some work on what a plant a tree campaign PP to contact Grahams to discuss their plans and if we can get some volunteers involved. Need to find out if CEBC are getting involved in the campaign in any way Barry S reported ongoing work with Clonter Opera regarding a number of trees being planted on their site. Matt Axford to look at this project in depth, please pass any information gathered through to Matt.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Plastic.</u> Heather keen to champion a Congleton version of national campaign 'Surfers against Sewage'.</p> <p>PA will send Heather's papers 'Surfers against Sewage' for MS to circulate around the group.</p>	<p>PA/MS action.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></p> <p>Final designs are being drawn up before going out to tender.</p> <p>We have until March 2021 to have the plant up and running to meet our FITS agreement.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan. (comments D.McGifford)</u></p> <p>Following a meeting with the examiner in May it was agreed to withdraw the plan and review certain policies primarily around environmental / green issues.</p> <p>We are currently looking to contract specialist support for this area to enable us to take the Plan back through the consultation process.</p>	

9.	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></p> <p>Virtually sold out of 2018 Apple Juice, had a best ever day at Rode Hall last week.</p> <p>Nearly time for 2019 harvest and production, Schedule :- Mon finish collecting, Tues juicing, Wed bottling. Production will be split between Juice and Cider.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Vale Allotments – (VAGA) Report as circulated.</u></p> <p>The reinstatement and development of Vale Allotments has been progressing well over the last twelve months and listed below are some of the key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All available plots have been taken and there is a waiting list at the time of writing of about 10 applicants. Twice yearly inspections are carried out to ensure plots are maintained to a good standard. 1. The VAGA committee has met regularly and has a full set of officers : Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary and a further committee member 1. The retaining stone wall at the top of the site has now been repaired (paid for by relevant Moody Terrace residents) and drainage pipes installed along its base. The work was carried out in liaison with VAGA and the site restored to good condition when the work was finished. 1. Portions of plots affected by the building work have now been reallocated for cultivation. 1. Two full plots have been out of use for a long period due to the building work and other factors and we now need to prepare these for use 1. A number of successful working parties have been held on Sunday mornings and it's been very encouraging to see so many plot holders helping out with tasks in shared areas of our site. New fencing has been erected, paths improved and our orchard tidied. The communal shed is well used. The fencing work was funded by Congleton Green Space Trust 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project involving Marlfields School did not develop due to concerns about the wall repairs. Marlfields have now developed allotments on their own site. 1. A Duke of Edinburgh award scheme student will be restoring and developing the pond and seating area near the shed over the summer 1. Fruit from our orchard will be donated to the Old Saw Mill 1. We raised £100 from our stall at Congleton Food Fair in June 1. Bulk seed buying by plot holders raised further funds. 1. We have continued to have informal social evenings at local pubs. 	
11.	<p><u>Cycle Path Plans.</u></p> <p>No report to this meeting.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Green space / In Bloom – P.Pinto.</u></p> <p>Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:</p> <p>1 /7: OSM garden, other IYN sites checking pre judging on</p> <p>2/7: CSG meeting</p> <p>9 /7 IYN judging</p> <p>13/7: Park tidy</p> <p>16/7: AMVC, In Bloom meeting</p> <p>25/7: NWIB judging</p> <p>31/7: In Bloom meeting</p>	

	<p>info board for Capitol Walk Garden with Food4free group, printing, displayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>U3A gardening group</u> typically Monday & Fridays, some Sat & Sundays on In Bloom sites - Elizabeth's Garden, West Rd; Community Gardens, Margaret's Place. • Redrafting <u>routes</u> for NWIB (IYN & town entry); • Tatton 2019 Blooming Border. Planning, growing, planting up attending, transfer back to Congleton Park, replanting • Back to back gardens 2019:Supervising planting, cleaning, watering, prep for judging • <u>Wheelbarrow Challenge</u>; all now delivered to tunnel for judging to 17 participating groups, including 10 pre-schools/nurseries. <p>Photos of park & sites around Congleton for In Bloom portfolio & presentation.</p> <p><u>Enhancing Congleton's Greenspace – Adam Linnet</u></p> <p>Nothing to report this meeting.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Working with the MP</u></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	For info
14.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Eco schools: 4 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster.</i></p> <p>2019 schedule: Mossley (July renewal application, 5th GF). <i>Now defaulted to silver: The Quinta, Scholar Green, Marton, Black Firs, Buglawton. Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven, but working on GF topics; W. Well, EBA, CHS remain on silver.</i></p> <p>2020 Saint Mary's & Smallwood (6th GF) 2021 Marlfields (7th GF)</p> <p>Buglawton will be restarting Eco in Sept with new Head teacher.</p> <p>Working with Saint Mary's Catholic Primary: Eco (grounds, waste, recycling & litter). Explaining & planting seeds with yrs 1 & 2.</p>	

<p>Weekly : Working with adult volunteer via CE Nick Lane at Saint Mary's grounds</p> <p>Commenting Team'</p> <p>1. Gladman development off Waggs Road</p> <p>The development off Waggs Road has returned this time submitted by Gladman. This is the third time this development has been submitted, the first in 2013 was refused by CEBC and was subsequently dismissed at appeal (a decision which was upheld at Judicial Review), the second in 2017 was again refused by CEBC but was not taken to appeal.</p> <p>One, if not the key issue in the refusal of both the previous applications was on the grounds of road safety. PM is currently drafting a response on behalf of CSG objecting on road safety, highway capacity and sustainable travel grounds. As this is a lengthy technical response and responses from others are dealing with other matters it is proposed that our response should be confined to these matters only, can the Group please confirm this approach at the next meeting and also approve the draft response. The closing date for responses is 15th August.</p> <p>The group were fully supportive of Peter's response. MS to advise Peter of this.</p> <p>2. Planning applications</p> <p>PM continues to review the weekly list of planning applications from CEBC but since the Local Plan has been adopted, other than the Waggs Road development detailed above, there has been little to concern CSG.</p> <p>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>Cycling report.</p> <p>Link Road</p>	<p>MS action.</p>
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Conflicting information has been circulating about the cycling and walking provision on the Link Road (Macclesfield Expressway).

Before the last council was voted out, at least two of the erstwhile members on CE stated that there would be no cycleway along the Barn Road/ Viking Way extension as part of the overall scheme: it would have to be financed by developer contributions in the land alongside this extension.

Now that the post electoral dust has settled we have had meetings with the contractors, Graham, in late June and they assured us that a cycleway WILL be built as part of their works. Just this week we got information from CE to say that a cycleway WILL NOT be built. Ant Bolding has been in touch with Graham again and they have supplied him with 3D plans that show that it WILL be built even though it does not appear on the current plans on the Planning Portal. It appears that one hand does not know what the other is doing.

S106 avoidance

A number of the current development sites around Congleton had S106 agreements that promised to provide sustainable transport facilities. As you may know a number of these appear to have been ignored by the individual developers and CE do not seem to have done anything to enforce the agreements. Suzie Akers Smith with her Cycling and Walking Champion hat on is investigating whether this is incompetence on CE's behalf or something more sinister.

More people riding

You may have noticed that many more people are riding bikes around town. We must make a more quieter infrastructure provision so that these people and many more who would like to follow their example can do so safely.

Cargo bike

We had a demonstration of a cargo bike in Crewe at the end of June. We plan to bring this to the Congleton Play Day to show what these things can do. In Congleton we believe that we would have to have electric power to make one of these attractive. We plan to speak to local businesses to see if local deliveries can be done in this way. They have a payload of

80kgs.

Food4Free.

1. Planted areas:

Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on the Capitol Walk garden. In early 2019, more culinary herbs were bought from local grower RPG Herbs and planted at the edge of the garden (by the bench) to provide more edibles within reach of the path. In 2018 we lost our herb-planted raised bed outside Bojangles in the pedestrian area of town as it was removed as part of the refurbishment. Patti has planted two of the new tree planter boxes with herbs. In 2019 we have approached the newly elected town and CE councillors with a view to reviewing the unsustainable seasonal planting schemes and replacing some with permanent plantings of predominantly pollinator-friendly plants, and encouraging more horticulturally appropriate and sustainable maintenance methods for existing shrubs. We are also hoping to tackle the neglected areas around the library, and are in negotiation with council officers, plus Graham Construction's Community Benefits Officer regarding potential sponsorship.

2. Publicity:

Facebook interaction continued when there are photos to post, or news items. We had several meetings to decide the content and appearance of an interpretation sign for Capitol Walk garden to raise awareness of the group and explain our aims. One of our members, Dot, then produced the final design. Funding was obtained for its printing from the In Bloom group of the town council Thank you!

3. Accounts

Finalised for 2016-2017, 2017-2018 accounting year (our year end is June). 2018-19 accounts will be finalised later. Summary sheets available on request from Val or Olga. Detailed accounts can be inspected by appointment.

Apple Juice/ Cider

See OSM report.

	<p>Balance Sheet</p> <p>Circulated prior to the meeting, current balance £5169.26</p> <p>Carbon reduction group report.</p> <p>SLIC course planned at The Old Saw Mill, running for 9 weeks commencing Wed 9th October.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p><u>Polly Higgins – Earth Protectors</u></p> <p>British Barrister Polly Higgins calls for criminal law of ecocide to impose a legal duty on ... In an unprecedented step, an Earth Protectors Trust Fund was created.</p> <p>Debate followed around the Polly Higgins Stop Ecoide campaign. MS to attach the link to these minutes :</p> <p>https://www.stopecocide.earth/ . As requested search engine website link below:-</p> <p>https://www.ecosia.org/</p> <p>MG made positive comments about Green Energy, link is :- www.greenenergyuk.com/</p> <p>Wild Flower Verge Planting. Need to encourage Cheshire East to do more planting of Wild Flower verges where possible.</p> <p>Green spaces in town in need of some TLC (Library/ Old CBC site etc.) In Bloom are on the case.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting:- Tuesday 3rd September, The Old Saw Mill, <u>6.30pm</u> Note the new time !!</p>	

