



**Meeting :** Congleton Partnership Executive.

**Date :** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Location:** Bridestones Congleton Town Hall.

**In attendance:**

**Executive Members:- :- S.Foster, M.Smith, D.Murphy, P.Aston, J.Money, J.MacArthur, P.Pinto, R.Edwards, S.Munro, D.McGifford, D.Brown, J.Goodier, K.Wesley, S.Ward, P.Houldsworth,L.Hulse ,G.Williams (Chair), D.Ritherdon, A.Martin & V.Cutcliffe.**

**In attendance: Guests:- : L.Blunt (LOL Foundation) S.Holland ( Town Mayor)**

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Apologies:</u></b></p> <p>The meeting started at 6.00pm following the AGM and was chaired by G.Williams.</p> <p>Glen welcomed all of the new members (attending or not) to The Executive. Round table introductions made.</p>	<p>Apologies were received from :</p> <p>M.Gartside,J.Crowther, D.Jones M.Khan.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b> were accepted as a true and correct record and</p>	

	<p>signed by the chair. Proposed P.Aston and seconded S.Munro.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising:-</b></p> <p>Item 5. <b>Play area improvement.</b> Photo shoot for the new Play Area leaflet carried out, leaflet now in print.</p> <p>Item 5. <b>Cenotaph.</b> Appeal put out in Summer Edition of Bear Necessities.</p> <p>Item 8. <b>Letter of support for Friends of Congleton Park.</b> SF wrote a letter of support for FOCP Wren bid.</p> <p>Item 8. <b>Defibrillator Padgbury Lane.</b> Project with The Lions, defibrillator now sited.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Town Centre report – J.MacArthur.</u></b></p> <p><b>Town Centre:</b> Occupancy rates remain around 88% - Congleton has 186 of the 204 marketable units filled. Recent changes have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruby’s Fund Charity Shop set up in Lawton Street</li> <li>• New clothes shop in Antrobus Street – Isabella’s Fashions</li> <li>• Age UK Charity Shop in the pedestrian area has closed</li> <li>• New owners of Beauty Shop on West Street</li> </ul> <p>A small working group from the Town Council is looking into options for improving Congleton’s market. This will be reporting back to Community, Environment and Services Committee later this month.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council is looking at revitalising town centres across Cheshire East and will be briefing Congleton Town Councillors and officers at a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September – and will feed back to the Partnership.</p> <p>A second survey is underway on the Makers Market. At a meeting in July with some of the shops asked for the market to be moved to a Sunday. This was considered by the Makers Market but due</p>	

to other events and the availability of the traders that have established in Congleton it is not straightforward. A new survey is testing whether traders would rather see the Makers Market held on a Saturday, or for it to be cancelled. The issue is around the increase in footfall that the market brings, is resulting in worse sales for some of the shops with anecdotal evidence that their regulars are avoiding coming into town on makers days.

The Town Council has been managing two community stalls at the Makers Market since May. These have proved popular and are currently booked out though until December. If partnership members wish to book a stall for their groups please let me know as soon as possible. Political groups are not included as community groups.

#### **ASB**

The Public Space Protection Order for the market area, Victoria Street and part of the pedestrian area has been successful in that the Police have had far fewer dealings of ASB in this area over this summer. They have not had to issue any fines. The Town's CCTV cameras have been upgraded (thanks to CEC) and now include high speed, high definition night vision – so the latest in technology. CEC has also installed a temporary CCTV camera in Barn Road, which has proved useful and the ASB group will be using these findings to try again to get some funding from the Police Commissioner towards a camera for the area.

#### **Congleton Events 2019**

It's been great to see the summer of activities in the town and thanks to all the groups involved in bringing additional life into the town centre over the summer. More in Jo and Vince's reports.

#### **Congleton Events 2020**

We are starting to pull together an events calendar for 2020 and will look to get a listing in the January Bear Necessities as well as produce marketing and online materials that can go far and wide tell people about all the events in Congleton. If people are organising public events please email the

details to [Jackie.macarthur@Congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.macarthur@Congleton-tc.gov.uk) by early December. Discussions are have already started about the Congleton 2<sup>nd</sup> Heritage and Antiques Fair in September 2020.

#### **Congleton Christmas**

Work is well underway on the Christmas activities – both for the big day itself (Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November) and the run up to Christmas. A new feature that we are planning to bring this year with the help of Congleton Rotary is a Tree of Light – which we plan to locate in a large container in the Cenotaph grassed area. This tree would be switched on a couple of weeks after the main tree and funds raised would go to a mixture of local charities being agreed with the Rotary Group.

#### **Stephen Sebire**

Work is progressing towards getting a Penny Farthing on the roundabout of Park Lane.

#### **Marie Johnson**

A cherry tree will be planted in the Park in memory of Marie Johnson. The family is hoping this can happen whilst the Dutch Regiment and possible a couple of Mercian representatives are in town for the Remembrance Sunday.

#### **Congleton in Bloom**

The results of this year's competition will be announced on October 31<sup>st</sup> for the It's Your Neighbourhood and 1<sup>st</sup> November for the Town entry. The Community Pride Awards will be announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. This is the final year for this competition. The sponsors have pulled out and Cheshire Community Action will not be continuing it.

#### **Defibrillators**

The Town Council and Partnership worked with Congleton Lions to secure a new 24/7 defibrillator in the telephone box on the corner of Greenacres Road/Padgbury Lane. This is now in place. The Lions are working with the Church House to add a new outdoor 24/7 defibrillator to this location.

#### **Bear Necessities**

The next edition will be distributed from the 8<sup>th</sup> October and is currently being written. The edition will include a page on the War Memorial Hospital and the services provided at the hospital and also a page on Mental Health Awareness, which is being written by staff from Visyon.

#### **4. Community Projects – J.Money**

**Hidden Places** – Collaboration with the Electric Picture House, offering a week's workshops in the Easter holidays and further Saturdays for kids to devise, create and perform their own piece of theatre to an audience of very appreciative parents and family. We were not able to have afternoon performances this year as MMU students were no longer available due to the imminent closure of the Crewe campus. We did have the professional evening performance however, Unmythable which was a wonderful way to launch the Rural Touring Arts in the new home of EPH to a sell out audience.

**Food and Drink Festival** – June 9<sup>th</sup>. A great success with over 100 local produce stalls, global pop up street food and local eco charities and organisations. The Town Hall had a full programme of activities, demos and workshops and we had a small fringe festival with arts and craft stalls. Kids activities feature in the Passport project and the Kids Kitchen and all set to a back drop of all day street entertainment, music and magic. Using a specific counting procedure visitors were estimated to be 25,000 over the day. Our supported Charity this year was Visyon.

**Congleton Pride** – 20<sup>th</sup> July. CCP were delighted to be able to support the first pride Day for Congleton. We were able to offer basic event advice and to help out on the day. It was a fabulous day and very special to see a bunch of young passionate people organise such a successful first event. It will be exciting to watch this event and this group grow.

**Play Day** – this year was planned for 6<sup>th</sup> August but due to potential poor weather it was rescheduled for 27<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately not as many groups were able to participate on the new date, namely Cycling Campaign, Go Bananas, Mama's voices and Joanne Bayley dance exercises. However with equipment borrowed from Bromley Farm Trust we had a pedestrian area full of giant board games, hula hoops and hop scotch. Kids Planet nursery had a cracking little obstacle course and the Library offered some Rhyme Time story telling. Electric Picture House had plenty of kids decorating totem poles. It was a lovely day. Thanks for support from The Congleton Partnership in volunteering and funding, to Martha and to the Town Councillors Amanda Martin and Jean Parry for helping out. Thanks also to our Mayor for meeting everybody and joining in.

The event was created to support the National Play Day which celebrates children's right to play. We also used the event to launch the new Partnership Play Area leaflet showing all the play spaces in Congleton,

	<p>especially the 3 improved sites.</p> <p><b>Congleton Jazz and Blues</b> – Bank Holiday weekend. CCP were happy to support this great event on the community side of the things. Firstly we organised the road closures and marshalling of the Umbrella parade which had the most participants ever dancing their way through the town led by the Salt City Jazz Band. A great start to the festival. We also helped from the planning stage with the community day in the grounds of the Bath House and it was very special to see nearly 100 people singing along to the Madhatters and joining in with Becky Morley’s Music moments. The event was created to be inclusive and particularly dementia friendly. There was also the opportunity for new young musicians to perform in front of an audience. Hopefully we will develop this community aspect of the Festival further for next year.</p> <p><b>Christmas Lights Switch-on</b> 2019 – November 23<sup>rd</sup>. As part of the Christmas Team CCP and working in partnership with the Town Council, is primarily concerned with the lantern parade, Santa, lantern workshops and booking the stage and street entertainment in conjunction with the entertainment group. This year we also be taking over from the Makers Market and booking our own food stalls and charity and retail stalls. CCP is also organising the fair rides and fair attractions.</p> <p>There will be 3 public workshops on Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Spindle Mill with an evening workshop at Overton House for the young Carers Group</p> <p><b>Soul Night</b> – fundraising Northern Soul, Motown and 70s music evening kindly put on by DJ’s Past and Present to raise funds for CCP. Tickets £6 from the Tourist Info Centre and the Chronicle or £7 on the door. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Congleton Town Hall.</p> <p><b>CCP is also supporting</b> the Community Fayre 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Congleton Green Fayre 26<sup>th</sup> October. CCP also offers marshalling support via the Cheshire Marshals – Congleton Triathlon, Astbury Mayday, Civic Parade, the Umbrella Parade and the Half Marathon on October 6<sup>th</sup></p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Group Reports.</u></b></p> <p><i><b>Youth Forum – G.Williams</b></i></p>	

The 60 Things To Do leaflet completed and issued. Thanks Jo Money for work on this.

PB Project on Mental Health and Substance Misuse has proved a lead for young people and Cheshire east have now upped their game with their emotional schools project.

Play area leaflet proved a great adventure for a number of Bromley Farm YC Members with a tour of the major play areas and photoshoot by Jackie to feature on our new play area leaflet. Some had never been to the Quinta site before.

Last youth forum meeting was with Graham Construction who are making fantastic connections with our secondary schools hopefully leading to more young people becoming involved in the construction industry.

SAFE project:- CEBC Youth Service and Local Police working with vulnerable young people in the town. The activity is being reviewed and a new section on YP's will benefit from this.

#### **CSG – P.Aston.**

**Hydro Scheme-** The planning application is (18/5811M). Test drilling for geology / topography currently being carried out and will take most of the summer. CEBC have ask CSG to keep close contact with the Link Rd works PA to talk to Grahams about the delivery of the Screw.

3 Civil Engineering Contractors have expressed an interest in building the hydro, tenders have gone out and a decision on preferred contractor should be made next month. Share option scheme ready late winter.

#### **Green Congleton**

A team consisting of CSG members and Town Councillors are working on a plan to announce a Climate Emergency Declaration for Congleton, getting together new thinking and fresh ideas to take forward.

Planning a Congleton Green Fayre on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October in the town hall. This would tie in with the Makers Market event I the town and should provide for a larger audience to aim at. There will be a wide range of organisations and range of issue, may use the Food and Drink passport idea to draw people in.

#### **Apple Juice / Chutneys.**

Look like a bumper harvest this year and not only for apples. Plans are afoot to make around 3000 ltrs of Apple Juice, 1000 ltrs Cider, 500 ltrs Cider Vinegar and 300 Jars of Jam and Chutney.

**Cycling / Walking.**

This is being driven by S.Akers Smith within her new role at Cheshire East.

**The Old Saw Mill.**

Busier than ever, looking to buy up the rest of the premises and change to a Community Benefit Society, the present owners are interested in selling to OSM.

***Creative Congleton – Vince Cutcliffe.***

The Electric Picture House had a busy summer with exhibitions and workshops.

During August we held a series of children's art workshops which were greatly received by both children and parents. The workshops are becoming more and more popular with half the places being filled within a day of our first announcement and all spaces being taken within 3 days. Unfortunately due to their popularity we are finding that we have to turn children away which indicates a need for this type of activity in the area.

Also in August we held an Abstract Landscape Painting Workshop for adults, attendees spent a whole day painting and left at the end with a completed artwork.

We held an exhibition of artworks by our new members to welcome them to the Electric Picture House. In the week leading up to the Jazz and Blues Festival we displayed all the artwork from the festival, posters, t-shirts and advertising material.

Starting on Saturday we begin our latest exhibition Establish ed, all the artists who have been with The Electric Picture House for a longer period of time will be exhibiting their work. We have a preview on Saturday 14th from 11am to 3pm so please come and see what we have been up to.

There are more exhibitions planned for the rest of the year.



We are very excited to be hosting a performance by Odd Doll Theatre Company on Saturday 26th October at 7.30pm called Seaside Terror. It is a celebration of traditional British horror and British seaside holidays, a quirky performance which all takes place in an ice cream van, comparable to Monty Python and League of Gentlemen. This show was sold out at the studio theatre at the Lowry so it is a great honour to be able to get them to perform in Congleton.

***Congleton Jazz and Blues held its tenth anniversary festival.***

With ten years under its belt the team decided to celebrate the anniversary as follows;

DESIGN; AD Profile gave the cover design a new look using popular caricature, this allowed images used in the design to be repeated across the various media productions, programme, leafleting and social media. The importance of the branding of CJAB cannot be understated, it is this imagery which is what the audience first experiences of the festival it is a key foundation to creating the vibe of what the festival is about. Our thanks go to the AD Profile team who donate a serious amount of time, skill and support to the project.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME; with support from Jo Money and various groups the team provided an additional community based offering, a boost to the Umbrella Parade to increase its appeal and making great use of the sublime town centre green space known as the Physic Garden in Congleton with support from the Madhatters choir and Musical Moments. The community programme also reached out to musicians in the community with its music school workshops, emphasis on getting the bedroom musician out into a band with some limited success, the team are already looking at how to extend and improve this offering. The purpose of the community programme was to extend the CJAB offering to people who may not want (or not be able) to go into a busy venue, anecdotal evidence suggests that this indirectly extended the age range appeal of CJAB both up and down.

MUSIC PROGRAMME; the introduction of the Town Hall last year proved a great success, as part of the tenth anniversary it was decided to try to raise the profile with a top drawer performer at a ticketed event on the Friday and continue with the free entry option for Saturday and Sunday. The Friday event was artistically and as a performance very successful, it was reasonably well attended. The Saturday and Sunday events in the Town Hall proved as successful as ever.

REST OF THE WEEKEND; The good weather played its part in what was yet another very busy town centre festival offering. There were more than 60 free entry gigs with a variety of Jazz and Blues music with some local bands and artistes extending the repertoire with their own brand of music. Feedback from venues has so far been very good.

FUTURE; The team is hopefully increasing with an injection of commercial and project management experience, these will be volunteers to CJAB who can inject more depth of skill and talent that the project needs, this additional help will hopefully allow CJAB to re-structure onto a more formal basis. Work for next year's event in 2020 starts immediately.

CONGLETON UNPLUGGED takes place over March 6, 7, 8, planning starts imminently!

***Senior Forum.***

Congleton Community Wellbeing Fayre planned for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, Congleton Town Hall, 10am to 1pm. Over 50 exhibitors have expressed interest. MS sent out sheet to group so that they could see the broad range of exhibitors that will be on offer. PR, advertising and leaflets being worked on. Major PR started early autumn.

***Dementia Group – S Munro***

Currently working on 2 strands.

- (a) Creating awareness of dementia across both the general public and business. We have run close on 40 sessions with 802 new Dementia Friends gained against our target of 1000, the session booked in at Eaton Bank Academy will secure that for us. 35 organisations and businesses involved. More sessions general and business planned.

Chris is working on contacting business to both arrange awareness sessions and work with them to improve their physical environment. 17 businesses showing interest and working to improve their offering and towards being able to display a DFC sticker. Presentation of window stickers and certificates to be made to businesses on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September after the next DFC Meeting.

(b) Activity Programme. A range of activities planned / run with a varying degree of success. Social Media and a 2 monthly activity programme produced and circulate to support the programme. Games session at Wild and Wild proving popular, building up a band of regulars.

Good fortnightly games sessions on a Wednesday at Wild and Wild.

(c) Dementia Buddy Scheme launched with sponsorship and support from Congleton Lions.

If you are part of a group who would like a session please let Diane know.

***Elizabeth's Group – S.Munro.***

Elizabeth's Group is going from strength to strength, with a number of new donations and bids since last meeting.

Inclosure Trust awarded us £10,000 in July which is our first big donation and the Aurelius Trust award us £1000 in the same month. We have promissory donations from Grahams, Berisfords , Redrow and the Town Trust.

We actually have enough money for a statue now but it would be an inferior one made of a metal that would very quickly begin to decompose. As the statue will be part of a trail of famous women across the UK we don't want people coming to Congleton and thinking our Elizabeth has a poor quality statue.

We want hot bronze and a top class sculptor for our amazing, radical, first-wave feminist and Congleton resident, Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy. No cheap tat for her.

The Heritage Lottery part of our project is going well and our website is ready to go live. We are starting work with a number of groups across the town and with Eaton Bank School, and we are researching and preparing a heritage trail incorporating 5 sites in the town which feature in Elizabeth's life story. This involves, hopefully placing plaques and using a downloadable MP3 pod cast to guide people to the sites and tell people about what happened there. This will be downloadable from our website to a mobile phone.

We are giving presentations to clubs, societies and schools throughout the area not just in Congleton but neighbouring towns and even nationally as we feature on the website of Chichester University thanks to Dr Maureen Wright who is so supportive, and of course we featured on TV last month ( I must change that hat its

	<p>bigger than me) .</p> <p>We are working hard to complete the Heritage Lottery project by May 2020 and we are hoping to bring things together with a day of events throughout the town, launching the trail and commemorating Elizabeth to complete this part of the project. The children of Eaton Bank and other schools and clubs as well as individuals will be involved.</p> <p><b>Projects &amp; Finance – SF/MS</b></p> <p><b>Cenotaph.</b> Delayed until 2019. Construction starts w/c 20<sup>th</sup> April, completion around late July.</p> <p>Dedication day planned for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Fundraising ongoing.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB.</b></p> <p><b>PP.</b> Reminded us that the Back to Back gardens and wheelbarrow displays are still open to the public until the end of this month.</p> <p><b>Link Rd.</b> Questions were asked about the impact the link road may have on the town and could we have display boards at each end to advertising events within the town to attract in more visitors. What planting scheme is planned to green and screen the road, will it be similar to Alderley Edge By-pass.</p> <p><b>Tree planting:-</b> Have we any designated areas within Congleton that could be used to plant more trees.</p> <p><b>South Cheshire Market Towns Trail.</b> Need to look at a beefed up launch to build awareness, U3A have many walking groups so could / would get involved.</p>	<p><b>MS – R Burgess</b></p>
9	<p><b>The meeting ended at 7.22 pm</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is:- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, Congleton Town Hall, 5.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>Signed:-</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair.</b></span></p>	