

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 2.6.20 **Time:** 6pm **Location:-** Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), Ant Bolding, S.Foster, Peter Hall, P.Pinto, Glen Williams. M.Smith, M.Gartside, G.Cook, Matt Axford, K.Wesley, P.Hirst, B.Fox

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting.	
2.	<u>Apologies.</u> Suzie Ackers Smith, B.Speed. O.Whitmore, A.Scaresbrook and A.Linnet.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting (4.5.20) and matters arising</u> Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting. <i>Matters Arising.</i> Item 3. Get Involved Booklet. Jo Money now has all she requires and this has now gone into production.	
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> PA asked to clear items 5 to 10 as quickly as possible so as to be able to spend more time on item 11. This was agreed.	
5.	<u>Congleton Green:</u> There has not been a Congleton Green Meeting since our last CSG meeting. M.Gartside confirmed that a date had still to be agreed. B.Speed could not attend tonight, emailed MS to say that he now had a baseline for carbon footprint. M.Worthington confirmed to MS that Martin Murphy (Hero Renewables) would be visiting The Town Hall on Friday 5 th June. Access to the Museum still not available.	
6.	<u>Green Fayre 30th May 2020/ 31st October 2020.</u>	

	<p>It was felt that we should push ahead with working on the planned October 31st event with the pretext that this may be able to take place.</p> <p>MS to start on this over the next few weeks, and we agreed to push ahead with the Sustainable Travel element in the High St, including planned road closures. Now have 11 confirmed exhibitors, more to follow up, some not working at present. MS circulate the current spreadsheet to members. J.Mac to work on road closures once we know with some certainty that this can happen.</p> <p>PA to contact the previous committed exhibitors to see if they are still happy to get involved.</p> <p>May try and get stickers for the already printed flyers and poster, but will leave that until we have a clearer indication on what the future may look like before committing more expenditure. MS/ M.Hayes to action.</p> <p>If this cannot happen as a live event, then we may look to turn it into a webinar.</p>	<p>MS / MH</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>The Tree Group</u></p> <p>M.Axford reported that work was going on in the background re activity for the autumn/ winter. Not sure where CWT are currently, may have a better idea of future by August.</p> <p>Dewi has still to finalise work on the data base, Matt to follow up. PP to carry on with facebook activity.</p>	<p>MA / PP</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.(Hydro Scheme)</u></p> <p>Nothing to add since the last meeting, other than to confirm that the screw has been ordered (lead time 5 months)</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></p> <p>The OSM is currently closed, has now received a £10K grant from CEBC to support us over COVID-19. This will provide some welcome respite for a few months. Possibly will open (Government rules permitting) as a Take a Way in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Apple Juice/Vinegar (3 bottle min) home deliveries are going okay, order by Thursday, deliveries are on Fridays.</p>	

10.	<p><u>Active Travel Congleton (incorporate Cycle Group Report)</u></p> <p>Most of the ideas put to CTC Integrated Transport Group were taken forward and duly passed by the councillors. These have now gone to Cheshire east for action.</p> <p>Ant advised the group that Active Travel now have a website www.atcongleton.uk where the public can make comments as to improvements they would like to see/ ideas they would like taken forward. This could form the basis of a public survey which could then be presented to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Congleton Chronicle (Jeremy Condliffe) is happy to support this drive and would print a feature within the paper.</p> <p>K.Wesley suggest that the website/ survey was put out on Congleton Chat's Back fb page, AB will do so once he is happy that any teething problems have been ironed out.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team (P.Minshull)</i></p> <p>Nothing new to report. No action required on planning app 20/1934C as afr as CSG is concerned. (see sustainable housing item)</p> <p><i>Cycling report. PH / AB</i> (Circulated prior to the meeting).</p> <p>Not really a lot to report except that the following measures were approved at the Town Council meeting on Thursday for presentation to Cheshire East on June 10.</p> <p>These are nearly all things that ATC put forward as ways in which social distancing can be achieved during lockdown and beyond. We hope that some of these might become permanent features once we all see how well they work.</p> <p>The list:</p> <p>20mph in the town</p>	

10 mph on Broadhurst Lane

Advanced Stop lines on Mountbatten Way

Pavement widening

There was a suggestion for 1 way travel on pavements from Amanda Martin.

Good to see many more people, including family groups, out on their bikes.

Note. A further paper from SAS was circulated to the group under separate cover, too large to add into these minutes. This paper is being presented to Cheshire East.

Apple Juice/ Cider.

See OSM report earlier in these minutes.

Balance Sheet

Cash available £5356, Grant Owed £4171, Balance £779. No change from last month.

The Green Living Group- B.Fox

(circulated prior to the meeting)

Since the last meeting I have completed the revision of the Green Living Course handbook and have supplied this to Jackie MacArthur for use by the Town Council in devising their online course.

Some minor editorial changes are pending.

I am looking for opportunities to run courses using Zoom and the new book. U3A is a possibility. Geoff Cook and Mike Taylor may be available to help.

Eco Schools – P.Pinto.

(circulated prior to the meeting)

3 schools (Marfields, Saint Mary's Smallwood) with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster.

All other 13 now defaulted to silver:

2020: 6th GF ,30 June: Saint Mary's & Smallwood (Oct); 2021 Marfields (7th GF)

Buglawton has restarted Eco last autumn with new Head teacher, Alison Kennerley,.

Grants no longer available from KBT Eco-schools (all used)

Schools can still apply electronically and will be desk top assessed only, volunteer assessors stood down through lockdown until at least Sept.

Eco advice at Saint Mary's; via email sharing free resources,; grounds clearing with DoE students.

Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:

01/5 wildflower plugs to Hillary Ave Allotments

02/5 wildflower plugs planted along new hedgerow on Clayton by pass

04/5: CSG meeting (zoom)

24/5 planting with Buglawton in bloom volunteers

Since April: U3A gardening group & other volunteers,

working singly, or in pairs more recently, following safe distancing on-

Elizabeth's Garden, West Rd; Community Gardens, Margaret's Place (two borders created/replanted ready for summer floral display, all sustainable), stock of plants in the Community polytunnel; community mini orchard: watering at Lady Warburton's Walk

Publicity:

Since lockdown, videos of various sites taken & shared via Facebook.

PP continues to admin/edit facebook pages, adding articles, photos, events etc [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG, Old Saw Mill, Saint Mary's Garden Club, Buglawton in Bloom, Friends of Congleton Park & Congleton Park pages]

Plastic Free Congleton Report:

	<p>Nothing new to report, the last meeting had to be cancelled.</p> <p>Green Space Trust. (report circulated prior to the meeting) The continuing reinstatement and development of Vale Allotments has been progressing very well in recent 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 approximately 12. Work on paths and to maintain the orchard area has improved the site significantly. The whole site is in very good shape. There were initial discussions about involvement in the In Bloom competition which can be resumed in due course. 1. The Vale Allotments & Gardening Association committee has maintained regular contact and has a full set of officers : Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary / Treasurer and a further committee member. Email contact with all plot holders has been important during the Covid19 lockdown. Full information on safety measures, social distancing and other issues has been provided, following all Government guidelines. Many thanks to the committee for their work on this. 1. Fruit from our orchard will be donated to the Old Saw Mill again this year, if practical. 1. Bulk seed buying by plot holders raised further funds in the Autumn. <p>Food4Free. No report this month Next one would normally be July.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>Plastic.</p> <p>The articles that Barry sent out last week were a reminder of the size of the issue and the work we have done already. Unfortunately Heather was not present at this meeting, we need to have a real discussion around the subject. Would members please read the stuff</p>	

<p>that Barry has sent out, including a further item that he intends to send out shortly. MS to add Plastic as an item on the 6th July agenda.</p> <p><i>Not just weeds.</i></p> <p>CTC is currently working with CEBC on where wild flower strips can be developed on the highway/verges.</p> <p>In Bloom have a Zoom meeting today (3rd June) when the subject will be raised. This year will be very much about sustainable planting and reviewing what will be best to meet our sustainable and environmental objectives.</p> <p>There is an In Bloom page on the Town Council website https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/discover-congleton/congleton-in-bloom/ which the In Bloom Team will keep updated regarding all aspects around this subject.</p> <p>P.Hirst to write a letter for circulation in The Chronicle.</p> <p><i>Sustainable Housing – P Aston.</i> (Peter’s paper circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <p>Following the success of the Community Share Scheme around the Hydro project, Peter asked if there could be an opportunity for a similar scheme to help regenerate our town centre and protect some of our iconic buildings.</p> <p>There is a real shortage of sustainable housing in the town, with all of the empty properties and possibly some stores that will not reopen This could present us with an opportunity for change.</p> <p>CTC have now set up a group (Headed by Cllr R Chadwick) to look at Town Centre Regeneration, this also forms part of CTC’s business plan going forward. We need to get to know and understand the plans of the property owners and try and work with them to deliver best practice for the town. MS to send a copy of Peter’s paper to Cllr Chadwick, Kay is happy to raise this within The Council working groups as applicable.</p> <p>PA to write a letter/ article for The Chronicle to try and galvanise public support and comment. A kind of consultation first, before formally presenting a paper to the Community and Environment Committee.</p> <p><i>EPH Planning application (20/1934C)</i></p>	<p>MS add to 6.7.20 agenda</p> <p>In Bloom Team</p> <p>P.Hirst</p> <p>MS/KW</p> <p>PA</p>
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	<p>Whilst there was understandably some emotion at the loss of what had been an iconic building in the town it was felt that this development actually met the aims and objectives of getting more people living within the town centre and the benefits that would bring both economically and environmentally. The other recent planning application in West St was also viewed as meeting our aspirations and welcomed.</p> <p>Congleton Partnership Website.</p> <p>The current CSG front page on our website is out of date and needs some thought as to the messages we should be putting out.</p> <p>PA and PP to work on updating this in line with what CSG currently delivers, and what would help to get more residents involved.</p>	<p>PA / PP</p>
	<p>Meeting ended 19.03</p> <p>Next Meeting :- Mon 6th July 2020, via Zoom, 10am.</p>	