

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 3.2.20 **Time:** 10pm **Location:-** Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), Geoff Cook, B.Fox, Peter Hall, A.Linnet, M.Gartside, S.Foster, Suzanne P.Pinto, Glen Williams, B.Speed, J.MacArthur, J.Money, M.Axford, M.Smith & Ben Casey.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>Peter Aston chaired the meeting, he opened with an introduction session round the table.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies.</u></p> <p>P.Minshull, P.Ranson, S.Molesworth</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting (6.1.20) and matters arising</u></p> <p>Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising.</i></p> <p>Item 3. Neighbourhood Plan. Ruth Benson to review Green Spaces. PA to discuss with D.McG</p> <p>Item 5. Congleton Green. 2 meetings now planned 6th Feb and 13th Feb. Date still to be agreed for the SLIC Course to councillors.</p> <p>Big lottery fund application unsuccessful, Mike to ask for feedback .</p>	<p>PA / DMcG</p> <p>MS get feedback.</p>

	Item 6. Air Quality- PA invite Nick Kelly CEBC. Peter has actioned but not yet had a reply from Nick. Carry over to next meeting.	
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> Agenda taken as written.	
5.	<u>Congleton Green:</u> Margaret Gartside to pull together meeting with DMcG, PJA to sort TOR's & SLIC courses and to develop Barry Speeds draft carbon footprint. Officer CTC resource in 20/21 budget. Meeting now booked, 6 th Feb to include Ralph Kemp (CEBC) and 13 th Feb whole group. This should get the group up and running. BF to run an edited highlight s version of the SLIC Course for councillors early 2020. Date still to be confirmed. Big Lottery Climate Change application of interest made, we were unsuccessful, MS has requested feedback from The Big Lottery. 330 applicants, 15 only selected. Will give feedback when received.	MS action.
6.	<u>Green Fayre 30th May 2020</u> We have currently 16 exhibitors booked in following today's update. Little interest yet shown from the sustainable travel sector. PA to chase up. We agreed we would like to close off the road from Moody St and Canal St and invite residents with electric cars, dealers with electric cars, electric cycles and scooters to use the space to advise residents on the benefits and operational costs of using such transport. Posters and flyers now available, social media and advert nearer the time. PA to look at the idea of a film night(s) at OSM, work closely with The Young Pretender to avoid clashes.	PA film nights

7.	<p><u>Trees for Congleton</u></p> <p>The main contacts for the group are:- Adam Linnet, Matt Axford, Patti Pinto(Social Media) and Margaret Gartside (Congleton Green Chair).</p> <p>Regular contact is made with Ruth Burgess and Streetscape (permissions and some physical maintenance support.</p> <p>Dewi Jones is working on a data base to record all trees planted across Congleton and hopefully the local parishes (not enough space within Congleton to plant 30,000) all tree will count.</p> <p>It has been a somewhat quiet start in terms of PR, but now about ready to launch.</p> <p>3 sites planned for Feb, 2 mini orchards already planted, hedge row along Clayton By-pass. Some individuals and CHS have carried out planting, more will be encouraged to partake.</p> <p>The group will now be known as “ Trees for Congleton “ and have drawn up a list of objectives (some details still to be worked on):-</p> <p>Proactive planting of trees, grants, permissions, council involvement. Initial funding from William Dean Trust and The Partnership. Supporting, monitoring of all trees planted.</p> <p>Engaging with people as to why we are doing this. To get people thinking about the bigger picture, Climate Change, Reducing their Carbon Footprint etc.</p> <p>Like the idea of the “Pledge Tree” used at Tatton last year, need to work on how we develop this.</p> <p>Adam has a press release prepared for The Chronicle to help build awareness of the group and its aims.</p> <p>Jo Money is working at a “Green “ theme for this year’s Food & Drink Festival, developing green stalls if Trees For Congleton wish to have a stall to drive their project then let Jo know.</p> <p>The Green Passport may be a way of raising awareness and the F&D team want to support some tree planting themselves.</p>	<p>AL press release</p> <p>Contact Jo Money re F&D stall.</p>
8.	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></p>	

	<p>The prospectus (26 pages) has gone out with 250 people asking for more detail.</p> <p>Looking to raise £750K in the two months that the fundraising drive is on, can be extended if close to realising the required figure.</p> <p>One page advert in The Chronicle, facebook being used, Cathy Dean is working on a Website to support the drive.</p> <p>Register by visiting www.congletonhydro.co.uk/home</p> <p>Tree work starts on 6.2.20, Adam is involved in this activity.</p>	
9.	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></p> <p>OSM now a Community Benefit Society with Charitable Aims Community Shares process being developed to raise funds to purchase the (whole) property.</p> <p>Bank now changed to Barclays.</p> <p>Will launch the share prospectus (£200k) once the Hydro Scheme fundraising has finished 1.4.20.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Sustainable Transport (incorporate Cycle Group Report)</u></p> <p>The Campaign applied for Climate Action Funding but unfortunately we were unsuccessful. We were invited to try again in the next year. We are still being considered for the Reaching Communities Fund and a meeting of the CCC on 29 Jan will decide how to proceed. We need to decide what schemes we can instigate.</p> <p>Work /info required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How they developed the idea. 2. How they work with other partners. 	

	<p>3. How they tested their ideas with the public</p> <p>4. How they understand groups doing similar work.</p> <p>These issues will be worked through then circulate to the group for comment.</p> <p>Will need a separate board to run this project which should be active travel and include Buses, Walking and Cycling.</p> <p>Sustrans have visited Congleton to look at changes that might be made to the National Cycle Network in and around Congleton. Roughly this looked at rerouting Cheshire Cycleway, Regional Route 70, along Wallhill Lane to avoid the A34.</p> <p>It also looked at rerouting NCN55 through Buglawton and Havannah to avoid the Lower Heath gyratory to get to Giantswood Lane.</p> <p>They also looked at extending NCN555 from Stoke to Congleton via Kidsgrove using the Macc Canal towpath to Kent Green and then New Road to Pecks and then upgrading the footpath alongside the A34 to Astbury Mere.</p> <p>Obviously this will involve money and we are looking at how a successful Lottery fund application can be used for structural purposes.</p> <p>We will be at the Food and Drink Fair and at the Green Fayre (fair).</p>	
10.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team</i></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Cycling report.</i></p>	

<p>See above in sustainable travel.</p> <p>Apple Juice/ Cider. Production now finished.</p> <p>Balance Sheet</p> <p>Cash available £5252, Grant Owed £4416, Balance £835. Patti to review outstanding grant monies with Treasurer.</p> <p>The Green Living Group</p> <p>Thanks largely to the efforts of Geoff Cook, who has been coordinating the recruiting, we have a Green Living course starting on 12 February at the Sawmill with 12 members. 6 came from the Green Fayre list and 3 each from Sawmill and U3A advertising. Meanwhile I have been working on a revision of the handbook, but this will not be ready for this course</p> <p>Eco Schools Report.</p> <p>Eco schools: 4 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster. Mossley (overdue July 2019 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> 2020: 6th GF ,July: Saint Mary's & Smallwood (Oct); 2021 Marfields (7th GF) Buglawton has restarted Eco last autumn with new Head teacher, Alison Kennerley, new eco coordinator appointed. Eco advice at Saint Mary's; sessions on transport: grounds; biodiversity (birdwatch). Grants available from KBT Eco-schools to cover £200 fee for GF, to eco-schools in Ches. East still available</p> <p>Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG: 7/1: <i>Cong in Bloom meeting & CSG meeting</i> 14/1 <i>F of C Park meeting.</i> 11/1 <i>Buglawton in Bloom, gardening session</i></p>	<p>PP</p>
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prepare & give talk to Mossley WI on Cong in Bloom (15/01/20)

29/1 Tree team meeting at AMVC

30/1: hedgerow border widened along Clayton by pass

U3A gardening group & other volunteers typically Monday & Friday afternoons, working on- Elizabeth's Garden, West Rd; Community Gardens, Margaret's Place, stock of plants in the Community polytunnel; community orchard pruning & weeding; planting hedgerow on Clayton bypass.

Publicity:

Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom/CSG activities sent to & published by the Congleton Chronicle. 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]

Climate Action Report: Nothing to report

Plastic. No report received this month.

Green Space Trust. No report received this month.

Food4Free.

Planted areas:

Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on Capitol Walk garden, and some time spent clearing around the raspberries and fruit trees at the Fairground.

As a result of speaking to the newly elected town and CE councillors with a view to encouraging more horticulturally appropriate and sustainable maintenance methods for existing shrubs (included in our previous report), we began with the neglected shrubberies by the library. Streetscape staff cleared the majority of weeds, with ourselves

	<p>and U3A/In Bloom volunteers completing this. We and U3A/In Bloom volunteers planted the spaces with perennial plants, paid for by Streetscape. Congleton Food4Free will hoe this area regularly for the first year before handing back the maintenance to Streetscape.</p> <p>1. Publicity: Facebook interaction continued when there are photos to post, or news items. Funding being sought for a second explanatory sign by the library ramp overlooking Capitol Walk garden. A stand at the Congleton Green Fayre in the town hall on 26 Oct 2019.</p> <p>2. Accounts: 2018-19 accounts have been finalised. Summary sheets available on request from Val or Olga. Detailed accounts can be inspected by appointment.</p> <p>3. Miscellaneous Earlier this year we cleared a corner of the overgrown Bromley Farm Community Development Trust allotment (Hillary Ave, Congleton) to grow potatoes and other crops earlier in the year. Later we assisted with preparing the whole site ground ready for full cultivation in 2020.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p><i>Repair Café – Ben Casey</i> Ben talk us through the work he has done developing a repair café idea (paper has been sent out to all CSG Members) and his plans for developing even further. The group felt there was a lot of merit in the idea and suggested actions that could be taken to drive the project forward. PA to talk to Sue Ward (U3A) if any interest there, skills that they may have and possible space with storage.</p> <p>The idea of a pop up shop was raised</p>	<p>PA contact U3A</p>

