

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 6.7.20 **Time:** 10am **Location:-** Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), Ant Bolding, S.Foster, Peter Hall, Glen Williams. M.Smith, M.Gartside,, G.Cook, B.Fox, J.MacArthur, O.Whitmore, A.Linnet, H.Seddon, Saleha Begum and B.Speed.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies.</u> M.Axford, P.Hirst ,M.Khan, P.Minshull, H.Morley, P.Pinto, K.Wesley. L.Miller.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting (2.6.20) and matters arising</u> Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising.</i></p> <p>Item 7.Tree Group Dewi has still to finalise work on the data base, Matt to follow up. PP to carry on with facebook activity.</p> <p>Item 13. Plastic. Added to today’s agenda.</p> <p>Item 13. Not just weeds. MG to answer in PP absence.</p> <p>Item 13. P.Hirst Letter to the Chronicle / PA letter to the Chronicle. Both published . PA now looking to meet with CTC (Congleton Town Council) once they have set up their Town Regeneration Group. The new planning law changes on “change of use” may help this somewhat.</p> <p>Item 13. Partnership website. PA and PP still to work on updating the Sustainability Group front page.</p>	<p>MA</p> <p>PA meet with CTC</p> <p>PA / PP</p>

4.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></p> <p>Taken as advertised.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Congleton Green:</u></p> <p>There has still not been a Congleton Green Meeting since the MayCSG meeting. M.Gartside confirmed that a date had still to be agreed. M.Worthington confirmed to MS that Martin Murphy (Hero Renewables) had visited The Town Hall on Friday 5th June. Access to the Museum was still not available. J.MacArthur to set up a meeting for the near future (Community & Services best bet).</p>	J.Mac.
6.	<p><u>Green Fayre 31st October 2020.</u></p> <p>At the last meeting 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. Taking the latest guidelines into consideration it was felt that a physical event would be out of the question.</p> <p>As this cannot happen as a live event, then we may look to turn it into a 1 hour webinar using Zoom.</p> <p>Adam Linnet to offer support and advice to PA / MS on how we go about setting this up. Need to contact exhibitors to see if they wish to be involved. MS to action re exhibitors.</p>	AL/PA/MS
7.	<p><u>The Tree Group</u></p> <p>AL reported that CWT had put in a bid to Northwest Forest for funds to support the drive to plant 30,000 trees. They should know if this is successful in around 2 month, match funding will then be required, this can however be in kind.</p> <p>MG raised the issue of a Chronicle campaign to get residents to plant trees which we could supply (Oak, Chestnut Fruit etc.)</p> <p>PA commented on the satisfaction of seeing the recent planting on Padgbury Lane starting to flourish. This should help encourage now work of this kind in the autumn.</p>	

8.	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.(Hydro Scheme)</u></p> <p>Once the link road roundabout section on Macclesfield Rd is complete, this should allow access to the site. Physical build should start around 4th August.</p>	
9.	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></p> <p>Apple Juice/Vinegar (3 bottle min) home deliveries are still going okay, order by Thursday, deliveries are on Fridays.</p> <p>Plan to reopen from 9am to 2pm from this week (Mon to Fri) and see how it goes. Social distancing is proving quite challenging.</p> <p>Working on the Big Lunch Club scheme with St Johns and United Reformed Church. Starting Fri 10th July with between 50 to 80 meals being distributed.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Active Travel Congleton (incorporate Cycle Group Report)</u></p> <p>There have been a number of negative comments in the local press and on various social media channels, regarding Cheshire East's additional provision for cycling and walking in Congleton town centre post lockdown. ATC (Active Travel Congleton) decided to see if the complaints were justified.</p> <p>ATC made an objective study of bike riding in Bridge Street in the two week period from June 15, when the changes were introduced, until June 26.</p> <p>We accept there is a small problem of inconsiderate cycling but we do not think it fair to punish the many considerate people because of the few. Denying cycling access by negative signposting alone, will make the problem worse by disenfranchising the many considerate users, forcing many to deal with the traffic on Mountbatten Way and some who will give up and choose to travel by car, while signposting will continue to be ignored by those very people who require targeting. During the study period we recorded 5% of cyclists who behaved inconsiderately.</p> <p>Our detailed report is due to be submitted to the Integrated Transport Working Group of Congleton Town Council at the next opportunity.</p>	

	<p>In addition to this ATC are also investigating the purchasing of an electrically powered trike to take residents of local care homes on trips out to the places where they used to live. Evidence from around the world, where this has been offered, reported that it was a great success with the 'old folk' meeting old neighbours and reporting great mood enhancement. We would like to investigate funding channels.</p> <p>Sustrans have announced that the National Cycle Network will be subject to revision in many parts of the country. The reasoning behind these change is because of the perceived danger to users, on highways sections, that are deemed 'unsuitable for an unaccompanied 12 year old to ride alone'. In Congleton this means that NCN55 will have to avoid the Lower Heath gyratory system and that NCN573 will have to be rerouted completely away from the west end of Congleton. Most importantly it means that Regional Cycle Network (RCN) 70, the Cheshire Cycleway, will cease to be part of the Sustrans network. This does not mean that it will disappear, just that it will become a 'Leisure Route' and will become the responsibility of the local authority: in essence it is already looked after by CE in Congleton.</p> <p>Looking at some improving of the footpath along the A34 as a leisure route.</p> <p>Currently contacting a company called 'Cycling without age' – electric trikes that could be used to transport elderly residents back to place of their childhood.</p> <p>The survey findings from The Pedestrian Area was circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Plastic.</u></p> <p>No physical meeting since lockdown, considering holding some Zoom meetings in the near future.</p> <p>11 businesses had signed up to reducing plastic in one form or another , unfortunately since the pandemic struck plastic usage has increased with the likes of gloves, facemasks , screens etc.</p> <p>Getting difficult to know what to recommend to people to do, will need some legislation by government to reduce manufacture of plastic items long term.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team (P.Minshull)</i></p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p>	

Cycling report. PH / AB

(Circulated prior to the meeting). See active travel.

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

Barry has completed the revision of the Green Living Course handbook and supplied this to Jackie MacArthur for use by the Town Council in devising their online course.

This is now being developed into a digital form by TMC, we should get view of this work in a couple of weeks' time.

Barry is happy to run the courses for councillors using Zoom as physical meetings are still not practical.

Eco Schools – P.Pinto. (issued prior to the meeting)

3 schools (Marlfields, Saint Mary's & Smallwood) with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster. *All other 13 now defaulted to silver:*

2020: 6th GF , due to renew 30 June: Saint Mary's & Smallwood (Oct);

2021 Marlfields (7th GF)

Schools can 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. Limited number of sunflowers received from RHS, given out to Marlfields, Buglawton & Saint Mary's.

Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:

02/6: CSG meeting (zoom)

03/6: CIB meeting (zoom)
08/6: WDT meeting
13/6: Town tidy from Com gardens
14/6 planting with Buglawton in bloom volunteers

June gardening

working singly, or upto 6 volunteers (CIB, U3A, DoE) more recently, following safe distancing guidelines on- Congleton Park sustainable beds; Community Gardens; Margaret's Place; stock of plants in the Community polytunnel; Fairground car park garden; Childrens' tubs; town centre tree trough planting; 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:

See item 11.

Green Space Trust.

No report received.

Food4Free.

No report this month Next one would normally be July. Olga to lead a foraging event tonight (Mon 6th July) around the town starting at Fairground Car park.

13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p><i>Lisa Hargreaves Report.</i></p> <p>Lisa’s report and presentation re the usage of Herbicides were circulated prior to the meeting. The presentation had previously been made to Streetscape, ANSA and Cheshire East management.</p> <p>It was felt that a representation around this should be also taken to Plus Dane Housing.</p> <p>MG commented that the issue around spraying/ chemical usage was planned to be discussed at the Community and Environment Meeting on 30th July. CTC and Streetscape are not using chemicals in or around play areas currently.</p> <p><i>Action for CSG members: We know that chemical spraying is being used by many different organisations, not just local Councils, for example Highways departments, Social Housing managers, and private landowners. Would everyone be vigilant and look out for any signs of herbicide spraying around the Town – ask politely what chemical is being used, and who they are working for. Report any incidents back to CSG or to Lisa Miller – email: hargreaves_lisa@hotmail.com</i></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>AL commented on the natural meadow developments around Swettenham, R.Burgess to visit these sites this week.</p> <p>P.Hirst to write a letter for circulation in The Chronicle.</p>	All members
-----	---	-------------

	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	
	Meeting ended 11.38 Next Meeting :- Tues 4th August 2020, via Zoom, 6pm.	