

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 3.8.21 **Time:** 6 pm **Location:-** Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: Peter Aston, Richard Raine, Steve Foster, Heather.Morley, Barry Fox, Glen.Williams,, Barry Speed, Jackie Kay, Sharon Joynson, Olga Whitmore, Jackie MacArthur, Cllr Margaret Gartside joined at 6.30pm

Guest.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting – as some new members invited members present to introduce themselves	
2.	<u>Apologies.</u> Mike Smith, Peter Minshull, Patti Pinto, Kay Wesley, Matt Axford, Adam Linnet, Peter Hall - NOTE PETER ASTON STARTED RECORDING THE MEETING AT 6.15pm.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</u> Discussion relating to minutes. Agreed that minutes would be labelled as draft minutes until approved at next meeting. When draft minutes are circulated any present member can send in comments. These will be listed and approved or rejected at that next meeting. Agreed to record Barry Speed's Changes to the June meeting – but acknowledged that some of the changes were asked for but at the meeting was told not possible - ie using the Town Hall until mid-afternoon although this has been overtaken by current circumstances as now not possible to use at all. Changes to the June meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-Learning add although BF stated he needed more time to review properly.• Green Fayre change: Saturday lunchtime to mid-afternoon. (The TH was already booked for Saturday change afternoon to	

	<p>evening – note Jackie Mac argued against this as Town Hall was always booked from 3pm and so had the Town Hall been available the Fayre would have needed to close at 1pm -as it is irrelevant as Town Hall not available, which was discussed at the meeting. Group agreed to add all Barry’s changes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Events – to add In discussion, the following confirmed attendance: SLIC, Congleton Green, CSG, Hydro, ATC + Sustrans, WDT, Chesh Wildlife Trust. (Note that Mike has a system and everyone needs to fill in forms and sign up to attending - not just mention in the meeting that they will be there - especially when no shows will cost £25 per group for no shows) • Herbicide Group after –eradicate it. Add CECA members unanimously adopted the position that herbicides and pesticides should not be used. Sam Corcoran agreed that CEC will take a stand politically against herbicide use, but admitted there is a lot of work to get this fully actioned. <p>• Agreed want the minutes to include a flavour of the conversation, not just a clinical note of actions agreed. July minutes accepted, except for the changes to the June meeting minutes.</p> <p><i>Peter Aston Action (what) still outstanding</i> Mike Smith Actions done.</p>	
4.	<p>Approval of the Agenda. Taken as issued.</p>	
5.	<p>Climate Festival and Green Fayre</p> <p>Large number of changes from the last meeting. Green Fayre will now be held in the closed High Street on Saturday 30th October from 10am – 4pm . Around 30 stalls as well as active travel and electric vehicles and other stalls demonstrating green solutions. Building on the success of the 2019 event. Will also be a Climate Festival showcasing a wide range of businesses and green events such as talks, walks, films, tours. Actively want to encourage anyone with a green story to tell to get involved. Group understands the need to advertise widely. Keen to encourage lots more people to get involved. Need the list of activities by early September for publicity purposes. Also looking to produce a guide which includes the itinerary for the week as well as tips for living greener (based on Heather’s submitted list)</p>	<p>Lead on this is Mike S, Peter A, Barry S, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Robert Douglas and Jackie Mac</p>
5.	<p><u>Congleton Green Working Group – Chair Margaret Gartside. Joined in time for this item</u> Draft meeting of minutes attached</p> <p>Group now meeting monthly and has added the nature emergency into the remit. Main drive is about what the Town Council can do</p>	

	to reduce its own carbon footprint and to encourage more areas for nature. Mentioned rewilding project and the 13 pilot areas, the action log for Carbon footprint, reducing footprint of the Town Hall, work Barry Speed carrying out testing Air Quality, reassurance that the E-learning project soon to be launched.	
6.	<p><u>East Cheshire Climate Alliance</u></p> <p>Focus of the past few meeting been about the run up to COP26. Each organisation talking about activities being carried out by their town. As can't find a link to their minutes online attached as a separate document. Barry Speed spoke about the event.</p>	PA/ CD
7.	<p><u>Air Quality</u></p> <p>This was added as an additional item. Barry Speed spoke about the initial problem getting the data off the machine. Pleased that volunteers are helping with checks in 10 or so areas, Hard to draw conclusions at this early stage in testing – but the three AQMAs and Mossley School coming up as areas with high particulates.</p> <p>Group asked Barry's team to explore indoor pollution too – especially around gas and wood burning stoves.</p> <p>Agreed to add Air Quality as a Group Report for future meetings</p>	BS and team
8	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p>Plastic Free Congleton Group report. Noted need to add more Community Space areas to the portfolio - minutes and details from group circulated in advance.</p> <p>Hydro Scheme Generated power off the hydro Sophisticated testing of machinery All proceeding really well - just need more rain.</p> <p>Green Space Trust. No report received</p>	

Commenting team.

No report for this meeting.

Green Living In Congleton.

Barry Fox said new course is likely to start in October working with U3A – may well be on zoom..

Active Travel

Report circulated prior to the meeting. Barry Speed added that signage, buddy scheme and Rickshaw all progressing well. Some other issues to be resolved.

A member of Congleton Cycling Club reports that they tried to get through, late on Friday afternoon and could not.

Congleton Rickshaw: ATC have received over £1,000 in donations towards the purchase of the rickshaw. We need to recruit volunteers who are prepared to become ‘pilots’ or outriders (people who will help passengers get on and off the rickshaw and who will open and close gates, where necessary, BVW for instance). We would also like to recruit people who would like to help with the administration of the service, organising diaries and appointments. If anyone is able to help from within CSG we would love to hear from you. Contact info@atcongleton.uk for more information or if you would like to volunteer. We have spoken to all the Care Homes in Congleton and received very encouraging responses from each. We are also contacting all the developers currently building around town to seek funding.

Cycle Buddies: We have received a grant from CE of up to £800.00, using the money received from DEFRA, to set up a Cycle Buddy Scheme. This will cover insurance, DBS checks and training for ‘Buddies’. Look at atcongleton.uk for details. We plan to do a leaflet drop to all the newly built houses around town. We hope that this scheme will enable people to travel from the new houses to destinations across town with confidence. We want to show people how they can use quieter routes than they might otherwise be familiar with.

SECCAG map ‘Let’s Go Cycling in South East Cheshire’. We are working with South East Cheshire Cycle Action Group to revise and reprint the Let’s Go Cycling SE Cheshire that was last published in 2017. There has been a lot of development in all the 5 towns within the map area, not least the Congleton Link Road, and so the map is way out of date. As before we plan to distribute the map to all year 5/6 pupils at all the primary schools in SE Cheshire. We have distributed the map via libraries , TICs, bike shops and railway stations. Last time Congleton Partnership helped with a £500 grant towards the 2nd edition. We would like to know if the Partnership can do this again and how we should go about this.

Green Fayre: We have booked a stand at the Green Fayre.

Balance Sheet.

Circulate prior to the meeting. Balance £5565.72

Apple Juice/OSM.

Ran out at the end of July. About 2 weeks away from the 1st lot of apples to come in – need to encourage everyone to donate their surplus apples.

Trees for Congelton

Trying to ensure those planted trees are able to survive. Looking at funding and permissions for more planting in the autumn. Particularly looking for local farmers and land owners willing to allow trees and hedges to be planted on their land. Funding is available to farmers/landowners.

Food4Free

1. As with the rest of the country, Covid restrictions have curtailed any projects.
2. Planted areas:
Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on our Capitol Walk garden of perennial edibles/plants for pollinators, and some time on the library shrubberies that we replanted in Nov 2019 for pollinators.

	<p>The Capitol Walk arcade was sold earlier in the year, and the premises include our garden area. The new owners (who have renamed the building Capital Walk) initially said they planned to level the ground for a seating area, but have now said that we can continue gardening on the site.</p> <p>3. Publicity: Facebook interaction continued when there are photos, videos and news items regarding our group's activities and planted areas. See https://www.facebook.com/CongletonFood4Free/</p> <p>Funding is being sought for a second explanatory sign for Capitol Walk garden, to be placed at the top of the library ramp.</p> <p>We have discovered that the smaller silver birch in the Capitol Walk garden was planted in Jan 2007 by town councillors Douglas Parker and the late Margaret Williamson, marking Congleton's award for Best Kept Town (presumably 2006), in a competition run by Cheshire Community Action. Patti is hoping to organise a plaque for the tree, to show its significance to the town.</p> <p>4. Accounts Our accounting year ends on 30 June. Val is not doing the books this year, so we need another member to volunteer to produce our year-end income/expenses and balance sheet. As usual, our records are available for inspection by appointment.</p> <p>5. Volunteering hours for all members (except PP whose hours are in her monthly report to CSG)</p>	
10.	<p><u>AOB.</u></p> <p>Peter Aston will send a letter of condolence to Mike Taylor and Dot Wilson's families.</p> <p>At the AGM will need to recommend a Chair for CSG. Peter Aston proposed and seconded. Barry Speed said would like to see the</p>	

	<p>role of chair rotated. Group all agreed that Peter was an enabling chair who gave everyone a fair opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>Repair Café – something that Peter Aston would like to find time to put energies back into.</p> <p>Library of Things – happening in other areas – such as Frome and maybe Northwich (Olga to explore) could we set this up in Congleton?</p> <p>Greater publicity of the group on Facebook - agreed to advertise the meeting on social media - Richard, Heather and Olga.</p>	
	<p>Meeting ended 7.28pm</p> <p>Next Meeting :- Please note there is no meeting planned for September, the next meeting will be:-</p> <p><u>Mon 4th October via Zoom at 10.00am.</u></p> <p>Time: Oct 4, 2021 10:00 AM London</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83078651862?pwd=bCtqdFdkaEFIQkdrOWsvMkFXZXlqUT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 830 7865 1862 Passcode: 465360</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting</p>	