

**Meeting :** Congleton Sustainability Group.

**Date :** 4.10.21     **Time:** 10 am     **Location:-** Zoom Meeting.

**In attendance:** Peter Aston,, Steve Foster,, Barry Fox, Barry Speed, Olga Whitmore, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Akessandro Pinto, Jackie MacArthur, Cllr Margaret Gartside joined at 6.30pm

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda Item / discussion</b>	<b>Action / comment</b>
1	<b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b> Peter Aston chaired the meeting	
2.	<b><u>Apologies.</u></b> Mike Smith, Antony Bolding, Glen Williams, Kay Wesley. Patti Pinto Group agreed the meeting could be recorded..	
3.	<b><u>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</u></b>  Minutes of the July meeting should have said that Barry Fox said that the E-learning project needed longer to review – not that he needed longer to review the project. Barry Speed said in the September meeting that he wanted it reported that he said there was a disagreement between the directors, not that there were issues to be resolved - to change the minutes.	JMacA change  JMacA change
4.	<b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b> Taken as issued.	
5.	<b><u>CSG Chair</u></b> Peter Aston, long standing Chair of CSG is now the Chair of the Congleton Partnership and time won't allow him to do a good job of both. CSG remains as part of the Partnership and will need a new Chair. Group discussion around what the future of CSG should look like. How to bring in younger people, some members questioned the appropriateness of being so close to the Town Council. Suggested that the current Chair should contact all on the CSG circulation list to see what	<b>PA email</b>

	<p>they think the future aspirations and aims of CSG should be, and whether they would be willing to be on the leadership team to help reshape and reform the group. That the group needs to agree its direction and then appoint a new Chair. The CSG email list should be contacted in October and the suggested objectives brought to the next meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.</p> <p>Check the constitution of CSG</p>	<b>out to current list</b>
5.	<p><b><u>Congleton Climate Festival and Green Fayre</u></b></p> <p>Full steam ahead for the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October – so just ahead of COP 25. A week of activities from the 23<sup>rd</sup> including walks, talks, tours, demonstrations and visits. Around 15- 20 events.</p> <p>Fayre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 10am – 4pm in the closed High Street. 32 stalls available and most booked – just checking on insurances and activities. Could do with more helpers on the day</p> <p>Booklet to contain top tips to living more sustainably as well as promoting all the activities taking place as part of the week.</p>	<b>Mike S, Peter A, Barry S, Margaret G, Robert D &amp; Jackie Mac</b>
5.	<p><b><u>Congleton Green Working Group – Chair Margaret Gartside.</u></b></p> <p>September meeting didn't happen. The group is supporting work on the Green Fayre and Climate Festival promotion – look out for banners, lamppost promotions, brochure, flier, information on social media and in Bear Necessities and local media. Fayre in the town centre. CTC has organised road closures and booked 32 stalls. Hero Renewables are bringing their trailer and there should be some local electric car owners present. Barry has been busy encouraging people to put on activities for the week leading up to the fayre – looks like 15 – 20 events. Events that need to be booked will be sorted through the Town Council booking system. Debbie Coxon at the Town Council will be managing social media.</p> <p>In addition the group has been speaking with Cheshire Wildlife Trust about local projects to Congleton which the Town Council could possibly support through off setting and the main drive is around reducing the Town Council's carbon footprint.</p> <p>The E-learning project will go live ahead of the Climate Festival and looking to include a link on the Fayre publicity. A link to the latest edition will be sent to members of CSG to have a look through. Jackie can make editorial but not structural changes.</p>	CTC led group

6.	<p><b><u>East Cheshire Climate Alliance</u></b></p> <p>In advance of the meeting Barry Speed circulated the minutes of the ECCA to all members. It highlighted the various events that towns are doing ahead of COP26. Unfortunately it failed to list anything for Congleton. The group thought that the Dane Valley group could have been Congleton as contained similar information – but Barry confirmed this was a separate group.</p>	
8	<p><b><u>Group Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b>Hydro Scheme</b> Switched on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September and running well. Started to landscape the site. Can't visit the site at the moment as need to get gates erected. Planning to have public visits during the Climate Festival Week. Some funds in the bank and will be able to start honouring commitments.</p> <p><b>Green Space Trust.</b> Planning visits to the site as part of Climate Festival Week – just clarifying insurance.</p> <p><b>Commenting team.</b> No report for this meeting.</p> <p><b>Food for Free</b> No report for this meeting</p> <p><b>Eco Schools</b> Still have four schools. The system for Eco Schools has changed and schools now need to pay £200 per year to be assessed for a green flag. This is likely to be a barrier for schools. Olga would like to see the Town Council introduce its own scheme to replace Eco Schools. It was reported that is a similar scheme called LEAF. The Tree Group, In Bloom and Eco Schools are working together on the best way forward.</p> <p><b>Green Living In Congleton.</b> A new course is start on 12<sup>th</sup> October for 8 weeks. 6 people signed up. Course will be via zoom</p>	

	<p><b>Active Travel, SECCC and CCC</b>  A few difficulties in the group. The Rickshaw project not going ahead and funds have been returned. Cycle buddies to go ahead. Active Travel more about walking and cycling. Some new people coming forward including Jackie Kay and Richard Raune. South East Cheshire Map being redone. Ray King and Antony Bolding have resigned from the group. The group will be at the Green Fayre handing out leaflets and taking names.</p> <p><b>Treasurers Report</b> Circulate prior to the meeting. Balance £3636.28</p> <p><b>Apple Juice/OSM.</b>  Open for business. Still running the Big Heart Lunch Club delivering around 75 meals. Started juicing the 2021 apple harvest. Call out for people to bring in their apples.</p> <p><b>Trees for Congleton</b>  Have been carrying out work tidying up and checking current sites. New planting will start in November. Working on identifying new sites.</p> <p><b>Plastic Free Congleton</b>  Numbers supporting slowly increasing. Barry Fox questioned whether the group should be encouraging terracycling.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>AOB.</u></b></p> <p>Noted a new group – Climate Action Group is setting up. The inaugural meeting is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October in the United Reform Church starting at 6.30pm. .</p>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting :- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 6pm via Zoom.</b></p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting</p>	