

Meeting: Congleton Sustainability Group AGM

Date: 07.06.2022 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Old Saw Mill

In attendance: Heather Seddon, Glen Williams, Patti Pinto, Linda Aston, Kay Wesley, Peter Aston, Olga Whitmore, Jackie MacArthur.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>Heather welcomed everyone to the first AGM of CSG, a group photo was taken.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Cathy Dean, Alison Wright, John Sherwood, Margaret Gartside, Barry Fox, Mat Axford, Heather Morley, Alec & Val Scaresbrook, P Hall.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Treasurer Report</u></p> <p>The report covers the period Apr 21 to 4th April 22.</p> <p>Grants have been applied for but due to delays from covid have never been started, funds are allocated and carried forward.</p> <p>Accounts summary sheet attached with the minutes, these have been audited as a true and fair representation. (09.07.22)</p>	
4.	<p>Chairs Report:</p> <p>CSG AGM 7 June 2022</p>	

It has been an eventful year for Congleton Sustainability Group. Meetings and events have continued despite the pandemic and we are now returning to a 'business as usual' situation. With Peter Aston becoming Chair of Congleton Partnership in December 2021, CSG required a new Chair, and I agreed to take on the role. It was decided that moving forwards, it would be a good idea for the group to have a more formal constitution, to formalise the transition of elected members to officer roles. With thorough discussion from our membership, a new constitution was created and we are now in a position to formalise that constitution at this AGM.

Meetings are open to anyone and we welcome new members. As an administrative tool to maintain membership, there is a short membership form to complete (just once) so that e-mail distribution lists can be maintained. Members will be able to vote at AGMs and also review CSG communications such as letters to the Chronicle.

We are very lucky that we have the administrative support of the Congleton Partnership and also Congleton Town Council (CTC) for their secretarial support and with maintaining strong links with town events and activities.

As you know, the real work of CSG is done within the sub-groups, and CSG is an umbrella group to bring like-minded individuals together in the town. That is its strength. The sub-groups have worked extremely hard this year and many events and successes have been achieved. These are just a few:

- Oct 21: DVCE launches the Archimedes screw on the River Dane, which is now generating renewable energy and receiving an income to support community groups in the town
- Oct 21: The Congleton Town Council e-learning course was launched, based upon CSGs 'Sustainable Living In Congleton' course, developed by Barry Fox. If you haven't completed the e-learning course yet then please do – <https://learn.congleton-tc.gov.uk>
- Oct 21: The 2nd Green Fayre is a big success; many thanks to Peter Aston, Barry Speed and CTC for their hard work in the organization of such a big event. Multiple stalls and events over a week long period were held which brought exposure to Congleton residents of the climate and biodiversity crises. A booklet of hints and tips to help with the environmental crises was published.
- Oct 21: Congleton Climate Action Group is launched. Many Thanks to Jackie Kay and the Climate Action Team. Their 'Pesticide Free Congleton' campaign is launched in May 22.
- Oct 21: Congleton Plant Swap and Gardening for Wildlife Facebook Page is launched, several successful plant swap events have taken place – Many Thanks to Lisa Miller and her group for organizing these events.
- Nov 21: Trees for Congleton are extremely active in this years' tree planting season from October to April. The group are over half way through their target of planting 30,000 trees in 5 years, which is a fantastic achievement. Many Thanks go to Ruth Benson, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams and Margaret Gartside in particular for their incredible hard work in the planning and organization of the new planting.

This is a huge piece of work, which will benefit the town for years to come, make Congleton look more beautiful, increase biodiversity, provide free fruit for the local community and help reduce carbon emissions. 70 cherry trees have also been planted around the town as part of the Queen's Green Canopy for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

- Feb 22: Congleton Repair Café is launched. The team have had 4 Repair Café events to date, and also 2 bike repair sessions at Bromley Farm Community Centre – Well Done to them! Thanks go to Ben Casey and also to Glen Williams for his support with the bike repair sessions.
- Apr 22: DVCE receives £100,000 from the Rural Development Agency for a feasibility project for a hydro-scheme at the Congleton park weir and significant solar installations.
- May 21: Congleton Food4Free in conjunction with Friends of Congleton Park, plant an edible section of the new Bee Friendly Garden. The transfer of edible plants from the Capital Walk garden to the Fairground plot is ongoing.
- May 21: Plastic Free Congleton achieves 'Plastic Free Community' status. Many Thanks to the small team of volunteers who worked really hard to achieve this status – Heather Seddon, Caroline Kelly, Stephanie Cooke, Heather Pearce, Mike Tingle, John Sherwood, Margaret Gartside and Jackie Kay.
- May 21: Planning for Congleton's biodiversity project is near completion, Many Thanks to Ruth Benson for her expertise in this large piece of work.
- The Air Quality Group has been monitoring regularly to collect air quality data. Many Thanks to Barry Speed and to all the volunteers who have helped collate the data.

We should also mention there have been some difficulties to this last year. The Congleton Cycling and Walking Group have disbanded which is a shame. There has also been a split in the Congleton Food4Free Group, with a second Congleton Food4Free – Seeds for Resilience Facebook Page being set up. Both Food4Free Groups are welcome to attend CSG meetings, there is room for everyone.

There is always more we can do, but I think everyone has had an amazing year in the environmental space. We are getting more organized with delivering environmental messages to Congleton residents and ensuring events and opportunities for volunteering are well advertised and attended.

I look forward to working with everyone in the year ahead.

Many thanks for your support,

	<p>Kind regards, Heather Seddon Chair, Congleton Sustainability Group</p>	
5.	<p>Constitution</p> <p>The constitution was approved and adopted by the group. Congleton Town Council to provide secretarial support.</p>	
6.	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>Heather Sneddon is formally voted in as Chair The treasurer is Linda Aston</p> <p>AGM concluded at 7:20 pm</p>	