

Meeting: Congleton Partnership Executive Meeting

Date: 29.06.2022 **Time:** 5:30 pm **Location:** Zoom

In attendance: Peter Aston, Cathy Dean, Jackie McArthur, Glen Williams, Peter Houldsworth, John Davies, Patti Pinto, Amanda Martin.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>Peter opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Kay Wesley, Diana Ritherdon, David McGifford, Bob Edwards, Susan Munro, Jackie Randles, Suzy Firkin, Margaret Gartside, Linda Hulse, Jo Money, Steve Foster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Steve Foster is stepping down from the Partnership due to other commitments, we thank Steve for all his invaluable help and knowledge.	CD - Letter
3.	<p><u>Congleton Partnership the way forward Presentation</u></p> <p>The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the presentation that was sent out to the current 20 members of the Executive.</p> <p>Questions received prior to the meeting:</p> <p>Patti – Where does the U3A fit in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Where do charity reps fit in?	

	<p>- What will happen to the current 20 voting members?</p> <p>Margaret – No.3 on the vision is not clear</p> <p>Linda – Where does Congleton Museum Fit in?</p> <p>Jo – Why do chairs chosen by the subgroups need to be ratified by the Partnership?</p> <p>Diane– Prefer Dementia friend to be under the health and wellness category, not Senior Forum.</p>	
4.	<p>Ambitions</p> <p>Discuss with Margaret what’s not clear about No.3</p> <p>No.4 – How is the Partnership going to work with surrounding Parishes given that so many new houses are being built and people moving in who have no knowledge of the Partnership?</p> <p>David/Peter having lengthy discussions to create some fink of support structure so surrounding Parishes can bring into the partnership their ideas, projects/support etc.</p> <p>Amanda raised concerns that the ambitions are too ambitious, she would like to see more ‘down-to-earth’ goals to realise projects that make the town better, that is what the partnership is meant to do. References were made to the Public Realm and Town centre plan which very little has come to fruition although 16k was paid for a plan.</p> <p>Carbon Neutrality by 2030 is a great ambition but is it achievable given it’s largely out of our control?</p> <p>Discuss back at the oversight meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Cathy/Peter</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Partnership Structure</p> <p>Partnership Community – open meeting, every 6 months bringing together different groups from the town for information share and collaboration.</p> <p>Partnership Project Review Forum – Project reports/working groups etc.</p> <p>Partnership Committee – Oversees the Partnership direction.</p> <p>6 categories were suggested which current groups and new groups would sit under. A representative from each of the categories would represent the groups on the Partnership Committee.</p> <p>Lots of discussion around where certain groups would sit, this needs to be discussed further, how do you get one representative from such a diverse range of groups in each category? Have we over-complicated the process?</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Town Council Representation</p> <p>Under the proposed plan only one representation is included, currently, there are two elected councillors who are on the current exec with voting rights. The partnership does receive funds from the Town Council, as its public money it needs to be represented correctly.</p> <p>A council decision would need to be made to change that allocation.</p> <p>Glen - Is it within the gift of the partnership to request representation from the council or is it a requirement from the town council to have two elected representatives?</p> <p>This needs to be addressed/unpicked – what we don't want is the partnership meetings to become like council meetings, the purpose of the partnership is to deliver projects that improve the town.</p>	

<p>7.</p>	<p>Funding – Bank account</p> <p>We are running into challenges while applying for funding (grants) does the partnership need to have its own bank account with it's own set of accounts?</p> <p>As the partnership has ringfenced accounts with the town council which are fully audited the perception is that the funders are putting money into the Town Council.</p> <p>Could we have a hybrid model where we have our own bank a/c but still keep funds within the town council account?</p> <p>Peter is set to have a conversation with two or three of the main funding bodies to see if it's a case of perception or it's a case of pressure from trustees and rules set via the charities commission, which are two very different things.</p> <p>If we are to fulfil the ambitions, we are going to need to attract much larger funds from outside the town so perhaps we take advice from CVS to see what is required.</p> <p>Amanda – if the Partnership is set up as an independent body, with its own bank account then the council wouldn't need to gift funds of 15k, it could look at all the individual plans for projects and decide what it would like to fund. If the Partnership was to set up on its own who would support Cathy Dean's position as currently funded via town council.</p>	<p>Cathy to check with Serena</p> <p>Peter/John</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Recording and Reporting</p> <p>Theirs is currently no formal process of reporting or recording what the Partnership is delivering, group reports can be adhoc and we traditionally underreport, and undervalue our impact.</p> <p>Reporting will be part of the project review forum so let's have a conversation about the best method to record impact, measure value and record data such as volunteer hours.</p>	

A.O.B

Next meeting TBC

Meeting of the Partnership Oversight committee to meet to discuss points raised during this meeting.