

Meeting Minutes: Partnership Executive Meeting

Date: 13th June 2023 **Time:** 5:30 pm **Location:** Congleton Town Hall

In attendance: Peter Aston (Chair), David McGifford, Margaret Gartside, Kay Wesley, Patti Pinto, Cathy Dean (Secretary) Amanda Martin, Jackie MacArthur, Susan Munro, Glen Williams, Bob Edwards, Anna Maluk.

Apologies: Peter Holdsworth, Mark Bailey, Heather Sneddon, Diane Ritherdon, Jo Money, Suzy Firkin.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th September Congleton Town Hall 5:30 pm

<p>1.</p>	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Peter chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the group. Anna Maluk was welcomed to the meeting. Anna is the assistant manager at Congleton Museum.</p> <p>Minutes were approved from the last meeting on 21.02.23</p> <p>Outstanding Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rowan trees planted on Mountbatten way are not thriving, some of the planters are broken. The trees can be replanted at another site and hopefully saved. Patti is looking into, consulting with Ruth Burgess. This is £3214 left in the Public Realm budget for replacement planters/trees. UPDATE 12.06.23 – Some of the trees & their boxes have been brought to the park, the trees have been given to a local farmer who has replanted them. Boxes need to be refurbished before anything can be planted in them. The rest of the trees & boxes will be brought in during the autumn when the trees can be replanted locally. • Inclusive Roundabout – A photo call was arranged on the 11th of May, thanks to all those who attended. The press release was sent to the local press. • Tea Dance – The Senior forum has proposed to hold an afternoon tea for the Kings Coronation but due to local elections and other committed events this didn't go ahead. We will look to when else we can hold the event. • Health and Wellness Fayre – Held on the 28th of March at Congleton Town Hall, 40 exhibitors and over 200 people visited the event. Great feedback from all who attended. Having the breakout area in Bluey's and refreshments worked out well.
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <p>Cathy went through the Partnership finance report. See Attached.</p> <div data-bbox="245 1845 309 1912" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Congleton Partnership Executive</p> <p>Cheshire East Funding has now ended for Congleton Partnership. Congleton Town Council will ring-fence 9k for Partnership projects in the 23/24 financial year.</p>

	<p>The Cost-of-Living grant is being held in the Congleton Sustainability Group account. Which is not included in the Partnership Balance.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Partnership Project Report</u></p> <p>The full Partnership Group Report is attached.</p> <div data-bbox="245 680 312 745" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="177 750 379 801">Congleton Partnership Report M</p> <p>Project Updates:</p> <p>Congleton VCP – The 12-month funded programme to develop the Volunteer Co-ordination point has come to an end. The initial start of the project was somewhat delayed as we waited for the AMI system to materialise. CEC’s contract with the Social Action Partnership is coming to an end on the 30th of June, the AMI system will still be running but assuming no further development will be delivered. There is an underspend on the grant money which Cheshire East have agreed can be carried forward to carry on with the project.</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged with Kerry from Cheshire East on Thursday 22nd June.</p> <p>Alison Wright has been leading the project via the Old Sawmill with some wonderful case studies. There is every intention to carry on the project and continue to develop volunteers within the town. Congleton VCP isn’t a very attractive name, so ideas please as to what to call it!</p> <p>Congleton Volunteers Hub / Congleton Helpers Hub / Volunteer Centre</p> <p>Look at successful programmes like Nantwich Buddies.</p> <p>Defibrillator’s</p> <p>The 7th defibrillator has been installed at West Heath Shopping Centre, and the 8th 24hr access defibrillator is waiting to be fitted at the Bowling Club at Mossley.</p> <p>There is now £700 left from the approved budget. Which will get one more match funded defib with the Lions – did the partnership what to approve more money for further defibs?</p> <p>Several questions were asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What’s the best practice for the number of defibs a town the size of Congleton should have? 2. Can we have a map of defibs that are 24hr access? Where are they, what’s the spread? 3. Are they still in service/batteries etc.? <p>Mike Smith previously compiled a list, but this must be out of date now.</p> <p>It’s vital that people still ring 999 first, the defibs can only be accessed by a code which will be issued on the 999 calls, they can also direct people to the nearest IN-SERVICE device.</p>

Cathy to compile a list and understand the spread around the town.

Congleton Lions will be holding a FREE defibrillator and resuscitation information event at West Health Shopping Centre on **Saturday 24th June starting at 10.00 am no booking is required**, everyone is welcome to attend. We will have demo defibrillators and resuscitation dummies for people to try.

Courses such as these can help you to be confident and ready in the rare event of having the need to use a defibrillator. Why don't you drop in and talk to our qualified members and members from NWAS?

Community Projects – Another successful Food & Drink festival was held in the town on the 11th of June. It was a packed high street, with businesses in the town reporting their best Sunday trading of the year. Just goes to show how important these events are for our town.

Solar Panel Project

Following the successful construction and commissioning of Congleton Hydro at Havannah Weir, more commonly known as "ARCHIE", the team behind it have secured grant funding to develop a brand-new renewable energy scheme.

The Solar Panel project now has 10 confirmed customers with letters of intent which means it can now move forward with a share offer. The target date to launch the offer is 5th July.

No monetary support is being sought from the Congleton Partnership at this time, but marketing support is being provided by Cathy as Partnership Officer.

CTC supports Cathy's role the question was raised if that support should be offered. Congleton Hydro has historically been considered as part of Congleton Partnership with various support both monetary and expertise used in the past. There is no objection to Cathy providing marketing support to launch the share offer.

Find out more:

<https://www.congletonhydro.co.uk/park-weir-and-solar/>

Congleton Museum

Anna joined the Museum in January as Assistant Manager, Congleton Museum is celebrating 21 years! Night At the Museum Events: - B O O K your tickets to Night at the Museum: Celebrating 21 Years, for an exclusive museum talk and the opportunity to view some of our most treasured objects from behind the glass. Book either the 8th or 10th of August 2023.

Tickets are £11.50, Friends of Congleton Museum (members) receive a 30% discount. All tickets include nibbles and a complimentary glass of fizz, a non-alcoholic option will also be available.

Book 📖 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/congleton-museum-62734769753>

A very successful volunteer week was held, and 22 new volunteers were welcomed.

A new mum's group is in the planning, there are lots of baby-led groups but a gap for mum's health & well-being – more info to follow.

	<p>Elizabeth's Group</p> <p>Elizabeth's groups hosts a regular show on Congleton Radio - Elizabeth's Corner is on every Monday at 6am, 12pm, 6pm and 10pm.</p> <p>The group is also planning on launching at publication, the book will cover all aspects of being a women, although it's not limited to women writers. Work can still be submitted anytime up until 30th August, poem, short story, or artwork. Contact elizabethwelmy@gmail.com</p>
<p>A</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Cathy to compile a list of defibs and understand the spread around the town.</p> <p>Cathy to support Congleton Solar with the share offer</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>New Projects</u></p> <p>Community Land Share Project -</p> <p>Congleton Partnership was successful in applying for the Cost-of-Living Grants to encourage growing community food total £9580.</p> <p>Land sharing project which grows local, fresh, sustainable food for the community. Whilst there are approx. 300,000 allotments across the UK, land set aside for plots has declined by 70% since their peak with waiting lists as long as 40 years in some parts.</p> <p>There are waiting lists in Congleton for the limited supply of available allotment space, and there are homeowners/tenants who have gardens they struggle to maintain or would be happy to utilise their land to grow food. We will provide a match-making service between growers and garden owners with all the necessary tenancy agreements, land usage, visiting rights and safeguarding policies in place to protect both parties.</p> <p>£1000 from the grant was reserved to develop the community plot at Hilary Ave in Partnership with Bromley Bloomers. A planting day was organised for 17th June from 11 am. 4 raised planters were planted with flowers and 4 lower planters were planted with vegetables/herbs.</p> <p>The depth of soil wasn't enough on the main growing beds, these need more soil ordered and maybe edged before plants can go in. Bromley Bloomers to action.</p> <p>Congleton Wellbeing Hub</p> <p>Plus Dane has kindly offered one floor of their premises on Worrell Street as a wellbeing hub for Congleton. Allowing local people to access services that they may have had to travel out of town for.</p> <p>9 service providers have now filled in an expression of interest detailing how they would use the space, hours they would need etc.</p> <p>Plus Dane is collating the information and working out the logistics of access, insurance etc. A steering group will be set up, Cathy & Glen are keen to be part of it. As well as Jo Money from community projects. More information to follow.</p>

5. **A.O.B**

Congleton Library –

Public consultation opens on plans to reduce services at Congleton Library - If the plan goes ahead, it will see current opening hours at all libraries closed for at least 1.5 days during the week and reduced funding for the purchase of new books and newspapers.

Residents have until July 9 to comment on the plan: <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/4CNRIY/>

Congleton Library provides more than just library service for residents and is a vital support service for many Congleton Residents. Could it come under CTC control? Could more volunteers be used to help run the service? Jackie Mac is to meet with Library Management.

Green Fayre –

The Green Fayre will be 30th September (the same day as Makers' market), it's a joint project between CTC and Partnership. Costs will be shared. Please contact Cathy if you would like help to organise or would like a stall.

Moody Hall –

Sue asked the question if any progress had been made with contacting the Owner of Moody Hall unfortunately David confirmed that the owner is unresponsive.

Trust open for applications

Congleton Hydro & Solar Community Trust is open for applications, the total fund is £5000. Groups, Schools, and businesses can apply for funding for green projects, closing date is 30th June:
<https://www.congletonhydro.co.uk/community-trust-fund/>

Actions:

Cathy to compile a list of defibs and understand the spread around the town.

Cathy to support Congleton Solar with the share offer

Next Meeting Dates (All take place at Congleton Town Hall).

12th September 2023 5:30 pm

12th December 2023 5:30 pm

