

Meeting : Projects & Finance Committee.

Date : 17.11.14 **Time:** 9.30am

Location: Congleton Town Hall, Spencer Suite.

In attendance: M.Smith, S.Foster (Chair), J.MacArthur , B.Hogan ,G.Williams, & P.Bates

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1.	Welcome and Introduction.	Apologies:- M.Williamson, Bob Edwards, J.Money & J.W.Beardmore.
2.	<p><u>Matter Arising from the last meeting (22.9.14)</u></p> <p>A lot of what could be seen as matters arising will be covered in the body of the agenda. Items raised were as follows:-</p> <p><i>Item 4. Town Centre Development.</i> JMac reported that we had a recent meeting with Simon Quinn (High St UK 2020). This amounted to some feedback as to where we were viewed from feedback from the forum held in the autumn, how they were trying to measure performance across a number of towns and a promise of an Options Sheet by the year end which would help us in decision making. Simon plans to come back to Congleton in January to discuss further how we move the town forward .</p> <p><i>Item 7. Lifestyle opportunity for Congleton.</i> AS recorded in the last minutes. BH chaired a joint meeting between Town Councillors and Partnership Executive Members, a wish list of services / facilities we would like to see in the new centre(s) were prioritised and sent as a joint reply to L.Baumanis (Lifestyle Project Leader)</p> <p><i>Item 9. Funding requests.</i></p>	.

	<p>All groups responded with their budget requirements for 2015/16, this was summarised and a paper produced that went to the Town Councils Finance & Policy Committee. F&P requested that The Partnership present to them at the November F&P meeting before a final decision on support is made.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Town Centre Update.</u></p> <p><i>Bridestones 2.</i> BH has had further discussion with W. McAlister (Scarborough) and was advised that CEBC had not made contact with Scarborough since September despite daily attempts. WMc also confirmed to BH that they are continuing to push Morrison's and are hoping for a site meeting in the near future to get commitment one way or another. The meeting indicated disappointment in the situation and feared that this may be the end of this development taking place as all sides appeared to be dragging their feet with no real urgency being made. Comment was also made on the state of supermarket retailing and a real feel that some downsizing was starting to take place as the economy, market and shopping trends started to bite.</p> <p><i>Capitol Walk.</i> Recently the Town Centre Manager and some Town Councillors have had meetings with Clowes Development (owners of Capitol Walk) management over the current appearance /low occupation of the site. Clowes appear to be ready to re brand and re market the site and to do so to meet the Christmas Trade peak. They are looking for a new brand name and plan to run a competition locally to come up with the same. They are viewing the Pop Up Shop strategy to get units back into use and encourage people to start up /test businesses, and looking at more flexible /short leases to also encourage uptake and improve occupancy.</p> <p><i>Public Realm Strategy.</i> It was reported that CEBC (D.Brown) had put out or was about to put out a press release around supporting Public Realm improvement in Congleton. This has yet to be seen and may be held until the planned meeting with CEBC / CTC w/c 24th November. It was felt that we should be pushing for the first 2 projects to be completed as per our strategy document, and to make this point clear in any discussion with CEBC. It was noted that the planned Gas Improvement works planned for the new year would need to be</p>	

	<p>carried out in the precinct before anything else could take place.</p> <p><i>Credit to both The Partnership and The Town Council for this development is recorded in these minutes.</i></p>	
4.	<p><u>Projects Update..</u></p> <p><i>The project featured were:-</i></p> <p><i>Cycleway Town Centre to Congleton Railway Station.</i></p> <p>This is on track to be completed by March 2015.</p> <p>J.Mills (CEBC) is currently working with Canal and Rivers Trust regarding Towpath restoration, and is virtually ready to put the signage in place. She has agreed with Belmont (Bromley Road) the supply and fitting of a cycle trough up the steps and will advise them to fix some sort of banding / label to the said item to advertise their business / support. The issue of the junction at Lawton St and Park Lane will be tackled at a later date.</p> <p><i>Antrobus St Gardens.</i></p> <p>Draft design issued to group members 13.5.14. Tree work to remove some of conifers has taken place and J.Byrne has advised that she is currently working on the hard landscaping.</p> <p>Designs for the sculptures (Heart / Apple Core Seat) will be put before the Executive (2.12.14)</p> <p>Archway and Fitness Item still to be progressed.</p> <p>Work is planned to be finished in time for next years In Bloom activity.</p> <p><i>Town Centre Development.</i></p> <p>As recorded in the matters arising section, Simon Quinn (High ST UK 2020) is planning to come back to Congleton in January to hold further discussion on how we move the town forward.</p>	

	<p><i>Cenotaph Project.</i></p> <p>The A & E activity is going as planned. The Museum exhibition will take place in January, with modified school packs being developed. Further Poetry Workshops and some sculpture workshops are planned for early next year.</p> <p>HLF first stage submission went in as planned 27.8.14, confirmation received from HLF of receipt, we should know by January if the bid has been successful.</p> <p>The 125 year lease for ownership of Community Gardens has been accepted by our solicitors.</p> <p><i>Public Realm Strategy.</i></p> <p>As reported earlier, some major development of support with CEBC and this should result in the first 2 projects being delivered in the not too distant future.</p> <p><i>River Dane Walkway / Cycleway.</i></p> <p>As reported before funding for the scheme (£43k) proving difficult.</p> <p>Cheshire East have now made a contribution of £25k towards the project and MS currently waiting for Genni Butler/ Simon Davies to confirm the date for a site visit / project discussion.</p> <p>CJones has requested a land registry report for the site ownership</p> <p><i>Senior Forum.</i></p> <p>Working with AgeUk and CEBC (Deb Lindop).Organisations had been contacted (40)</p> <p>1st Event held 30.9.14 with around 16 different organisations attending. Second meeting is arranged for 18.11.14. The group is currently being co-chaired by S.Foster and G.Williams.</p>	
5.	<p><u>New Website.</u></p> <p>The new website address is :- www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</p>	

	<p>The new site will be presented to the Partnership Executive at the meeting 2.12.14.</p> <p>The chairs are currently populating their pages and a gallery of achievement is being set up.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></p> <p>The plan boundary has now been agreed and the first meeting of the working party (approx. 30 members) is planned for 3rd December. Still short of representation of the schools and awaiting a reply from U3A CEBC are providing some consultancy support by a third party. Not sure how many hours this will deliver. The plan could take up to 2 years to deliver, until then we could still be at the mercy of developers.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Lifestyle opportunity for Congleton.</u></p> <p>As a group we have a desire for this development to be over 2 sites (Leisure Ctr / Town Ctr) but fear that the development may be driven by cost and not by more forward thinking / consideration of what a town centre facility could do for both ease of movement and the economy of the town centre. It was requested that S.Foster write to Cllr Jones, pointing out our concerns , desires and highlight the benefits to the town if part of this is actually developed in the town centre its self. SF to copy in The Town Council so that the issue can again be raised in committee. SF to write to Mary Portass for her views and feedback as to dual siting of provision and what it would do for the town centre. Mary can be contacted on :- maryp@optomen.com</p>	<p>SF write to Cllr Jones re 2 site development.</p>
8.	<p><u>Youth Hub/ Partnership Transport.</u></p> <p>Hub. No further development. This is part of CEBC Hub Pilot Project. GW to follow up with Alan Lawson.</p> <p>Transport.</p>	<p>GW contact A.Lawson</p>

	GW currently putting together an operating procedure. The minibus was successfully used to transport the Bloom Team to Southport for the RHS presentations. It is currently housed at New Life Church.	GW writing operational brief
9.	<p><u>Funding Requests.</u></p> <p>A funding request was received from the youth forum to support Children's Right Month. The request was for £300 to support activity at Eaton Bank Academy and Bromley farm Youth Club to provide for material to support the CHR projects being carried out on these 2 sites.</p> <p>A full request letter will be held on file. Request granted £300 awarded, GW to send an invoice to MS using purchase order number 511/1415</p>	GW. Invoice to MS. Purchase order number 511/1415
10.	<p>A.O.B</p> <p><i>Vale Allotments.</i> These have now been registered as a community asset and 6 week monitorum has kicked in. This will extend to 6 months once a confirmation to make a bid for the site is given to CEBC.</p> <p><i>Xmas Lights.</i> JMac ask that a thank you to The Partnership for providing the cross street lights sites in Lawton St / Browns Furnishers be recorded in the minutes.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Date of the next meeting:-</u></p> <p>Monday 19th January 2015, The Spencer Suite, Congleton Town Hall. 9.30am</p>	