

**Meeting :** Congleton Partnership Executive.

**Date :** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2104.

**Time:** 5.30pm.

**Location:** Bridestone Suite, Congleton Town Hall.

**In attendance:** M.Smith, S.Foster ( Chair), G.Williams , P.Aston, M.Williamson, K.Graham, D.Daniel, P.Boon, R.Edwards, J.Money, L.Murgatroyd, A.Lawson ,D.Topping, P.Bates, J.MacArthur, J.Hearson, P.Minshull, Matt Jones (Youth Committee) J.Beardmore, M.Nixon.

**Guests:** R.Domleo, Cathy Deane, Mike Taylor, Liz Zlcock (CEBC) P.Pinto & K.Minshull.

**Public:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda Item / discussion</b>	<b>Action / comment</b>
1	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Apologies:</u></b> Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting , with a special welcome to Cathy Dean (IBD) and Mike Taylor (CSG / SLIC presenter)</p> <p>Apologies as noted.</p>	<p>Apologies: S.Forshaws ,J.Crowther, D.Murphy,G.Hayes G.Baxendale.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b> were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair.</p> <p><b><i>Matters Arising:-</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Item 4. Wellbeing Activities Congleton.</i></b> SF has had a discussion as to how to take the idea forward. Team Congleton met on 2.12.14 and Cllr Brightwell gave a presentation on a planned 'Getting Congleton Fit' activity for the whole of July 2015. It was felt that this would present an opportunity for Youth Forum involvement particularly with the Celebrating Youth Day being organised on 11<sup>th</sup> July. SF to ask J.Doe to present this idea/activity at our next Executive Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.</p>	<p><b>SF to ask JD to present to us on 3.3.15</b></p>

	<p><b>Item 5. Congleton Learning Centre Financial Support.</b> The meeting requested that MS obtain a report on the outcomes following The Partnership's financial support (£2K) of the CLC.  <i>(MS has received and circulated a report from CLC which looks very positive)</i></p> <p><b>Item 6. Neighbourhood Plan.</b> The first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan working group is on 3.12.14, we are represented on that group by S.Foster,P.Minshull and P.Aston.</p>	<p><b>MS contact Adele at CLC.</b></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b><u>New Partnership Website – Cathy Deane (IBD)</u></b></p> <p>Cathy took us through a presentation outlining the new website (<a href="http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk">www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</a>) and its features. This was very well accepted, it now gives us both an identity and a platform to use to get our message through to the general public and hopefully gain members and volunteers at the same.</p> <p>MS requested that group chairs look at their individual pages and amend as required. All website articles/ request to be channelled through MS.</p> <p>Would anyone submitting articles to local media please add the website address to the article, we need to get public awareness of who we are and what we are doing.</p> <p>There is also a new social media element. The Twitter Feed is <a href="https://twitter.com/congopar">@congopar</a> , please follow if you are using this form of communications.</p>	<p><b>All website articles to be channelled through MS.</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Sustainable Living In Cingleton (SLIC) – Mike Taylor.</u></b></p> <p>Mike Taylor (Carbon Reduction Group Chair) took us through the SLIC presentation. SLIC is a course to help people respond to the threat of climate change and other environmental issues in their daily lives. The SLIC workbook (issued to all members on the night) is made up of 7 modules and was developed from the Transition Streets courses used in the transitional town of Totnes. If the modules are worked through and life style adapted then note only will there be a real saving in carbon usage, but a very healthy saving in personal finance as well. Mike's presentation and some of his recording sheets can be found on the Carbon Reduction page on the Partnership website.</p>	

	<p>Any requests for more information or possible talks to organisations should be made to M.Taylor using the e-mailaddress as printed in the SLIC book <a href="mailto:taylortribe53@gmail.com">taylortribe53@gmail.com</a></p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Town Centre Report – J.MacArthur.</u></b></p> <p><b>a) Town Centre</b> - End of leases, merges, illness and the continued tough time experienced by many on the High Street has led to more changes in the Town Centre. Occupancy is currently at 85% for the Town Centre – 204 units, 183 occupied. If you could exclude Capitol Walk from the equation occupancy rates rise to 90% 223 units 190 occupied.</p> <p><b>b) Shops ceased trading</b> – Hallmark Thornton stopped trading and the owner has started marketing the shop. House moved from 3 High Street to upstairs in Empire Menswear. Nationwide merged with Cheshire Building Society and moved into the CBS building on the pedestrian area. The 25 year lease finished on the building occupied by the YMCA – not sure on the future of the building and whether the owner will invite YMCA back.</p> <p><b>c) Shops opened</b> Delia Metcalf shoe shop (in the former A&amp;A music shop), new hairdressers about to open outside Capitol Walk, Titanic breweries have opened in the Kings Arms. Mr Wendles opened in Lawton Street. Amans opened in West Heath Shopping Centre. Work continues on the former Game Station in the High Street and the new bar in Lawton Street but no date given for new occupiers.</p> <p>1. <b>£1 million</b> - Cheshire East has committed £1 to the first two phases of Public Realm work in Congleton -the Cheshire East Highways Team will be working up a scheme which will be shared with all interested parties. The timing isn't clear, but this is great news for Congleton as rather than talking about the need and desire to improve the public realm we now have financial backing to make improvements to the pedestrian area and the space at the crossroads of Moody Street, Market Street, High Street and pedestrian area.</p> <p>2. <b>Artisan Market</b> - The Artisan market was cancelled on the 9 November due to the</p>	

Remembrance Sunday parade. The final artisan market of the year will be held on Sunday 14 December. Please support if you can.

3. **Bear Necessities** –The Autumn edition was distributed from 8 October. The winter edition will be distributed early in January and I am currently compiling a list of all events for 2015

4. **Car Parking Charges** - thank you to everyone who filled in the on-line questionnaire. We fed all the results into Cheshire East. Cheshire East has delayed the putting together of a detailed parking strategy until next summer, but has gifted the towns some free parking on the 6, 13 and 20 December. In Congleton Princess St, Fairground and Back Park Street will be free after 10am. Back Park Street remains free after 3pm every day. This is welcomed.

**5. Charity Collectors - face to face debit collectors**

Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Sandbach, Nantwich and Knutsford Town Centres are working with Cheshire East and the Public Finance Regulatory Authority to get a Voluntary Agreement on the time, number and locations that Charity debit collects can visit. Next meeting is 24 January.

**6. Christmas**

A massive thank you to everyone who was involved with the Christmas lights switch on. Over 100 little trees were sold to shops, more than 50 volunteers helped marshal on the night. The move away from the stage to a Christmas Street Festival seemed to work well – and received lots of positive feedback. Still some areas to work on for next year. We will have a feedback meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. If you have any comments for the Christmas Crackers Team contact Jackie MacArthur or Jo Money

**7. In Bloom / Community Pride**

Since the last meeting we have had the results of the In Bloom competitions - Double Gold! North West in Bloom is not putting any large towns through to Britain in Bloom this year. Unfortunately

	<p>we have run out of time to do a thank you evening this year, so we will hold one early in the New Year. One of the National In Bloom judges will be returning to Congleton on the 10<sup>th</sup> December to give us ideas and hints for future success.</p> <p><b>8. Town Guide – 2015-16</b>  Hoping to finish this week – it’s looking really good and will be printed before Christmas ready for distribution early in the New Year.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Group Chairs Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Community Projects – Jo Money.</i></b> <i>Jo reported on the success of the 3 day lantern workshop and how they had contributed to the parade at the Xmas Lights Switch on.</i></p> <p><i>She is looking to support the youth celebration day in July and the possible link up with the Team Congleton activity.</i></p> <p><i>She has concerns that work in the pedestrian area / High St may have an impact on next years Food &amp; Drink festival and would welcome an early warning so that an alternative venue could be looked at.</i></p> <p><b>Beartown Radio- K Graham</b></p> <p>Keith reported on the involvement the station had though out the year with major events in the town, The Community Baton ,Food &amp; Drink ,Carnival, Xmas Light etc.</p> <p>The station is looking for a new site, 2 rooms within the town centre would be favourable, if you know of any such site would you please let Keith know. CEBC have supported the station with a grant for which the statin is very grateful. There may be support for some new equipment from the Partnership in the near future if a new site can be found.</p> <p>Keith is looking to develop a community slot on a Wednesday 12 to 1.00pm and wondered if the Partnership / Groups would like to take a monthly slot themselves. SF to discuss with group chairs if there is a desire for this.</p> <p><b><u>Beartown Ltd – P.Bates.</u></b></p>	<p><b>Let Keith know of any town centre sites.</b></p> <p><b>SF discuss with group chairs re a monthly slot.</b></p>

Paul commented that Beartown Ltd was looking to go for a new world record during 2015.

**Youth Forum – G.Williams.**

Glen reported that the Youth Council survey results are now being used to put together a programme of projects / activities for the youth forum and its members.

There are a number of individual projects linked to the report that will need funding support including Basketball Hoops, Skate Park improvement, Chav Fashion Show, Bridle Path Maps and Town Centre Hub / Base.

A celebrating Youth Day is being planned in Hankinsons Field /Leisure Ctr on 11<sup>th</sup> July, and could incorporate some element of the 'Get Congleton Fit' project.

Once again the forum will support the 'In Bloom' activity with some element of positive graffiti around the Railway Station.

A challenge to support the November Children's Rights Month was issued to all forum members and they rose to the challenge well across the board.

JH commented that the Youth Info website would be relaunched during 2015.

**Congleton Sustainability Group – P.Aston.**

Peter commented on 3 main issues:-

**Congleton Cider.** *Over the years that we have been making apple juice an often heard remark has been 'do you make any cider'? And the answer has always been 'no sorry the juicers don't make any cider but now that's all changed. Last year Alan at Dunham Massey said he would retain some of our apple juice and try and make some cider as he'd been experimenting with his own apple juice too. Suffice to say the experiments were very successful and so now we have Congleton Sustainability Group Medium Dry Cider and Medium Dry Cider & Blackcurrent, both in 500ml bottles available to buy at Barley Hops on the corner Swan Bank (link here to <http://barleyhops.co.uk/>), Congleton and available to drink at Reuben Stubbs restaurant in Lawton Street (link*

here to <http://www.insideoutcatering.co.uk/reuben-stubbs.html>).

**Eco Schools** We have **13 schools with Green Flags**, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF. Six schools have achieved or renewed their green flags so far in 2014, two more to renew on 26 November

- PP is working with Marfields & Mossley's eco teams before their assessment for 4<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Green flag respectively on 26 Nov. (Both Achieved)
- PP advising CHS eco coordinator re 1<sup>st</sup> Green flag application
- PP has contacted Woodcocks' Well, meeting to discuss 1<sup>st</sup> Green flag application scheduled for January 2015.

**Vale Allotments.** Beartown Food Ltd to be used as the catalyst. The working party is getting together to start writing bids.

PA presented to F&P on 28<sup>th</sup> November where they gave their support on the project. They suggested that a grant application was put into them.

PR to make contact with NSALG

PA to look to organising a town meeting to canvas /test support for the project as a whole.

CEBC have been advised of the intention of making a bid and the monitorum will run until late April.

**Congleton Creative – Mike Nixon.**

Numerous events held this year including workshops, drama, music and exhibitions. The programme for 2015 will be drawn up after the AGM in January.

Mike intends to run Bee Keeping classes/workshops during summer 2015.

**Senior Forum – S.Foster.**

The senior forum has now met on 2 occasions with another meeting planned for January. Initially we have a good cross section of organisations and an apparent desire to make the group work.

After a workshop and discussion 2 projects were selected for 'quick wins' :-

Newsletter  
Events / Services directory.

2 working parties have been set up.

**Projects & Finance – S.Foster.**

SF advised the group of the funding situation and of the sub group's budget requirements for 2015/16. This information was used in a presentation to Congleton Town Council's F&P Committee, prior to a recommendation of support going to full council (this has now been confirmed).

**Public Realm Strategy.** As reported in the press, after many meetings and discussions CEBC have agreed to support the scheme to the tune of £1m and the first 2 projects within the strategy should be delivered next year.

**River Dane Walkway.** A long term goal has always been to complete the missing link from the town bridge to Rope Walk. Once again thanks to a contribution of £25k from Cheshire East and involvement from their Public Rights of Way and Highways team this project should now come to fruition.

**Lifestyle Centre.** A joint meeting between the Partnership and Town Council was held, a wish list of services / facilities was drawn up and sent to Lee Baumanis CEBC Project Manager.

**Cycleway** from the town centre to the park. The route from Townsend Rd to Thames close is complete, the rest of the route from Sefton Cl, along the canal towpath and up the steps to the railway Station should be complete by spring next year.

**Antrobus St Gardens.** This project is due to be finished by summer 2015 to coincide with the 'In Bloom' effort. The executive voted on the stature design for siting in the garden, the Apple Core Statue / Seat design was selected. It was also felt that we should adopt an Apple / Wellbeing Theme for the garden and look to plant apple trees, medicinal plants and incorporate apples within the design for the new archway.

**New Website.** As reported earlier the new website is up and running with the added feature of using social media in the guise of Twitter.

**WWW1 Awareness & Engagement Group.** MMW reported on the huge number of activities that had been organised this year following the £8400 HLF Grant. All of the local schools have received a copy of Lyndon's



	<p>book 'Lest we Forget', Joe Hearson composed and conducted a new anthem for Congleton (town hall 29.11.14) ,John Lindley has run poetry workshops at various schools and is looking to put together an Anthology to be published in Feb 2015. Dave McCadden wrote and produced an evening of Music, Drama and Poetry over 3 performances at Daneside Theatre, Theatre in The Quarter visit Congleton Station with 2 performances of 'Over By Xmas' and the museum has a WW1 exhibition planned for the new year.</p> <p>100 Rowan Trees have been planted around the town and at all of the schools to commemorate the 100 years since the start of the great war thanks to support from various organisations, Dean Trust, Inclosure Trust , Congleton Town Council and The Partnership.</p> <p>MMW also reported that we should know by 10<sup>th</sup> December if our bid for the large cenotaph renovation project had been accepted / granted by HLF.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Funding:-</b></p> <p>As reported earlier funding support has been secured from Congleton Town Council to take us through to 2016.</p> <p>The Executive voted that they were happy to support the subgroups project wish list for the next 12 month,this was later amended to read as follows . The wish list would be supported providing that the groups operate within the constitution guidelines. Projects below £1000 can be authorised by Projects and Finance, anything greater needs to be authorised by The Executive. <i>This amendment was proposed by B.Edwards, seconded by P.Aston and agreed by the Executive.</i></p> <p>Subgroup chairs can now go away and work up projects with the knowledge that there are some funds available to support the same.</p>	
8.	<p><b>AOB.</b></p> <p><b>Street Pastors.</b> It was reported that the Street Pastor project is working well and that they were looking to take on extra activities in the near future.</p> <p><b>Eaton Bank Academy Xmas Concert.</b> This to be held at St Mary's Astbury on 16<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6.30pm. MS to send a copy of the invitation to the Executive .</p>	<p><b>MS send out EBA invitation.</b></p>

