

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 1.12.14 **Time:** 10.00am **Location:- Astbury mere Visitor Centre.**

In attendance: P.Minshull ,B.Fox , G.Williams , P.Aston , M.Taylor, S.Foster, P.Pinto, P.Hall, P.Hirst & M.Smith.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by P.Aston.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies.</u></p> <p>M.Williamson, M.Axford ,P.Ranson & M.Gartside. S.Pemberton has withdrawn from the group for the time being.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting (3.11.14) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i> MT reported that K.Smith (EBA) was approaching the board of governors regarding the SLIC presentation, he is still awaiting a reply.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i> CHS Energy Leaflet Idea. The leaflet has now been received and was used at the lights switch on event 29.11.14. Looking to site some of the leaflets at the Library and in the TIC. MS to get leaflet onto the new website.www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</p> <p><i>Item 5. Moss Farm Planning Application.</i> PM reviewed and reported on the plans to both CSG and Cheshire East .</p>	
4.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></p> <p>The agenda was taken as circulated with the addition of a general discussion around Hydro Schemes.</p>	

5.	<p><u>Chairs Reports</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team – P.Minshull.</i></p> <p><u>1. Planning Application – 242 homes at Moss Farm, Manchester Road</u></p> <p>PM prepared and submitted objections on behalf of CSG to the planning applications for the 143 homes in phase 1 (14/4451C) and 99 homes in phase 2 (14/4452C) at Moss Farm, Manchester Road. While we do not object to the principle of development at this site the detail leaves much to be desired in respect of sustainability, road safety etc.</p> <p><u>2. Planning Application – 220 homes off Canal Road</u></p> <p>PM is currently preparing a response on behalf of CSG to this application which is a re-application of an earlier application which was refused by CEBC. Some amendments to the layout have been made but our objections to the principle of development at this site remain. The closing date is 11th December. PM is working on a letter to send to planning stressing this.</p> <p><u>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>PM, SF and PA have been invited to attend the workshops preparing the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. The first meeting will be held on 3rd December.</p> <p><u>4. CEBC Local Plan</u></p> <p>The Inspector's interim findings are with CEBC who will need to decide how they wish to proceed. The most likely way forward is for CEBC to try to address the issues raised by the inspector over the next 6 months and then re-commence the hearings.</p>	

Carbon Reduction Team – M.Taylor.

- Green Living course running with 7 members of Congleton U3A. (This is the 4th Sustainable Living in Congleton, (SLIC) course CSG has run in the last 2 years). Total hours = 9hrs
- Selling Congleton Apple juice at Rode Hall Market to help raise funds for CSG activities in the community.
Total hours = 5hrs
- Carbon Reduction meetings reviewing CHS energy leaflet design and printing, SLIC progress and CSG bookmark design.
Total = 6hrs
- CSG meeting, discussions with Congleton High School Blue Print design to print CSG work and admin duties.
Total = 4hrs

Mike is doing the SLIC presentation to the Partnership Executive on 2.12.14

CCC/SECCAG – P.Hall

The debate regarding cycling in Bridge St continues. We are told that CE are going to put up 'no cycling' signs despite CCC asking for exemptions during the same time as loading for vehicles. This information comes via the letters pages of the Chronicle and I am trying to get confirmation from CE.

A meeting was held with CE regarding complementary sustainable transport measures on the Congleton Link Road.

We were led to believe that because of the state of the Local Plan there could be some doubt about whether the whole scheme would go ahead!!!!!!

We were advised that there are some cycling measures included in the scheme. In our opinion they might as well not bother as these schemes only funnel cyclists onto the existing busy Rood Hill and West Road. We suggest some much larger cycling/walking scheme that gets people to the town centre without using the busy roads. We were advised the only way this could happen is via the Neighbourhood Plan.

We have asked Brian Hogan to be see if the CCC can be consulted as part of the process.

PH reported that at a recent Northern Rail Cycle Forum there was a promise of 24 covered cycle parking spaces at Congleton Railway Station, PH would like them to be split across both platforms.

CEBC looking to support new signage on the routes from Staffs border to Macclesfield and around town routes.

Eco Schools – P.Pinto

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.

News

- PP is working with Marfields & Mossley's eco teams before their assessment for 4th & 3rd Green flag respectively on 26 Nov. **Now achieved.**
- PP advising CHS eco coordinator re 1st Green flag application
- PP has contacted Woodcocks' Well, meeting to discuss 1st Green flag application scheduled for January 2015.
- PP working with Congleton schools/CeCP on back-to-back gardens project celebration.
- PP working on NW In Bloom projects with Floral Committee (childrens tubs, daffodil bulb planting). 1000 bulbs plated near Tesco/Clayton By-pass roundabout.

- Carbon reduction team meeting & amendment of CSG bookmark
- CSG stall at Xmas lights on 28 Nov, selling apple juice etc
- Apple pressing at Saint Mary's Xmas Fair 29 Nov
- Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to Chronicle.
- PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & contribute to CSG page]
- PP suggested there is a whole project that needs to be worked up around cycling, walking. parent parking at our primary schools.
- EBA will host Fairtrade Fortnight Feb/Mar 2015
- PP to look at how we develop the "Back to Back" Gardens activity in 2015 to include both schools and local groups / organisations.

APPLE JUICE. *"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>)"*

We have around 880 bottles of Apple Juice produced for this year and have 500ltrs of juice set aside which should produce around 1000 bottles of Cider. The licence is now in hand and we will be able to sell cider from December on.

Food4Free. Nothing to report

	<p>Eco Centre. Nothing to report</p> <p>CSG Income & Expenditure . The balance sheet has been sent out and a copy is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Current balance £4429.67 (Inc Stock in hand)</p>	
6.	<p>Vale Allotments.</p> <p>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 28th November where they gave their support on the project. They suggested that a grant application was put into them.</p> <p>PR to make contact with NSALG</p> <p>PA to look to organising a town meeting to canvas /test support for the project as a whole.</p> <p>CEBC have been advised of the intention of making a bid and the monitorum will run until late April.</p>	<p>PR contact NSALG</p> <p>PA arrange a town meeting.</p>
7.	<p><u>Website / Publicity.</u></p> <p>The new Partnership website will be launched at the Partnership Executive on 2.12.14 www.congletonpartnership.co.uk.</p> <p>The site is looking very smart and gives a clear message that it is all about the Partnership and its groups. There is also a twitter feed (congopar) please add it to your list that you follow.</p> <p>If you have news items or articles that you would like put on the site please send them to MS.</p>	<p>Website articles to MS.</p>
8.	<p><u>Community Energy Project.</u></p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Cheshire Show.</u></p> <p>PP has discussed this with MMW and feel that the best idea is to talk to the WI and look to be involved within the stand using the Green Living Initiative. Contact to be made in the new year.</p>	

10.	<p><u>Publicity.</u></p> <p>The new website is nearing completion and a meeting is planned for Wednesday 5th November to share development and requirements with group Chairs. No further contact or comments from P.Pinto / S.Pemberton put before the meeting.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Food Festival.</u></p> <p>A volunteer is required to represent CSG at the Food Festival planning meetings, they are held at The Young Pretender, 2nd Thursday of the month at 5.30pm, starting in January.</p> <p><i>Please contact MS or PA if you can help.</i></p>	<p>Volunteer required for Food Fest mtgs</p>
12.	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p><i>Meeting Times.</i> The next meeting will be Jan 5th at Plus Dane 10.00am. PA to look at an event in January (Open Evening) to incorporate Vale Allotments, CSG Membership, Meeting timing etc.</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Team. To put together a recording document for CSG members to use in assessing their energy usage / effectiveness of Solar Panels so that we can see what difference / savings can be made when energy saving /production devises are used.</p> <p>SF. Reported that he had made a Partnership budget requirement presentation to F&P (Town Council) and that he was awaiting feedback from them.</p> <p>BF. Commented on the cost to the nation and its health and wellbeing (£10Bn) of Air pollution.</p>	<p>PA arrange event in Jan '15 CR team to put a document together.</p>
	<p>Next Meeting. The meeting closed at 11.50am.</p> <p><i>Monday 5th January 2015, 10.00am. Plus Dane.</i></p>	

