

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 5.1.15

Time: 10.00am

Location:- Plus Dane Boardroom.

In attendance: P.Minshull G.Williams , P.Aston , M.Taylor, S.Foster, P.Pinto, P.Hall, P.Hirst, M.Williamson, O.Whitmore, P.Ranson & M.Smith.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> The meeting was chaired by P.Aston.	
2.	<u>Apologies.</u> M.Axford ,D.Lindop, A.Scaresbrook & B.Fox	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (1.12.14)</u> The minutes of the last meeting (1.12.14) were circulated prior to the meeting. <u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u> <i>Item 12.</i> Carbon Reduction Team.. CR team still to put together a document for recording / assessing energy usage.	CR team put together a recording document.
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> The agenda was taken as circulated with the addition of a general discussion around The Neighbourhood Plan.	
5.	<u>Vale Allotments</u>	

	<p>PA reported that the meeting on 3.1.15 which was attended by approx 50 people had proved quite progressive. Another 4 people had pledged to give some time to support the sub group, 3 of which indicated that they would help underwrite the whole scheme. Others were suggesting they could support in some way financially.</p> <p><u>The next stages are to :-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find funding to support some legal advice.• Arrange a Town Meeting / Event (by the end of January)• Investigate the use of social media to raise project profile.• Pull together a new Working Party.• Look to write to R.Minshull re our offer / bid when appropriate.• Set up a Community Interest Company (currently using Beartown Foods as a catalyst) <p><i>Deadline for making the bid is 24th April.</i></p>									
6.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The NP steering group met on 17th December when membership was agreed and 8 Themed Groups were set up.</p> <table><tr><th>Group</th><th>Chair</th></tr><tr><td>Steering Group</td><td>Brian Hogan</td></tr><tr><td>Housing</td><td>Jenny Unsworth</td></tr><tr><td>Economic Development</td><td>David Watson</td></tr></table>	Group	Chair	Steering Group	Brian Hogan	Housing	Jenny Unsworth	Economic Development	David Watson	
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	Health/Education/Green Space	TBC (R.Brightwell??)		Members to approach group chair or MS with a view to joining one of the themed groups.
	Transport /Utilities/ Infrastructure	Ant Fryer		
	Town Centre/Public Realm/Heritage	Steve Foster		
	Sustainability /Environment	Peter Aston		
	Communications	Tim McCloud		
	Parish Liaison	Jenny Unsworth		
	<p>It was agreed that a comprehensive communications and consultation strategy needs to be in place to ensure that the public and others are kept fully informed of progress and when consultation is to take place.</p> <p>Cheshire East have provided some initial consultative support (Tom Bell & Andrew Thomson) and will support the final writing of the document.</p> <p>The groups have been asked to produce a set of objective, produce evidence based conclusions and have been given a timetable for task completion.</p> <p>The next Steering Group meeting is planned for 14th January, the group meeting dates will be determined by the groups themselves.</p> <p>PA felt that CSG should have a representative on all of the groups, MS to advise of the structure and members to approach either the group chair or MS to join the group of their choice.</p>			
7.	<u>Havannah Hydro (Havannah Village).</u>			
<p>PA has been approached by John Armstrong and Jim Booth re developing a Hydro Scheme on the Havannah Weir.</p> <p>John who works(ed) for a Hydro Company (the chair of which is the chair of The British Hydro Association)along Peter Aston had a meeting with Jean Huddleston (site owner) and a Neighbour regarding the project.They indicate</p>				

	<p>their support in principal of a community power generation scheme. A feasibility study has been produced but requires some more work on it. PA, John Armstrong, Paul Guymer and Chris Brett to investigate the soundness and accuracy of the feasibility study.</p> <p>CSG indicated agreement for a 'company' to be put together to take up this project and that a grant to be sourced to fund a high quality feasibility study before progressing further.</p> <p>If this gets off the ground it would become the community energy project we have talked about for the last few meetings.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Publicity / Website.</u></p> <p>The Partnership Website is www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</p> <p>The website is now up and running please send your article to MS who will arrange for them to be put onto the site.</p> <p>The twitter account @congopar is also up and running please follow and retweet as appropriate</p> <p>OW /PP to look at the development of a CSG facebook page.</p>	<p>OW/PP investigate CSG facebook page.</p>
9.	<p><u>Cheshire Show.</u></p> <p>After much deliberation it is felt that it would be best to try and get space within the WI marquee.</p> <p>MT to find out the relevant people to contact to discuss this option. We will then have to make a discussion as to whether we are to be involved or not.</p>	<p>MT find contact for WI / Cheshire Show.</p>
10.	<p><u>Food Festival Representation.</u></p> <p>P.Hall reported that Ian Wilson was currently working with Jo Money on the cycle groups participation of the Food and Drink Festival. PA requested that PH discuss with Ian Wilson the possibility of him representing CSG at Jo's</p>	<p>P.Hall to discuss with I.Wilson, F&D</p>

	meetings.	representation.
11.	<p><u>Chairs Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team – P.Minshull.</i></p> <p>1. Planning Application – 220 homes off Canal Road (Seddon Homes) PM prepared and submitted 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. We have also been notified that Seddon Homes have submitted an appeal to the original application. PM is currently preparing a response on behalf of CSG for submission to PINS.</p> <p>2. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan On 3rd December PA and PM attended the first of the workshops preparing the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. PH also attended representing the Congleton Cycle campaign.</p> <p>3. Meeting with Fiona Bruce MP PM met with Fiona Bruce MP on 12th December. We discussed the CEBC 5-year housing supply particularly in relation to the item that appeared in the 11th December edition of the Congleton Chronicle and other issues around planning.</p> <p>4. 104 Homes off Waggs Road On 15th December we heard that the appeal for the 104 homes off Waggs Road has been dismissed mainly on highway safety grounds but also on the historic nature of Priestly Fields.</p> <p><i>Carbon Reduction Team – M.Taylor.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Living course completed 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 = 3hrs • Selling Congleton Apple juice at Congleton Christmas light switch on to help raise funds for CSG activities in 	

	<p>the community.</p> <p>Total hours = 2hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 Congleton High School/CSG energy leaflets printed by Blue Print Design, ready for distribution at Rode Hall Market, etc... • Presentation at Congleton Town Hall of Green Living slides on behalf of CSG to Congleton Partnership <p>Total hours = 1hr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congleton Sustainability Group monthly meeting at AMVC <p>Total hours = 2hrs</p> <p>Next CR team Meeting – Monday 12th January at AMVC</p> <p><i>Food4Free – VS/OW</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monthly volunteer Sunday session: Not run during this quiet period. 2. Planted areas: Routine weeding in the town. Further plantings in the Capitol Walk garden to fill in gaps. The mild and wet autumn has meant plants have recovered from the earlier dry spell and are establishing well. 3. Publicity: Facebook interaction continued. 4. Accounts (attached) 	<p>Next CR Team Meeting 12.1.15</p>
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<p>Balance sheet and summary of income/expenditure completed for 2013-14. Details available for inspection by appointment.</p> <p>5. Volunteering hours for all members in Oct-Dec:: includes admin (e.g. preparing accounts, emails, meetings, ordering plants), Facebook, fundraising, caring for Capitol Walk garden and other planted areas). 31.5 Hrs.</p> <p>A balance sheet indicating Income and Expenditure from 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014 was circulated and a copy filed with these minutes. This indicated current total assets at £911.32 (£67.92 stock and £843.40 cash)</p> <p>It was requested at the meeting that Food4Free advise this group its plans for 2015. PP that they would be drawing up their plans at the next F4F meeting in early spring.</p> <p><i>Cycling Campaign – P.Hall</i></p> <p>Improvements to the Congleton Cycle Network have included a widening and resurfacing of the path through the play area between Townsend Rd and Thames Close. This enables someone to ride from the end of Lawton St to the railway station off road or on quiet roads. It is planned to upgrade the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal so that Henshall Hall estate can be reached from town without using busy roads. We are discussing getting destination signing added to this and all other parts of the Congleton Cycling Network. MS get a report from J.Mills</p> <p>Cycling Campaign has been in discussion with Cheshire East regarding the Congleton Link Road. The cycling and walking 'complementary measures' fall far short of what would help people get from the new road into and across town.</p> <p>We believe that the development that will happen inside the new road line should contribute to improved cycle and walking routes that will encourage people to leave their cars at home to travel to Town Centre and station and all schools. CE tells us that the Link Road cannot use any of its funds to help with sustainable travel provision off line of the road. The Cycling Campaign are therefore planning to get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan as we see this as the best way to get sustainable travel provision.</p>	<p>Plans for 2015 to CSG early spring please.</p> <p>MS contact J.Mills for update.</p>
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	<p>We would love to get more members, fresh blood, into the Cycling Campaign so that the interests of both walkers and cyclists can be better represented in the development of the town.</p> <p>Congleton Food Festival 2015 is being billed as a sustainable event and we are planning to put up cycle parking at sites around the town centre. We hope that this will encourage people to ride to the festival. More details in the early new year.</p> <p>The Congleton Cycling Campaign ride to the Rode Hall Farmers' Market on the first Saturday of each month (except January). We leave the junction of Moss Rd and Leek Rd at 09.30. Returning about lunchtime.</p> <p><i>Balance Sheet 1.12.14 to 5.1.15</i></p> <p>The latest balance sheet was sent out to members and copy has been filed with these minutes. The bottom line including stock in hand stood at £4569.15</p> <p><i>Apple Juice / Cider – P Aston.</i></p> <p>PA reported good sales of both Apple Juice and Cider at Rode Hall (£550) with Barley Hops (Swan Bank) also reporting Cider selling well.</p> <p>There is approx. 280 bottles of Apple Juice left for sale during this years' events, 1000 litres of Apple Juice has been set aside for next years' Cider production.</p> <p><i>Eco Schools – P.Pinto</i></p> <p>We have 13 schools with Green Flags, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF. Eight schools have achieved or renewed their green flags in 2014</p>	
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	<p>News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to both Marlfields & Mossley's eco teams. They successfully renewed their Green Flags (for 4th & 3rd Green flag respectively) on 26 Nov. • CSG stall at Rode hall on 6 Dec, selling Congleton apple juice & cider etc • Apple pressing at Saint Mary's with two more classes • Congleton In Bloom day with RHS judge J Wheatley discussing 2014 & 2015, including garden projects with young people in Congleton • PP assessed another eco-school in Cheshire for Green Flag. • 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] <p>The meeting decided that PP should apply to local trusts for funding to support the Eco School activity, PP to discuss with Alex Thompson the best way to approach this.</p> <p>PH to draft a reply to CeCP's letter to MS dated 16.10.14. MS forward a copy of the letter to P.Hirst. PH to send a copy of the draft to PA / PP once completed.</p>	<p>PP apply for funding for Eco Schools/Discuss with A. Thompson.</p>
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		PH draft a reply to CeCP letter 16.10.14
12.	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>MMW reported that William Dean Trust had given a grant to the Electric Picture House to set up and equip the Bees project. It would appear that the Bees have settled in well and Bee Keeping Workshops, run by Mike Nixon will take place during the summer.</p> <p>Next Meeting. Items for the agenda for the next CSG meeting 2.2.15 to include:-</p> <p>(a) Town Plan /Public Realm Strategy/Town Strategy Draft copy discussion/ presentation (<i>perhaps Steve could do this as it ties in with his Neighbourhood Plan Themed Group</i>) In the meantime all these documents can be viewed on the Town Council website:- www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/development/townplans</p> <p>(b) Polytunnel Plans</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting. The meeting closed at 12.20pm.</p> <p><i>Monday 2nd February 2015, 10.00am. AMVC.</i></p>	