

Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 3rd March 2015.

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, P.Bates, J.MacArthur, D.Brown , D.Murphy, G.Hayes,

Guests: G.Baxendale , R & A Brightwell (Team Congleton)

Public:

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction & Apologies:</u> Steve welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year, a special welcome was recorded to Robbie & Ann Brightwell (Team Congleton)</p> <p>Apologies as noted.</p>	Apologies: J.Crowther, A.Lawson,D.Topping, M.Nixon,
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i></p> <p><i>Item 2. Wellbeing Activities Congleton.</i> As requested the wellbeing activity plan for 2015 is being presented at this meeting.</p> <p><i>Item 2. Congleton Learning Centre Financial Support.</i> 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>	
3.	<p><u>"Every Step Counts" – R&A Brightwell (Team Congleton)</u></p>	

	<p>Robbie took us through a presentation on both the reasons for and the plans of Team Congleton's July "Every Step Counts" activity.</p> <p>He explained the link between activity and the general health of people and how just 1 hours / 5000 steps a day could have a real beneficial effect. The "Every Step Counts" activity is planned to run from 1st July through to 2nd August and to involve the whole cross section of the community.</p> <p>The presentation has been made to a wide variety of groups including CeCP, CSG, Congleton Partnership.</p> <p>Full walking programme being drawn up:- Primary Schools Activity Programme Secondary Schools Comp / Award Nifty Over 50's TGT 5000 steps a day (approx. 30 mins) CEO / Staff activity etc etc.</p> <p>Pedometers to be issued (5000)</p> <p>Dates for the diary:- Sunday 10th May - Inaugural Walk – Astbury Mere Friday 19th June – PR Walk – Astbury Mere Friday 26th June - Activity camp Launch – Park Sunday 26th July – Grand Finale – Skyline Walk Challenge – Grand Picnic / Band Concert in the Park.</p> <p>A full media / communications package is being drawn up to support the activity which will include National / Local /Social Media.</p> <p>The legacy of this activity will be to get more people to "Walk" more often.</p>	
4.	<u>Town Centre Report – J.MacArthur.</u>	

Town Centre Since November we have had a few changes – new Town businesses include Rumba Bar, Sam’s Italian Ristorante, Holland and Barratt. Cheshire Lady has changed hands. Sparkle Beauty has closed. We will be losing Co-op Bank in the next few months. Occupancy is currently at 86% for the Town Centre – 191 units occupied out of 2223. If it wasn’t for Capitol Walk’s under-occupancy the occupancy rate would be 90%. George Dunicliff who is employed by Clowes to manage Capitol Walk is in discussions with a local person who may be able to arrange for a number of the units to be filled, which would be good news for the centre and the town.

£1 million public realm- Cheshire East Highways carried out topographical survey work in the pedestrian area to understand some of the technical considerations for the new plan. The work carried out in the Public Realm is being used to direct the work – but design plans will be emerging from Cheshire East this will be shared with all interested parties. The timing for the works are not clear yet.

High Street UK 2020

High Street UK2020 reported back on their findings at a meeting in Congleton on the 26th Feb. Copies of the presentation can be downloaded at;

www.dropbox.com/s/xdywahvb9wwjbyu/HSUK2020%20Congleton%20overview.pptx?dl=0

www.dropbox.com/s/av47ionezq306c2/HSUK2020%20Congleton%20discussion.pptx?dl=0

Congleton is one of 10 towns in the study area – the remit of the study is looking at the vitality and viability of town centres.

Key things to note

- Overall 39% of retail spend is now in Town Centres (it was 49% in 2000)
- UK best in world at on-line shopping – nearly 14% of all purchases and rising
- There are 164 measures of town centre success and 2001 influencing factors
- The 25 factors that we can most influence and have the greatest influence are the ones we should concentrate. Good idea to do a health check against these.
- Footfall patterns vary across the town types (based on 30 months of 24 hour a day footfall data from 62 towns via Springboard) Clear profiles and patterns of expected footfall across different types of town. Part of the key is to understand what type of town we are – so we can understand how we can function better. Are we really a market town – or a convenience/community centre town?

The meeting was largely academic – but following on from there is a chance to explore how well we perform against the 25 factors that we are most able to influence and which has the greatest impact and then develop an action plan.

Artisan Market - An Artisan market was be held again this Sunday (2nd Sunday of the month). The BIG ONE will be held on the 12 April to celebrate the 1st birthday of the Artisan Market. Please support if you can.

Bear Necessities –The Spring edition is being written this week ready for distribution before we go into Purdah period). During the purdah period the Council has to be especially sensitive to not giving publicity to any activities that can be seen to promote one political party or one candidate over another party or candidate.

SCOOT – Stamp Crime Out Of Town

Following a review of ShopWatch at the end of 2014, it was decided that the current form was not as successful or productive as it could be and other ways of providing a shopwatch service were looked at. SCOOT is the system used in Crewe and Nantwich and has enjoyed a lot of success over a 10

	<p>year period. SCOOT was discussed at the February ShopWatch and the group supported the idea of introducing it. There will be an open evening for the shops late March/ early April. SCOOT involves a dedicated person (Ralph Lewis) visiting all the shops which buy into the scheme every other month to update their folders. His work will be guided by the Police, Town Centre Manager and shops which buy into the scheme. All the shops in the scheme will be connected via radio – which will increase security and sense of community amongst traders. It will also help to alert the Police and CCTV of the whereabouts of Persistent Prolific Offenders.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Charity Collectors - face to face debit collectors</p> <p>Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Wilmslow, 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. A proposal has been sent to the Public Finance Regulatory Authority for Congleton we have recommended no more than 3 collectors and no more than once a week. In 2014 there were 45 visits with the majority having 2 or 3 collectors. On two occasions there were four or more.</p> <p>Town Guide – 2015-16</p> <p>A new Town Guide is available. The probation service emailed today to say they had finished delivery. Every house in CW12 should get a copy. There are also copies available in the TIC, library, show homes, estate agents, hotels and visitor accommodation.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Community Projects – Jo Money.</u></p> <p>Jo indicated that sites for Food & Drink were almost all taken, her only issue was that of the</p>	<p>GB / DB to discuss with Gas</p>

	<p>gasworks and how they could possibly impact on the event. G.Baxendale / D.Brown agreed to follow this up and request that the Food and Drink site was left untouched until after the event on 14th June.</p> <p>Jo also voiced concern that the Cheshire Police may not be able to support street closure activity for events like the carnival, Food & Drink etc in the not too distant future. Bob Edwards promised to raise this with Cheshire Police Hierarchy and Denis Murphy indicated that he would raise it with the Police Commissioner John Dwyer.</p> <p>Hidden Places Theatre will take place on Sunday 16th May from 1.00 to 10.30pm. Performances will take place in different locations (Rueben Stubbs ,The Bath House, St Peter's and EPH.</p> <p>Local secondary schools, MMU and professional actors are involved.</p> <p>There will also be workshops to support Congleton In Bloom activity / bid.</p>	<p>contractors a programme that will protect the F&D Festival.</p> <p>Bob Edward to talk to Cheshire Police. Denis Murphy talk to John Dwyer.</p>
6.	<p><u>Group Chairs Reports.</u></p> <p><u>Sustainability Group – P Aston.</u></p> <p>Vale Allotments. Public meeting set up for Saturday 14th March, Congleton Town Hall, 10.00am. Asking for public support to buy 1 sq yard of land for £20 Sub group working up the structure of the event. A trust “ Congleton Green Space Trust” is being set up, they will take up these kind on issue going forward. PA talking to The Chronicle regarding some publicity for the project / meeting. Poster and Leaflet campaign planned. Deadline 23rd April.</p> <p>Havannah Hydro. A company “Dane Valley Community Energy” is being pulled together, the</p>	

directors are Peter Aston, Margaret Williamson and Paul Guymer.
John Armstrong hoping to have a bid ready for the Rural Development feasibility Fund by the end of April.
Possible feasibility study to be carried out mid-year so that we can decide to go for funding or not for the overall project.
Planning a community share scheme.

Apple Juice. In Stock 300 Apple Juice / 250 Cider .Plans to attend Rode Hall Market April / May/ June.

Dunham Massey will once again be our juicer / bottler. PP to put in a request to P&F for funding for an Apple Press that we can use around events (Food& Drink / Swap Shop days etc)

Neighbourhood Plan. CSG deeply involved in the groups. P.Minshull continues to do his bit in replying to planning applications / making CSG recommendations / requests to developers.

Beartown Ltd – P.Bates

Nothing new to report, still looking at some form on World Record activity but nothing concrete.

Congleton Creative – P.Lea / M.Nixon.

Full programme of activity planned including a sculpture workshop to support the A&E WW1 group's activity.

27th Feb to 21st March -Transition II- an exhibition by Electric Picture House artists Petra Lea and Jo French

11th May – Sustainability Group Open Evening

12th March at 7.30pm-The Last Supper- performance piece by The Reckless Sleepers Theatre in

conjunction with Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. Tickets £8 limited spaces so booking is essential

21st March at 7.30pm -Hush Hush Cinema- secret cinema event by Be Arts (an art collective based in Stoke). Tickets £6 or £5 concession

27th March to 25th April -Out of the Blue- group exhibition

18th April -Skutch Manos- dynamic, acoustic, instrumental music. Tickets £5 in advance, £6 on the door

1st May to 30th May - Girl with a Pearl Earring - EPH artists and Mossley Primary School reinterpret this famous masterpiece

May 16th - Hidden Places - a performance day in hidden places in the town involving local high schools, MMU students and ending with a professional performance at the Electric Picture House.

5th June to 27th June - Art Market

14th June - Congleton Food Festival Fringe- art food and entertainment.

Youth Forum – G.Williams.

July 11th Celebrating Youth Day in Hankinson's Field (PM). Music , Arts , Sports, Walking Event etc.

Plans to highlight opportunities out there for young people.

Working alongside the Youth Council in delivering items / issue from their recent Youth Survey.

1 issue is the siting of **Basketball Hoops** around the town.

Community Hub . G.Baxendale to forward the paperwork around the development of a hub once

CEBC have completed to work on the issue. PCSO John Warren keen to develop this, P.Bates has a meeting with him in the near future.

Senior Forum – S.Foster. The forum had a good presentation by Adrian Lindop (Crewe Senior Forum) regarding how they operated, it was very obvious that the sheer number of volunteers they have involved was crucial in making it work. We are currently trying to engage with Dominic Anderton (AgeUK) , considering a quarterly newsletter and some form of directory of services.

A senior health fayre planned for 1st October at New Life Church may offer an opportunity to gain wider public / volunteer support.

D.Murphy suggested we contact the Buglawton Friendship Group, they meet regularly at the scout hut.

Projects & Finance Committee.

MS circulated the updated projects report prior to the meeting a copy has been placed on the website.

An issue was raised regarding the development of a Lifestyle Centre in Congleton. Cllr D.Brown indicated that a refurbishment of the current leisure centre was planned and a budget set aside to meet that.

He agreed to discuss the Lifestyle issue with Cllr M.Jones, MS to provide Cllr Brown with a copy of the e-mail that B.Hogan (Town Clerk) sent to L.Beaumanis following a joint meeting with Town Councillors and Partnership Members.

Beartown Radio. As the meeting drew to a close MS was handed a “Final Report” from Keith regarding the cease trading of the station. The station closed down on 15th January 2015 due to the lack of revenue generation and insufficient volunteers. Highlights for the station had been its first live

**Cllr Brown raise
issue of Lifestyle
Ctr with Cllr Jones
CEBC.**

	<p>broadcast when 1st Mercian came to town, The Queens Baton Relay, The Carnival , Xmas Lights Switch on and Food and Drink Festival.</p> <p>Keith thanked everyone for their support over the time the station had been broadcasting.</p>	
7.	<p>Meeting Closed:-</p> <p>At 7.25pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is Tuesday 9th June 2015, Bridestone Suite 5.30pm.</p> <p>Signed :- Chair.</p>	