

**Meeting :** Congleton Partnership Executive.

**Date :** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**Time:** 5.30pm.

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

**In attendance:** M.Smith, S.Foster ( Chair), G.Williams , P.Aston, D.Daniel, P.Boon, R.Edwards, J.Money, P.Bates, J.MacArthur, D.Murphy, J.Crowther

**Guests:** G.Baxendale (CEBC) , S.Marshall,A.Bell (Open Space), O.Whitmore(Food4Free), A.Morrison & S.Akers-Smith(Congleton Town Council)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introduction &amp;Apologies:</u></b> Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting and as we had a large number of guests requested that everyone introduced themselves to the gathering.</p> <p>Apologies as noted.</p>	Apologies: G.Hayes,D.Brown, M.Nixon,J.Hearson
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015</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 5.</i></b> Bob Edwards and Denis Murphy to talk to Cheshire Police re event support around street closures. No contact has been made.</p> <p><b><i>Item 6. Leisure Centre / Lifestyle Centre.</i></b> Cllr D.Brown to raise issue of Lifestyle Centre for Congleton with Cllr M Jones. MS to send Cllr Brown copy of the e-mail B.Hogan sent to L.Beaumanis following a joint meeting between The Partnership and Town Councillors. As yet we have no report back from that meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Tribute to Margaret Williamson.</u></b></p>	

	<p>Steve gave everyone the opportunity to say their piece about Margaret and their relationship with her. Margaret was the founder of The Partnership , one of the towns greatest ever servant and very sadly missed.</p> <p>There has been a rush of various organisations / individuals wanting to arrange tributes / memorials to mark her life / contribution.</p> <p>It was felt that there needed to be some control /order around what is done and what her family would like to see done in her name.</p> <p>To this end a memorial meeting has been called for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, around 15 people /20 organisations who had expressed a desire to do something have been invited, S.Foster will chair the meeting, MS to keep the family informed of suggestions / ideas taken up so that they can give their view on what is appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Memorial meeting 15.6.15</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Town Centre Report – J.MacArthur.</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Town Centre</b></p> <p>There have been several changes on the High Street. The YMCA has re-opened, Red Dot Estate agents have opened on Mill Street and a new Bar and Grill has opened on West Street in the space previously occupied by Tiamo’s and House has opened in the pedestrian area. Four shops have closed: Cherry Blossom brides in Antrobus Street (moved away), Elaine Hairdressers in Lawton Street (retired), Guide Dogs for the Blind in Capitol Walk (retired) and East Cheshire Hospice Book Shop in Capitol Walk. The Co-op Bank is due to close tomorrow (Wed 10 June). Including Capitol Walk the Town Centre occupancy is now at 85% (223 units – 188 occupied) if we are allowed to exclude Capitol Walk occupancy is at 90% (204 units, 183 vacant). Capitol Walk confirmed this week that they are still committed to regenerating the arcade and work will start soon. (since the meeting we have learnt that Illucinis will be moving into Reuben Stubbs - not sure what impact that will have on Clowes’ development plans) With Barn Road, West Heath and Capitol Walk in the equation we have 254 units, 218 occupied and occupancy rate of 86%.</p> <p><b>2. £1 million public realm</b></p> <p>Cheshire East Highways has started developing some initial ideas for the public realm improvements. It’s clear the £1 million is not going to stretch as far as the Partnership and Town Council would like. Currently the highway engineers are relooking at the costings. There was a suggestion that pedestrian area could be transformed but leaving the two ends (so from WH Smiths as far as Birth Jewellers, but there was concerns</p>	

that this would contract the pedestrian area and not address the key gateways that need addressing. There should be another meeting soon.

### 3. **Bear Necessities**

The Summer edition will be distributed from the 15<sup>th</sup> June – the next edition will be the Autumn one out at the beginning of October with copy needed by 12 September.

### 4. **Charity Collectors - face to face debit collectors**

An agreement has now been signed with the Public Finance Regulatory Authority to minimise the number of face to face charity collectors in Congleton and five other Cheshire East Towns. The agreement takes effect from the 22 June. In Congleton direct debit collectors will be limited to once a week and with no more three collectors at a time. The charities will face financial penalties if they breach their code of conduct and will need to leave if they turn up on a non-booked day.

### 5. **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan team has sent out questionnaires to all homes in Congleton. So far about 500 questionnaires have been received, predominately coming from the older end of the population spectrum. This is reinforced by most respondents owning their own homes and not planning to move in the next 5 to 10 years. There is still 10 days to go and many more questionnaires to be inputted so this initial profile should change. The Team will be at Tesco on Thursday, West Heath on Saturday, Food and Drink Festival on Sunday and Teddy Bears Picnic on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### 6. **Gas Replacement Works**

The work to replace the gas pipes in Swan Bank has been completed for the time being, but, there are still problems in the area that have to be resolved. Apparently outside Weatherspoon's and the Lion and Swan there was insufficient pipework left from the existing system to join up with the new pipe work. To resolve this problem will require excavations to take place in the road and could require Mill Street being closed for 3 to 4 days outside Weatherspoon's and Swan Bank being closed for a weekend outside the Lion and Swan. This is a worst case scenario and will not be considered until all the other planned work is completed in October.

Balfour Beattie have moved to Willow Street and then will work their way from Berisford Ribbons up to the

	<p>junction of Park Lane/Lawton Street and then along Lawton Street, High Street and the pedestrian area. The area nearest the roundabout on Park Lane will be held back until the school holidays as there will be a need for the road to become one-way with traffic able to come from Buglawton to town, but being diverted via Macclesfield Road to go return.</p> <p><b>7. In Bloom</b>  North West Judges will be in Congleton on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Lots of great things happening this year – Antrobus Street Gardens, Moody Street Garden, record number of baskets, schools and youth groups Space to Bloom displays in the Polytunnels. There will be a town-wide toothcomb tidy the night before the judging – meeting in the Community Garden on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm – please try and come along and encourage friends, family and neighbours join. If the weather is good we may also need volunteers to help at Astbury Mere from 8am on the morning of the judging.</p> <p><b>8 Every Step Counts</b>  Team Congleton is leading a major campaign to get more people, more active, more often this summer through its Every Step Counts campaign. The team is looking for teams of around 10 people to join in the John O Groats to Lands’ End equivalent walk in July as well as individuals for the 5,000 steps challenge. The 5,000 challenge is looking for 4,000 people to walk 5,000 steps for 10 days in July. Pedometers and challenge cards are provided. There are also a number of organised walks ranging from a Low Impact –High Tea event for those less active through to a 13 mile ‘Sky-line Walk’. To find out more about getting involved, getting a pedometer or any of the 15 organised walks see <a href="http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk">www.congleton-tc.gov.uk</a> or tel 01260 270350</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Community Projects – Jo Money.</u></b></p> <p>Jo outlined Community Projects involvement in the <b><i>Celebrating ‘Uth Day’ 11<sup>th</sup> July</i></b> and support CCP had given to the launch event of ‘Every Step Counts’.</p> <p>JO had also attended a Health and Safety training day at Cranage along with J.MacArthur and M.Hayes, she found this very useful in her role of event organising.</p> <p>She reported on the success of ‘Hidden Places’ which was held in May. Around 100 people</p>	

	<p>attended, both High Schools and MMU were also involved in acting out their sessions at various location around the town.</p> <p><b>Community Index ‘Get Involved in Congleton’.</b> New format, copies handed out at the meeting, if more copies required please contact Jo. Jo is looking to get this unto a PDF for putting on various website (Alex Bell may be able to help).</p> <p><b>Food &amp; Drink Festival (Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June)</b> Over 100 stalls, Real Ale Trail (5 pubs involved),Prize Draw for engraved tankard, Raffle and copious amounts of good food and drink guaranteed .</p> <p><b>Open Space Congleton Arts festival 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September.</b> Sandi reported that the event is open to everybody , they are currently looking for local artists to be involved in an ‘Arts Trail’. A full programme of events is planned, you can keep up to date by visiting their website <a href="http://www.openspace-arts.com">www.openspace –arts.com</a> or follow them on <b>facebook</b> <a href="#">Open Space- Congleton Creates</a>.</p>	<p><b>Jo looking to create a PDF for websites</b></p>
6.	<p><b><u>Group Chairs Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sustainability Group – P Aston.</u></b></p> <p><b>Vale Allotments.</b> An offer had been made to the owner of the land, hopefully the issue will be resolved soon.</p> <p><b>Havannah Hydro.</b> A company “Dane Valley Community Energy” is being pulled together, the directors are Peter Aston and Paul Guymmer. John Armstrong hoping to have a bid ready for the Rural Development feasibility study and prelimery planning shortly. Should have clear direction by the year end as to the viability of the scheme.</p> <p><b>Apple Juice.</b> Should sell out over Food &amp; Drink event then it will be about preparing for 2015 vintage.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan.</b> CSG deeply involved in the groups. P.Minshull continues to do his bit in replying to planning applications / making CSG recommendations / requests to developers.</p>	

**Eco Schools.** Patti Pinto is working hard with the schools both in maintaining their Green Flag status and the 'In Bloom' Back to Back Gardens 'Space' themed activity to go on public show in the polytunnels from July to September.

**Food & Drink Festival.** CSG will help create a 'Green Space' in the Mill St (plants / apple juice/ tremendous trees / allotment associations / etc). There will also be a Bike Park created in the Community Gardens.

**LOL.** Is creating a WW1 garden for RHS Tatton then it will hopefully be transferred to Congleton.

**Beartown Ltd – P.Bates**

Nothing new to report currently, a meeting had been called for 24<sup>th</sup> June when a number of project ideas will be discussed. Paul indicated that other groups could contact Beartown for PR guidance / support.

**Congleton Creative – P.Lea / M.Nixon.**

*Written report from Petra.*

*The EPH has run a successful series of workshops to support Patti's 'In Bloom' Space project with over 30 school children being involved.*

*They are also playing a big part in the Food & Drink Festival by creating an Arts and Craft area in Chapel St and in the EPH Studios, 12 craft stalls booked.*

*Hush Cinema a real success, that consisted of a secret film with audience participation.*

Future plans include:-

Music Night Fundraiser – EPH ( Electric Picture House) Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July 8pm.

Electric Open 2015 – International open art exhibition 18<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August.

EPH Group Exhibition- 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug to 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Congleton Jazz & Blues – Performances at EPH ( 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Aug)

**Beartown meeting  
24.6.15**

<p>'Current' Art Exhibition ( Staffordshire Artists) 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October.  Street Art and Graffiti – Mic Burgess and guest artists -24<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November.  Christmas Affordable Art Fair starting 21st Nov until the new year.  For more information visit. <a href="http://www.electricpicturehouse.com">www.electricpicturehouse.com</a></p> <p><b>Action Point.</b> S.Foster, S.Marshall, J.Money and Stuart Halliday(Am-Dram Events Manager?) to hold discussions about 'growing' membership of Congleton Creative.</p> <p><b><u>Youth Forum – G.Williams.</u></b></p> <p><b>July 11<sup>th</sup> Celebrating Youth Day</b> 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 <b>Basketball Hoops</b> around the town.</p> <p><b>In Bloom.</b> The forum has 3 groups supporting the 'In Bloom' activity (Bromley Farm / CHS / EBA) whilst all will not be able to be visited on judging day, they will all go into the portfolio so as to demonstrate youth involvement.</p> <p><b>Community Mini Bus.</b> Glen advised that the scheme appeared to be running well with more groups taking advantage of the facility. Glen is putting a report together for Cheshire East and once completed will circulate it around the Partnership.</p> <p><b><u>Senior Forum – S.Foster.</u></b></p>	<p><b>SF,SM.JM &amp; SH to discuss Congleton Creative membership.</b></p> <p><b>GW to look into PR for the event.</b></p> <p><b>MS check with A-Marie for advert for website.</b></p> <p><b>GW send out report to Partnership.</b></p>
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The forum has been running since September 2014. 2 meetings since March, next one is 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Held a drop in event at New Life Church in May well supported by organisations but we could have done better in attracting the public. We will now be taking the questionnaire out to various Luncheon Clubs for their member s feedback so that we can get a real feel for gaps in provision

Forum members seem happy to keep meeting as they value the networking opportunities that arise from this contact.

There is a Senior Health Fayre planned for National Old Peoples Day (1<sup>st</sup> October) at New Life Church, The Partnership will be taking a stall at this event.

**Projects & Finace Committee.**

MS will circulate an update of the current projects to The Executive and Councillors a copy will also be put on [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk)

Projects will include:-

Antrobus St Gardens

River Dane Walkway

Cycleway Improvements

Cenotaph Project

***PR for events.***

One issue discussed was that of PR for The Partnership and its groups. It was felt that this should be added to the next P&F agenda with a view to arranging a workshop / training event. PB commented

**MS add to P&F agenda.**

	<p>that there was a wealth of talent within Beartown Ltd that could also give support on this subject.</p> <p><u><i>Not discussed at the meeting, but as a request to all members.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>New Projects. This will be an item on the next P&amp;F meeting agenda 27<sup>th</sup> July. If you have any project ideas please feed them through to Mike Smith over the next few weeks so that they can be discussed at the said meeting.</i></u></p>	<p><b>All.</b>  <b>Send new project ideas to MS before 27<sup>th</sup> July.</b></p>
7.	<p><b><u>5 Towns Partnership Project.</u></b></p> <p>The 5 town partnerships of Alsager, Congleton , Holmes Chapel, Middlewich &amp; Sandbach all attended a presentation by R.Brightwell on the Every Step Counts concept towards healthier living. They have gone away to design a project around wellbeing / healthier living that can be run across the 5 towns as a joint venture. MS will send out the brief once available.</p> <p><b><u>Partnership AGM Election Of Officers.</u></b></p> <p>The next Partnership AGM will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September would you please let Mike Smith have nominations for Chair and Vice Chair as soon as possible/ by 1<sup>st</sup> September.</p>	<p><b>MS send out project brief when available.</b></p> <p><b>AGM. Nominations for Chair &amp; Vice Chair to MS</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Meeting Closed:-</b></p> <p>At 7.31pm.</p> <p><b>The next meeting is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Bridestone Suite 5.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>This is a joint AGM (open to the public) and an Executive Meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Signed :-</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair.</b></span></p>	