

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 3.8.15 **Time:** 10.00am **Location:-** Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.

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

Guests:-

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>P.Hall, M.Gartside, O.Whitmore, M.Axford, P.Ranson, R.Benson</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (6.7.15)</u></p> <p>The notes from the last meeting (6.7.15) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></p> <p>Item 9. P.Hirst to contact Petra re Open Day 7.9.15. Peter to follow up his initial discussion with Petra regarding some kind of ‘Green Art’ for the event 7.9.15. PA has booked the room.</p> <p>Item 11. PP to organise the painting of a bear for the ‘Space Garden’. Bear duly painted as a spaceman.</p> <p>Item 13. PM to write to Cllr Jones re make up of planning committee and lack of ‘Congleton’ presence. PM contacted D.Brown direct. D.Brown sits on the strategic planning committee but not on the Southern Area one. It was felt that the Strategic Committee would suffice.</p> <p>Item 13. Partnership Project suggestions. A number of project suggestions were received, the following were</p>	

	<p>accepted:- Community Orchard Accessibility.</p> <p>Pathway, Signage, Improve accessibility. Partnership working with In Bloom / Astbury Mere Trust /CEBC rangers.</p> <p>Cycle Shelters.</p> <p>This is being picked up by Phil Mason CEBC Environmental. 1 shelter to be sited at or near the Library, other sites to be considered. No action required currently by The Partnership.</p> <p>Heritage / Bear / Town Walk Trails.</p> <p>N.Hood plan suggests that this would be a good idea to encourage healthy living and visitors to the town. Need to put a team together involving:- Museum, Jo Money, P.Aston, Matt Axford. Could well tie into the next project (Town Centre destination maps/signage). Long term may also consider trail leaflets. This could also become a 5 Towns Partnership project similar to the Cycle Map project. Map for each town and then a linkage between them all.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></p> <p>The agenda was taken as circulated.</p>	
5&6.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></p> <p>Mostly covered in the Commenting Team report, some concern around connectivity of all of the subgroups and how everything fits together. Next steering group meeting has been called for 12th August but 3 members SF, PA & PM will be away, MS to report this back to BH. BH may then be able to find another date suitable to everyone.</p> <p>MS to discuss with BH / JMac re putting N.H. plan questionnaire results onto our websites.</p>	<p>MS let BH know of apologies for next steering grp meeting.</p> <p>MS discuss BH/JMac</p>

	Sustainability & Environmental Group – next meeting Tuesday 4 th August, AMVC 3.00pm.	
7.	<p><u>Vale Allotments.</u></p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Havannah Hydro.</u></p> <p>Quotations being received from companies regarding the feasibility study. Once one has been accepted then the group will look for funding. Still looking to be able to decide on the practicality / financial aspect of the project by the year end. Hope to apply to RDF for around £20K by end of September, with feasibility study completed by December 2015.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Open Day / Meeting – Monday 7th September at EPH.</u></p> <p><i>Timing.</i> CSG Meeting 10.30am Open Day Event 6 to 8.00pm</p> <p><i>Tables for:-</i> Carbon Reduction, Apple Juice, Eco Schools, Food4Free, Cycle Campaign, Commenting Team (show Developers Aspirations), Hydro Scheme, Bees and a CSG total review /display.</p> <p>Each subgroup to be responsible for producing their own display material.</p> <p>MS ask Jo Money if she would like a table at the event.</p> <p><i>PR / Advertising.</i> Chronicle Ads w/c 24th & 31st August Websites / Social Media Posters / Noticeboards / What's on sheets (TIC)</p>	<p>Subgroups put together own display material</p> <p>MS contact Jo Money</p> <p>PA / PP to work on the PR for the event.</p>

	<p>PA / PP to work on this area.</p> <p>Refreshments. PA to discuss with Petra.</p>	<p>PA discuss with Petra.</p>
10.	<p><u>Publicity / Website.</u></p> <p>Basically covered this month with the Open Day event.</p> <p>Website figs show a growing trend of visitors.</p>	
11.	<p><u>In Bloom / RHS Tatton.</u></p> <p>1. In Bloom. Town looked fantastic on judging day. A lot of hard work went into weeding and litter picking by a great number of people including painting of some of the street furniture. Judges commented on improvements they noted from previous visit, and appreciated new sites brought in (Moody St, Antrobus St ,Bath House etc) PP advised the group that the Schools 'Space Garden' display in the Polytunnel is now open to the public (Sat / Sun 2 to 4.00pm throughout August and hopefully into September)and receiving some great comments.</p> <p>2. RHS Tatton. High winds resulted in the tremendous trees having to be removed from our display, therefore our entry was not eligible for judging. We did however get some good comments generally about the site.</p> <p>The Trench Garden created by LOL not only drew many favourable comments and gained a Merit Award for 'Interpretation of a World Event, but also resulted in many good contacts being made with other allotment holders and a potential sponsorship opportunity generated.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p>Commenting Team – P.Minshull</p> <p>1. Tall Ash Farm – 250 dwellings off Buxton Road</p>	

<p>PM finalised and submitted a letter of objection on behalf of CSG to this proposed development.</p> <p>2. Seddon Homes – 230 homes off Canal Road</p> <p>In preparation for the upcoming appeal in September to the refusal of the original planning application PM, with the help of Anna Morrison, completed a travel survey of the Canal Road and Howey Lane areas – only limited assessment of the results have been done to date.</p> <p>A replacement (slightly revised) planning application was submitted by Seddon Homes last year and this will go to the Strategic Planning Board on 29th July. PM is preparing to represent CSG and will oppose the recommendation for approval. <i>This was refused by the planning board on the day.</i></p> <p>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group</p> <p>PM and P Hall attended the Neighbourhood Plan open day on 8th July, representing the Transport Group. The open day was not that well attended by members of the public.</p> <p>The Transport Group met on 11th July to consider the possible measures that could be included in the NP and what evidence would be needed to support these.</p> <p>PM met with Tom Evans and Cllr David Brown on 15th July to discuss the evidence base for the proposed transport measures in the NP. The evidence base may not be as onerous as originally expected but Tom did say that costly infrastructure measures are likely to be unaffordable.</p> <p>4. CEBC Local Plan</p> <p>CEBC has issued their response to the issues raised by the Inspector and this has resulted in an increase in housing numbers assigned to Congleton – up from 3500 to 4150. Furthermore CEBC have suggested that to accommodate these additional figures the land off Waggs Road, Canal Road (Seddon as above) and at Tall Ash Farm needs to be included in the plan. PM will</p>	
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resist all of these – Waggs Road was refused at appeal on road safety grounds and there are serious road safety issues with both the others – in addition there are other issues why these sites should not be included.

Carbon Reduction – M.Taylor.

- Congleton Sustainability Group meeting

Total hours = 2hrs

- Neighbourhood Plan meetings involving CSG

Total hours = 1.5hrs

- Carbon Reduction meeting

Total hours = 8hrs

- Carbon Reduction admin work

Total hours = 1hr

New Congleton U3A systems have allowed us to electronically arrange details of a new SLIC course to start in October 2015. We await volunteers after registration day in August 2015.

SECCG / Cycling Campaign – Report July 2015- P.Hall.

Cheshire East have drafted a 'Cycle Strategy' and this is currently out for comments

<http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/cycleconsultation> is the link I have been given by Janet Mills.

There are a lot of general statements designed to make us all feel warm about the cycle provision that is being proposed. The fact is that only with cross department agreement and sufficient funds, will the cycle provisions will happen. Please let everyone have the link and urge them to comment. The draft consultation is open until 14 Sept. Once it has been considered and revised,

**Please take part
in the CEBC
cycling
consultation.**

it will be published for full public consultation.

One of the proposed outcomes of the Strategy is a detailed cycle network map of Congleton that will inform the Neighbourhood Plan. We have the basis for this already and CCC, SECCAG and Sustrans will all feed into this.

2 Sustrans Rangers propose to survey the Biddulph Valley Way with a view to putting up directional signage along, off and leading into the BVW. A leisure map of the whole BVW from Congleton to Stoke station is proposed.

Jo Money took offence at CCC's last report where we suggested that we had been 'stuck' in the Community Gardens and therefore did not get a lot of footfall. I believe that Food4Free had a similar feeling of isolation last year and thus moved to Mill St. (*See Jo's letter to CSG, this indicates that she is already planning to improve this situation for next year*)

As stated in the last CCC report we are looking to use Market Square next year.

Food4Free Jan to June 2015

No report this month.

Eco Schools – P.Pinto.

We have **13 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster**, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF.

- Schools due to renew their Green Flag status in 2015 are:

Marion (expecting assessment in September, Astbury (November),

Havannah, Bosley, Daven (Autumn term)

- Schools working towards their first Green Flag: Congleton High School, Eaton Bank Academy, Woodcocks' Well Primary

- Saint Mary's school garden, summer term activities & RHS Judging on 20 July

Congleton In Bloom:

Congleton

Attended Cong In Bloom team meetings, walk-about, photos of flowers around the town.

Visits to IYN teams etc; clean up sessions in build up to RHS judging day; route checks.

Contact with schools, pre-schools, guiding and scouting groups re planting gardens

Planting time in Growzone with schools & other youth groups for Space & the Planets Exhibition, all 11 gardens planted by 10 July.

Tatton

Tending plants in Growzone (prep for LOL allotment garden at Tatton)

Organised transfer to & from RHS Tatton Show Our CIB Show Feature (Tremendous trees, troughs & bears) and visits to show as main contact.

Attendance at Tatton as WRV on CE mini-allotment bed.

Publicity

Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to Chronicle.

PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG page]

Balance Sheet.

	<p>Issued to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Bottom Line ££4635.58</p> <p>Apple Juice.</p> <p>No formal report, but discussion was held around this year's harvest and the publicity we need to start to put into place. PA / PP to work on this.</p> <p>It was felt that generally we need to up our game on publicity / getting our messages out to the public. PA suggested that we put an hour aside at the October CSG meeting for some formal social media training. MS to discuss this with Cathy Dean.</p> <p><i>Following the meeting :- MS contacted Cathy. She will carry out an hours training on Twitter at the meeting 5th October would all members make sure they have their smart phones / I. Pads with them. Cathy feels it will take an hour just on Twitter to do it justice.</i></p>	<p>PP/PA work on Apple Juice publicity for 2015 harvest.</p> <p>MS contact Cathy Dean</p> <p>PA add to 5.10.15 agenda</p>
13.	<p><u>News / AOB.</u></p> <p>BF. 9 Green policies killed off by central government. Barry had circulated an article from the Guardian around the government's change of policy around green issues. This covered areas such as Onshore wind farms, Biomass & Solar subsidies , Green homes scheme, Green investment bank etc. He also raised the issue of how it could impact on our SLIC courses and the material used.</p> <p>GW. Town Hall 150 Year celebrations 2016. Glen advised the meeting that Congleton Town hall would be 150 years old during 2016. As part of the celebrations CSG may like to consider how we help make the Town hall more sustainable for the future. PA suggested that this should be an item to be included on the October 5th agenda.</p> <p>PA. CSG Events Calendar. PA suggested that we should look to put together a joint CSG Events Calendar and The Story of Apple Juice leaflet / website brief. PA / PP to work on this.</p>	<p>PA add to 5.10.15 agenda</p> <p>PA / PP work on joint leaflet.</p>

13.	<p><u>Meeting closed at 12.07pm.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting:-</u></p> <p><i>Monday 7th September.</i></p> <p><i>Electric Picture House, Cross St, Congleton.</i></p> <p><i>10.30 to 11.30 am CSG Meeting (afterwards preparation for the Open Day event)</i></p> <p><i>6.00 to 8.00pm Open Day Event.</i></p>	