

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 7.9.15 **Time:** 10.00am **Location:-** Electric Picture House Arts Centre.

In attendance: P.Minshull, P.Hirst, P.Aston , P.Pinto, B.Fox, M.Taylor, O.Whitmore & 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.Hall, M.Gartside, M.Axford, P.Ranson, D.Brown, G.Williams & S.Foster.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (3.8.15)</u></p> <p>The notes from the last meeting (3.8.15) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></p> <p>Item 5 & 6 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Results. MS to discuss with BH/JM re results going onto a website.</p> <p>The results are now on mycongleton.org website the link is http://www.mycongleton.org/public/uploads/pdfs/24891436366350.pdf</p> <p>Item 12. Twitter training request. Cathy Dean will carry out twitter training at the next CSG meeting Mon 5th October at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre.</p> <p>Item 13. Town Hall 150 years celebration 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</p>	<p>PA add to agenda 5th Oct</p> <p>PA add to agenda 5th Oct</p>

	sustainable for the future. PA to add a discussion around this item to the next CSG meeting.	
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> The agenda was taken as circulated.	
5.	<u>Open Day. EPH 7th Sept 6 to 8.00pm</u> Group confirmed attendance:- Carbon Reduction. SLIC workbook and smart meter demonstration Commenting Team. Planning / Developments around Congleton Apple Juice. Using the new press to produce Apple Juice. Commercially produced Apple Juice and Cider available to sample. Eco School. Display of 2015 achievements Food4 Free. Display Cycle Campaign. Display / Goodies PR activity for the event. Twitter / facebook / Advert & Article Congleton Chronicle/ Poster on Noticeboards / TIC.	
6.	<u>Neighbourhood Plan - Transport.</u> Nothing new to report although there could well be an issue around the Link Rd extension to the A34 (Astbury)	
7.	<u>Neighbourhood Plan – Environment</u> PM has written to B.Hogan (Town Clerk) re 4 issues:-	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new revised number of houses being too high. 2. Jeremy Owens being asked to join the group 3. Clarification that only Congleton S106 is being applied to the link road, yet it will greatly benefit Macclesfield 4. Other towns (Macclesfield / Knutsford) apparently saying they would welcome more development. <p>The next Strategy Group meeting is planned for Wednesday 16th September.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Vale Allotments.</u></p> <p>Nothing new to add. Next meeting with sub group / landowner planned for Fri 11th September.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Dane Valley Hydro.</u></p> <p>The application for feasibility funding has now been completed / received by RDF. Should get a decision by end of October. The question of FITS and its effect on financial viability of the scheme has been included in the feasibility report scope.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team – P.Minshull</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tall Ash Farm – 250 dwellings off Buxton Road. PM attended a liaison meeting with GW and a local objector in preparation for the planning application going to the Strategic Planning Board. In the end this application was not considered at the August meeting and is now expected to go to the September meeting but this has yet to be confirmed. 2. Seddon Homes – 230 homes off Canal Road. PM attended and spoke at the Strategic Planning Board on 29th July when the latest application for this development was considered. Despite CEBC officers having reached agreement with the developer over highways issues including the pinch point at Albert Place, PM raised very serious road safety and highway capacity concerns. The application was unanimously refused on grounds of impact on open countryside, landscape and agriculture. However, as a result of the issues raised by PM, members wanted road safety and highway capacity issues to be raised at the 	

<p>forthcoming appeal hearing (into the earlier refused application). As a result PM has prepared and submitted a Proof of Evidence relating to road safety, highway capacity, sustainability (in transport terms) of the development and the impact on the current use of the Bridleways. As part of this PM completed the report on the travel survey which was included as one of the appendices to the submission. Wed 9th October.</p> <p>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group. PM attended part of the ‘meet the developers’ presentation (after the SPB meeting above) and also attended the presentation and liaison meeting with residents of Timbersbrook.</p> <p>4. CEBC Local Plan. PM attended the CEBC workshop where the additional studies requested by the Local Plan Inspector were presented. The meeting was attended by a wide range of local community groups (including parish councils) and many issues were raised; key of these was that if the number of new dwellings was to be increased to meet the Inspector’s concerns any further pressure from developers to further increase the numbers must be strenuously resisted, to this end the new CEBC studies must provide a robust and realistic evidence base.</p> <p>5. Volunteer hours for August 2015. CSG commenting team (excluding NP): 82hrs NP Transport Team (all members) 5hrs</p> <p>Carbon Reduction – M.Taylor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SLIC Workbook updated / reprint (20 copies) planned (Aug 2015)• 8 Modules set up for U3A (Course 4) at New Life Church (7 people) <p>SECCG / Cycling Campaign – Report Aug 2015 - P.Hall.</p> <p>Good to see that a covered cycle shelter has been added to Congleton railway station. In fortunately it has been placed on the Manchester bound side. Not much good if you are going to Stoke. I am in touch with Northern Rail to discuss another rack.</p>	
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NCN55 was comprehensively sign by Cheshire East from Biddulph Valley Way to Giantswood Lane in Spring 2015.

Unfortunately someone has taken down the sign AND POST at the junction of Spragg St and Thomas St and filled the holes in with Tarmac. This is an important route direction sign, not just a reinforcement sign.

I have reported the 'theft' to Genni Butler at CE. (*Genni has actioned this CEBC looking to attach a new sign to a nearby lamp post*)

A new cycling portfolio holder at CE has been appointed: it's Cllr David Brown. Let's wish him luck.

No Cycling Champion has been appointed yet.

I have had an initial word with Jo Money re the use of the Community Garden for future events at the Food and Drink Festival. She agrees that it should not be used again if it is isolated from the rest of the festival.

Food4Free

No report this month. Continual maintenance of Capitol Walk, fruit trees planted in Antrobus St Gardens.

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:

Marton (expecting assessment in September), Astbury (to renew by 10 October),

Havannah, Bosley, Daven (working in the Autumn term)

- Schools working towards their first Green Flag: Congleton High School, Eaton Bank Academy, Woodcocks' Well Primary
- PP assessed two schools in West Midlands for eco-schools in June

News:

Scholar Green and Saint Mary's were in the Cheshire East annual JRO finals. Scholar Green won with Saint Mary's Runners Up

Astbury St Mary's were runners up in the CE Fibre Guys competition and were invited to display their models at the Tatton Show.

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary is one of only seven eco-schools to have won a 'Bees needs' award from KBT Eco-schools

Congleton In Bloom:

Attended Cong In Bloom team meeting

Opened Space & the Planets exhibition to the public 2-4pm each Saturday & Sunday in August. Currently collecting comments from visitors.

Arranged to open exhibition to schools during September, all schools have been invited.

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 pages]

PP Volunteer hours August 2015: 40 hr

Balance Sheet.

Document not available at the meeting, will be sent out under separate cover.

	<p>Apple Juice.</p> <p>PR has been actioned regarding this year's activity (article in Chronicle, Posters, Website). First load of apples has gone to Dunham Massey. Will once again produce Apple Juice and Cider.</p> <p>Regular stockists will once again be The TIC and Moore Greengrocers (one off activity at Food & Drink / Xmas Lights)</p> <p>Rode Hall. PA plans to cover the market during Oct / Nov & Dec.</p>	
11.	<p><u>News / AOB.</u></p> <p>BF. Barry voiced his concern around the planned Nuclear Power Station (Hinkley Point 3 – Essex) and the cost of the electricity it will produce. He however thought that this could be a long way off yet.</p> <p>PP. Patti will attend the following workshop and bring the learning back to CSG:- 20th/21st Sept Tatton Allotment course. 29th Sept Long Eaton Eco Schools Roadshow.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Meeting closed at 11.40.</u></p> <p>Members were then invited to visit the 'In Bloom' Space Garden project at Mill Green.</p> <p><u>Next Meeting:-</u></p> <p>Monday 5th October.</p> <p>Astbury Mere Visitor Centre. 10.00am to 12.30pm (Apologies M.Smith,P.Minshull)</p> <p>Agenda to include Twitter Training by Cathy Dean</p>	