

Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 15th September 2015.

Time: 5.30pm.(After AGM)

Location: Bridestone Suite, Congleton Town Hall.

In attendance: M.Smith, S.Foster (Chair), G.Williams , P.Aston, D.Daniel, J.Money, J.MacArthur, D.Murphy, P.Pinto, S.Halliday, P.Houldsworth,

Guests: G.Baxendale (CEBC) , O.Whitmore(Food4Free), S.Akers-Smith(Congleton Town Council) , Sharon-Angus Crawshaw (CEBC Strategic Partnership Manager) & James Byrne (Congleton Chronicle)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction &Apologies:</u></p> <p>Steve welcomes everyone to the meeting with a special mention for our new Executive Members:- Peter Houldsworth (Buglawton Community Group),Stuart Halliday & Vince Cutcliffe (Congleton Creative) Apologies as noted.</p>	<p>Apologies: J.Hearson,P.Boon, P.Bates, J.Crowther, J.Beardmore,D.To pping, R.Edwards.</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2015 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i></p> <p><i>Item 5. Community Index “Get Involved in Congleton”.</i> Jo Money to send a copy of the PDF of the booklet to MS. This will then be posted on The Partnership and Town Council website either fully of in the form of a link.</p> <p><i>Item 5. Beartown Group.</i> A meeting was held on 24th June when several new project ideas were discussed. No update has been received since then and the group chair is unable to make tonight’s meeting.</p>	

	<p>Item 5 Meeting to be arranged by like-minded groups to further bolster Congleton Creative. Meetings have now taken place and whilst they are still drawing up their operating framework they have elected both a chair and vice chair. Chair : Vince Cutcliffe Vice Chair: Stuart Halliday</p>	
3.	<p><u>Town Centre Report – J. MacArthur.</u></p> <p>1. Town Centre - Continue to have a change in shops but overall occupancy figures are remaining fairly static at town centre occupancy of 85% (91% without Capitol Walk) and over all Town occupancy of 87% which is 220 occupied shops and 34 empty units (some of which are in discussions). I think everyone continues to be frustrated at the lack of movement on the Princess Street/Market site and lack of any action from Clowes on Capitol Walk.</p> <p>2. £1 million public realm The Town Council officers, partnership members and councillors working on the Public Realm have been chasing and waiting for an update meeting with Cheshire East. This has now been arranged for the 29 September. The previous meeting was on the 12th May and so hopefully there will be some positive progress to report</p> <p>3. Christmas Planning is well underway for the Christmas Lights Switch on – Friday 27th November. We are advising in this week’s Chronicle for the charity stalls and craft stalls – so if you want one for your charity get the forms in quickly! We have purchased 5 new bigger lamppost lights to create more of a statement in the High Street. The partnership has agreed to sponsor some 12 ft penguins which will perform 3 x 20 minute slots at the Lights Switch on. As usual we would love help on the night (or in advance). Road Closures from 2-8.30 and event 4-7pm. If anyone is able to help for an hour or more please let me know.</p> <p>4. Maps for the Town Centre</p>	

The Town Council and Congleton Partnership are working together on a project to get location and feature maps into the Town Centre car parks – and into the pedestrian area as part of the Public Realm works. We have had quotes from one company and are waiting for two others to come back. We also need some confirmation from Cheshire East that they can put into the pot and erect on their land.

5. Gas Works

I have had confirmation from Cheshire East that Balfour Beattie will not now be allowed into the Town Centre in 2015. Not sure what the programme looks like for next year. There appears to be communications issues with the company.

6. Bear Necessities

The Autumn edition will be distributed from the 12th October – with all the copy being sent off next Friday (25 November)

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan is getting back into gear with a Steering Group meeting on Wednesday. The second questionnaire will come out in October. We received 1400 responses from the first questionnaire – the results of which are on mycongleton.org and will feature in a double page spread in the next Bear Necessities .

8. In Bloom

Thank you to everyone who helped with the In Bloom efforts. As a town we have had lots of compliments this year. The results of the NW in Bloom competition will be known on the 30th October and the Community Pride Awards on the 15 October.

9. 150 Years Celebrations

The Town Hall first opened to the Public on the 10th July 1866 – and so next year we are looking to host a number of celebratory events – including a High Tea for descendants of those who attended the original opening, a grand exhibition – providing that the schools are interested. Investigating whether there is a way of replicating the original intention for the shields on the outside of the Town Hall to represent significant local families, and a number of other ideas are still being explored. Anyone that wishes to help with the project or

	has ideas please get in contact with Jackie MacArthur .	
4.	<p><u>Community Projects Jo Money.</u></p> <p><i>Get Involved In Congleton Booklet.</i> Jo advised the group that she had a very healthy stock of the booklet and would appreciate help in distributing it across the wider community. If you can site / distribute some please contact Jo.</p> <p><i>CVBS Volunteers Managers Group.</i> Jo attended a CVS run seminar which proved a useful networking opportunity. CVs are setting up a Linked In Network Group which Jo will be part of. If you have any questions around volunteering Jo will take them to this forum.</p> <p><i>Between Us We Know Everything event - 24th October.</i> EPH (Congleton Creative) are developing a good working relationship with Rural Touring. Rural Touring are currently visiting towns with their mobile video studio on a project named 'Between Us We Know Everything'. They are building up a 'Wikipedia' type report on every subject under the sun that someone knows something about. The mobile video unit will be in Congleton town centre on Sat 24th October from 10am to 3pm. If you are brave enough feel free to go along and record your expert scrap of knowledge for posterity.</p> <p><i>Open Space Event.</i> The annual event runs from 18th to 27th September, please visit their website www.openspace-arts.com for details</p> <p><i>Then LEAP – play by Laura Lindow.</i> This is the first show supported by a new partnership between 'Developed with The Lowry' and The Cheshire and Lancashire Rural Touring Partnership come to The Electric Picture House on Wednesday 7th October, 7.30pm, Ticket £10.</p>	<p>Contact Jo for supplies of the booklet</p>
5.	<p><u>Group Chairs Reports.</u></p> <p><u>Youth Forum – G. Williams.</u></p> <p>Glen reported on a very successful 'Uth Fest' which was attended by around 500 young people and</p>	

their families. This helped raise the profile of the organisations that took part and went some way in showing young people that we had listened to them and what they would like to see happen in the town. Particular thanks were d to Jo Money and Cheshire Police for their commitment to supporting the event.

Raft Race - Astbury Mere. Glen felt that this now annual activity put on by Plus Dane benefitted from the Youth Forum networking that now takes place, ad that this year's event was the best ever.

Congleton In Bloom. A number of Organisations took part in the 'In Bloom' activity thanks to some financial support from The Partnership.

Youth Forum Review. Glen has been carrying out a review of the forum with individual organisation and whilst benefits toe then varied all saw a real value it what the forum was trying to achieve. The aim now is to link in what Cheshire East is trying to achieve, along with the questionnaire results and draw up ideas and opportunities to deliver.

Congleton Sustainability Group – P.Aston.

Apple Juice 2015 Vintage. 140 Kilos of apples have already be delivered to and pressed at Dunham Massey, first bottles are likely to be on sale at Rode Hall Mkt 14th October. PA commented that a Draught Cider was a possibility.

Havannah Hydro Scheme. A new company ' Dane Valley Community Energy Co' has been set up to explore the possibility of producing energy from the weir. An application has been put in to fund a feasibility study to find out if a project is viable. One fly in the ointment is the governments approach to FITS and the likely return it would or would not produce.

Vale Allotments. This has now been secured as a community asset. It will be 'run' by a new company 'Congleton Green Space Trust'

Senior Forum – S.Foster.

Questionnaire. Just over 80 questionnaires were filled in. A strong indication on what was required by the community and the format it should be delivered in was clearly indicated. The forum will work through these findings over the next few months.

Weekly Blog – Congleton Chronicle – ‘Bearing Up’. The Chronicle has agreed that the forum can trial a weekly blog aimed at getting a message out to our more senior residents. The blog entitled ‘Bearing Up’ will be written by Louise Daniels (CVS) and feature an elderly bear character and his family in finding out what services / events and opportunities are out there for our residents.

Senior Health Fayre 1.10.15. The event which will celebrate Older People’s Day on 1st October will be held at New Life Church from 1 to 4pm. The event is being organised by Cheshire East with support from AgeUK CE / Plus Dane. There will be a main hall exhibition with breakout rooms to facilitate various activities (Tai Chi, Massages, Music etc).

Group Chair. The Senior Forum is still looking for a group chair, whilst the group is developing, nobody appears to want to take up this role. A volunteer for this role would be most welcome.

Projects & Finance – S.Foster. A new projects sheet has recently been issued to all executive members and details have been posted on the website. Projects being considered are:-

Community Orchard Improvement

Trails – Heritage/ Bear/ Walking and Cycling.

Town Destination Maps in the major carparks.

Greening Mountbatten Way

Moody St Green Space

	Havannah Weir Hydro Scheme	
6.	<p>AOB.</p> <p>Resolution to open a new bank account with Natwest Bank (Mini Bus) The current minibus funding is sitting within The Town Council accounts. Now that we are starting to invoice various groups for using the minibus and the number of transaction will go up there is a need for a separate account to handle. A resolution was passed that the Partnership open a stand alone minibus account at Natwest Bank. MS and GW to action.</p> <p>Resolution to invest £5k into the Margaret Williamson Trust Fund. Deferred for further debate, will be an item on the December meeting's agenda.</p>	<p>MS/GW open Minibus bank account.</p> <p>Item for Dec Exec Mtg agenda.</p>
7.	<p>Meeting Closed:-</p> <p>At 7.38pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is Tuesday 8th December, Bridestones Suite, 5.30pm</p> <p>Signed :- Chair.</p>	