



Meeting: Congleton Partnership AGM

Date: 15.9.15 **Time:** 5.30pm

Location: The Town Hall Congleton.

In attendance:

Executive Members:- S.Foster M.Smith, D.Brown, D.Murphy, P.Aston, D.Daniel , G.Williams, G.Hayes ,J.Money, J.MacArthur, P.Pinto, V.Cutcliffe , S.Halliday , P.Withington, P.Houldsworth ,G.Baxendale, Rev D. Taylor & S.Akers Smith

Guests: James Byrne (Congleton Chronicle), Sharon Angus-Crawshaw (CEBC Strategic Partnership Manager)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The Chair Steve Foster opened the 9th Partnership Annual General Meeting by welcoming everyone to the event and invited them all to stay to the Executive Meeting that followed on from this meeting if they so wished.</p> <p>Apologies recorded in the minutes.</p>	<p>Apologies were received from :</p> <p>J.Beardmore, P.Bates,R.Edwards, J.Crowther, J.Hearson,A.Morris on,P.Boon,D.Toppin g</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the last AGM</p> <p>The minutes of the last AGM held on 16th September 2014 had been circulated to the executive and were</p>	

	<p>accepted as a true and correct record of the event. This was proposed by P.Aston and seconded by G.Williams. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Overview 2014/15.</p> <p>Steve gave a brief overview of projects that had taken place / were still active across all of the subgroups. This was not an exhaustive list but a sample/range of the activities The Partnership is involved in.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan Get Involved Directory New Website Food & Drink Bike Park Back to Back Gardens Art Workshops Festivals Open Space / Hidden Places etc Apple Juice / Cider (990 / 500) Established Senior Forum Eco Schools (14 green flags) Hydro Scheme (Havannah) SLIC courses Cenotaph Restoration Uth Festival Cycleway Signage Xmas lights (Lawton St Lights / Penguins) Congleton Learning Centre Commenting Team / Planning / Developers MMW Memorial Project</p> <p>He highlighted 4 major projects:- Antrobus St Gardens. A joint partnership project between The Partnership, Cheshire East, Readesmoor Practice and Congleton Town Council. This has undergone a major transformation with improved public</p>	

	<p>access, pieces of artwork and fitness equipment and both hard and soft landscaping. The Gardens are due for a high profile opening at the end of October.</p> <p>Cycleway from Town Centre to Congleton Railway Station. Another joint project involving The Partnership, Cheshire East and Canal & Rivers Trust. New Cycleway, canal towpath improvement, steps and guiderail from the canal to the station and complete new signage will provide much safer routes to and from the two points.</p> <p>River Dane Walkway. This is the final piece of the jigsaw that then completes the whole length of the River Dane from Dane St through to Eaton Bank Industrial Estate. The section from the Town Bridge has had tree work, refurbished / repainted railings and a handrail sited down the steps. There is still some work to be done in a couple of places along the wall, before finally the resurfacing and step repointing can be completed. This should be done by the end of the year.</p> <p>Public Realm Strategy. Working closely with Congleton Town Council we were jointly successful in securing a cheque from Cheshire East for £1m towards completing the first 2 projects within the Public Realm Strategy Study. A working party has been set up (run by Cheshire East) to look at costing and design for this project. Hopefully work will start around spring 2016.</p> <p>Margaret Williamson MBE DL. On a more sombre note Steve commented on the sad loss of Margaret Williamson (The Partnership first chair and founder) who passed away over Easter. The Partnership is currently chairing a memorial group looking at developing lasting tributes to Margaret which include:- A trust Fund Piece of Artwork Naming of a Site within the Town Ctr Community Book.</p>	
4.	Appointment of Officers.	

	<p>Chair :- S.Foster, Proposed Jo Money, Seconded P.Aston.</p> <p>Vice Chair:- G.Williams, Proposed P.Houldsworth, Seconded D.Murphy.</p> <p>All subgroup chairs remained in post except for:-</p> <p>Congleton Creative, Group chair is now Vince Cutcliffe.</p> <p>A chair will be elected by the Senior Forum at a later date. Each subgroup is responsible for electing its own chair.</p> <p>The 20 voting members confirmed as:-</p> <p>S.Foster,D.Topping,J.Beardmore,P.Bates,J.Money,R.Edwards,J.MacArthur,D.Murphy,J.Hearson,P.Aston, P.Boon,G.Hayes,D.Daniel, G.Williams , A.Morrison, V.Cutcliffe, P.Pinto, P.Houldsworth, M.Gartside ,(Senior Forum TBC)</p> <p>There are also other non-voting executive members.</p>	
5.	<p>Presentation of Accounts.</p> <p>Mike gave a report on the financial state of The Partnership. Income for the year including balance from 2014/15. £105428 (inc £25000 from Cheshire East for River Dane Walkway)</p> <p>Expenditure & Allocated to projects £80800</p> <p>Balance (available) £34628</p> <p>Mike comment that 4 projects currently had no costings against them and that the River Dane Project would require extra cash to pay for a couple of issues that still needed to be dealt with. This would still be inside the total cash</p>	

	originally allocated to this project.	
6.	<p><u>Motions before the AGM.</u></p> <p>There were no motions before the AGM.</p>	
7.	<p><u>A.O.B (due notice given)</u></p> <p>There was no due notice given of A.O.B.</p>	
8.	<p>Closing Remarks.</p> <p>SF. Closed the AGM by reminding everyone that bringing in new volunteers remains a key challenge. He talked about the new Partnership dedicated website and the need for all subgroups to play their part in updating information on a regular basis to help improve public awareness of The Partnership.</p> <p>Succession planning was highlighted, in particularly in Steve's case as he felt that whilst he would still be involved with The Partnership in some form another, he had served his time as Chair (4 years) and would be working on recruiting a new Chair for 2016/17.</p> <p>Steve remarked on the importance of continuing to deliver projects and support of community activities that benefit Congleton. He then outlined some of the new projects planned for 2015/16. These included: -</p> <p>Heritage/Bear/Cycle Trails Town Centre Destination Maps / Carparks Community Orchard –Pathway / Accessibility Moody Street Greenspace Mountbatten Way – Green Boulevard Hydro Scheme - CSG</p>	

