

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 7.12.15

Time: 10.00am

Location:- Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.

In attendance: M.Gartside, P.Pinto, S.Foster, B.Fox, P.Hirst, M.Taylor, G.Williams , O.Whitmore, P.Hall, Cllr D.Brown, M.Axford, P.Ranson, M.Smith & P.Aston.

Guests:-

| Item | Agenda Item / discussion | Action / comment |
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| 1 | <p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by P.Aston. Stewart Halliday was welcomed as a new member of the CSG group.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>Apologies.</u></p> <p>P.Minshull</p> | |
| 3. | <p><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising ()</u></p> <p>The notes from the last meeting (2.11.15) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></p> <p><i>Item 5Town Hall 150 years' celebration 2016.</i> PA indicated he will be discussing having the Oak Leaf featured on one of the shields with Jackie MacArthur.</p> <p><i>Item 6. Letter of support for S.Akers-Smith project.</i> PA confirmed he had written to Cllr Akers-Smith</p> <p><i>Item 10. Draught cider publicity.</i> PA confirmed that an article had been printed in The Chronicle and also on The Partnership website around the production and availability of Congleton Draught Cider.</p> | <p>PA to contact J.Mac</p> |
| 4. | <p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></p> | |

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| | <p>The agenda was taken as circulated.</p> | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>“Congleton Co-operative” – S.Halliday.</u></p> <p>Stewart took us through a presentation entitled “Congleton Co-operative”.</p> <p>This is a scheme to build on the success Apple Juice /Cider/ Preservatives and increase the usage of abundant produce which would lead to a reduction in food wastage.</p> <p>He looked at the reason for this project, possible siting (in town)of the Community Bistro/ Juicing Plant, timing (ready Mar 2016), the people organisations he would envisage being involved and type of products that could initially be produced.</p> <p>There are a number of challenges that need to be overcome, Stewart who would lead the project is going to put together a full blown business plan which will be put before CSG at the next meeting (11th January 2016).</p> <p>Copy of the presentation is held on file.</p> <p>CSG supported the project in principal but reserve judgement waiting the Business Plan presentation in January.</p> <p>Olga advised the meeting that Suma Wholefoods may provide a possible link to the Bistro/Shop arm.www.suma.coop/</p> | <p>SH put a full business plan presentation to the next CSG Mtg.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p><u>In Bloom 2016.</u></p> <p>Patti advised the group of the successful In Bloom celebration / thank you meeting held in the town hall recently. Over 150 people attended, certificates were handed out, and a call to arms made for the 2016 effort when we will be challenging for the national prize.</p> <p>Plans for 2016 are already taking shape, areas that need further development are:-</p> | |

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| | <p>Polytunnel. Still not sure of the actual availability of the site due to ANSA requirements. It was agreed that Cllrs Brown and Williams would double check with ANSA their actual requirements and what / when polytunnel space would be available for us to use.</p> <p><i>Not covered at the meeting but added for information</i></p> <p>Community Orchard. Plans are afoot to improve/enhance this site</p> <p>Moody St Greenspace. Further refurbishment planned, working with The Partnership and ANSA (Julie Byrne)</p> <p>Allotments. PA has been approached about possible allotments near Hillside steps. CSG (Congleton Green Space Trust) to work with CEBC and CTC to establish what the level of allotment requirement is, possible sites across the town and indication of this within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> | <p>Cllrs DB/GW to check availability with ANSA</p> |
| 7. | <p><u>Vale Allotments.</u></p> <p>As this project had now fallen through PA advised the meeting that any monies received had now been returned to the people who had made donations.</p> | |
| 8. | <p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy – Havannah Hydro</u></p> <p>Derwent Engineering are in the process of carrying out the feasibility study which should be completed by end of March 2016.</p> <p>Once we know what is possible then if needed we will have to approach Eaton Bank Academy regarding buying power from us.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan - Transport.</u></p> <p>No real discussion was possible as Peter Minshull was not at the meeting.</p> <p>The need to provide adequate facilities for both footpath / invalid carriage ways around the town, particularly from the</p> | <p>PA write to A.Fisher.</p> |

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| | new developments was discussed. PA to write to A.Fisher (CEBC) on this subject. Needs picking up in the NH Plan Transport. | |
| 10. | <p><u>N.H Plan Sustainability & Environment.</u></p> <p>PA advised the meeting that the next stage was the issuing of a second questionnaire which should be out in the next few days.</p> | |
| 11. | <p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Report from the Commenting Team for November 2015</i></p> <p>1. Tall Ash Farm – 250 dwellings off Buxton Road This application was considered again at the November meeting of the Strategic Planning Board and PM spoke, but due to the change in arrangements for speaking, not on behalf of CSG. It is very disappointing that the Board approved the application, although, due to comments from PM an additional condition was added requiring the developer to pay for a signalised crossing of Buxton Road – but there is no evidence that this will fully address road safety issues.</p> <p>Due to a local resident making an earlier request via Fiona Bruce MP this application will be considered by the National Planning Casework Unit at DCLG with a view to it being ‘called in’, i.e. going to appeal (despite being approved by CEBC). There is no certainty what the outcome of the review will be; we will just have to wait.</p> <p>2. PM meeting with Fiona Bruce MP PM met with Fiona Bruce regarding what he considers to be the less than adequate consideration of road safety by CEBC when assessing planning applications, with particular reference to the Seddon Homes development off Canal Road. At the meeting at the request of Fiona, PM wrote to her raising these issues and particularly highlighting the recent fatal accident at High Street/Canal Street, which occurred after the appeal had closed.</p> <p>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group The Transport Group met at the end of last month and following this, the second version of the Travel Survey was produced along with the first draft of the transport policies. Both documents have been submitted to BH. PM attended the NP Steering</p> | |

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| <p>Group meeting where it was agreed that the Travel Survey should be separate from the second round NP questionnaire. PM was asked to prepare a draft brief for technical support for the survey.</p> <p>4. Congleton Link Road PM prepared and submitted a response on behalf of CSG. While we are in favour of the principle of the Link Road, PM raised a number of detail issues.</p> <p><i>PM indicated that CSG / Local organisations and groups would in future find it difficult to speak at Planning Meetings due to a change of rules by CEBC. This item to be discussed more fully in January when P.Minshull is present.</i></p> <p><i>Congleton Apple Juice.</i> All collection and bottling finished for this year. Over £500 worth of juice sold at latest Rode Hall Market plus a good night at the Xmas Light event. Apple Juice available at TIC, Crema Deli, RJ&J Moores and Bare Health. Draught Cider available at Old Kings Arms, Barleyhops, Daneside Theatre and soon to be Bojangles.</p> <p><i>Balance Sheet.</i> Issued before the meeting, cash in hand £2857.81</p> <p><i>Carbon Reduction Report for CSG November 2015</i></p> <p>Congleton Sustainability Group meeting Total hours = 2hrs Selling CSG Apple Juice at Rode Hall Total hours = 5hr SLIC 5 course with U3A at St John's West Road 4 lessons for November 2015 Total hours = 16hrs Total volunteer hours for November 2015 = 23hrs Apple Juice was sold at Rode Hall Farmers Market in support of Congleton Sustainability Group early in the month The main emphasis of the Carbon Reduction team this month has centred on successfully concluding the SLIC 5 course</p> | <p>Item for Jan 2016 agenda</p> |
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| <p>through U3A with 5 volunteers, using the updated workbook and improved props for demonstrations with each of the modules. The group involved in this SLIC program have found the course fun, stimulating and an important forum for exchanging ideas for reducing their impact on global climate change.</p> <p>PP will look at taking part if not all of the SLIC presentation to the next Eco Schools meeting spring 2016.</p> <p><i>Eco schools</i></p> <p>We had 13 schools awarded Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF. Bosley, Daven & Havannah have lapsed to silver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Schools due to renew their Green Flag status in 2016 are: Jan.: Astbury, Saint Mary's, Smallwood; Mar: Buglawton, June: Scholar Green July: Black Firs & The Quinta; Nov: Marfields & Mossley Havannah, Bosley, Daven (GF lapsed but working on GF topics now); • 17 Nov: Eco cluster meeting held at The Quinta Primary • 23 Nov: PP assessed primary school near Chester for 3rd GF <p><i>A discussion around parent parking and traffic management took place. It was noted that CEBC are taking action around introducing 20 mph wherever they can around schools. It was suggested that we may look at some kind of reward scheme to encourage more walking to school in the future.</i></p> <p>Congleton In Bloom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Nov: publicity for CIB • 4 Nov: team meeting, plan Cong In Bloom celebration event (10 Nov, 6-7pm, Town Hall); design of plaques for Galactic | <p>PP take SLIC presentation to Eco Schools Mtg.</p> <p>Look at an award scheme?</p> |
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gardens teams

- 9 & 10 Nov prep and attendance at CIB event, over 150 volunteers attended
- 16 Nov: publicity with CE

Congleton Partnership/CSG:

2 Nov: CSG monthly meeting 2 Nov-14 Nov: MMW woodland (AMCP) site visits, soil sampling, etc with Ranger

Nov: picking apples for CSG Nov: apple pressings at local school and Christmas fair

26 Nov: visit to SLIC course for photos 27 Nov: Xmas lights switch on, selling Cong apple juice

30 Nov: Site visit Moody St phase 2 discussions

Publicity

Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to & published by the Congleton Chronicle & Cheshire Life.

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

Cycle Campaign Report – November 2015 – P.Hall

A submission has been made in response to the planning application for the Congleton Link Road.

Too much to put here but basically in support as long as provision for cycling facilities is built into the scheme and any subsequent development. At present there are no provisions to create any links to the town centre thus avoiding the existing busy and hilly roads like Rood Hill and West Rd.

No to opening up Back Lane to the Link Rd to facilitate access to Radnor Park industry.

Suggestions fall in line with all the transport demands in the Neighbourhood Plan.

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| | <p>It is planned that we will look at ways in which new and returning cyclists can be encouraged to use their bikes. Training? Led rides? All in early summer 2016.</p> <p>Plans are afoot to get members of the CCC trained up to be ride leaders to an advanced stage.</p> <p>Food4Free.</p> <p>Written report will be available in the fullness of time.</p> | |
| 11. | <p><u>News / AOB.</u></p> <p>SF Advised the meeting that The Partnership Executive Meeting is being held on Tues 8th Dec at 5.30pm in the Town Hall.</p> <p>GW. Commented that it was good to see Cllr Brown at the meeting, it gave him an opportunity to see what was going on.</p> <p>GW. Just received an e.mail from Dept of Transport. Now procuring new Mini Buses, ours should be included in this.</p> <p>BF. Briefed the meeting on the savings made by switching from Halogen Light Bulbs to LED.</p> | |
| 13. | <p><u>Meeting closed at 12.30pm.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting:-</u></p> <p>Monday 11th January 2016 at Plus Dane.</p> | |
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