

Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 8th December 2015.

Time: 5.30pm.

Location: Bridestone Suite, Congleton Town Hall.

In attendance: M.Smith, S.Foster (Chair), P.Aston, D.Daniel, J.Money, P.Pinto, S.Halliday, A.Morrison ,P.Boon, M.Gartside, D.Topping.

Guests:

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction & Apologies:</u></p> <p>Steve opened the meeting by raising the issue of CEBC holding more meetings currently on Tuesdays, which meant that potentially we could be missing all of our CEBC Members. After discussion it was felt that whatever we did in terms of our meeting days we would finish up losing a fair number of people. It was decided that we should leave the meeting dates as already advised for 2016. 1/3,7/6,13/9 (inc AGM) & 6/12.</p>	<p>Apologies: P.Bates, D.Brown, R.Edwards, V.Cutcliffe, J.Beardmore, J.MacArthur,M.Jones,G.Hayes, P.Houldsworth,G. Williams &M.Clark</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair. Approved by J.Money, seconded by A.Morrison.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i></p> <p><i>Item 6. Min Bus Bank Account.</i> A stand-alone bank account has been opened for the Mini Bus operation with Natwest Bank (<i>Congleton Community Transport Partnership</i>)</p> <p><i>Item 6. Resolution to invest £5K into the Margaret Williamson Trust Fund.</i> This was deferred to this meeting. After discussion at this meeting the Executive agreed for the sum of £5000 being paid into the trust fund to match the funding already paid in by Congleton Town Council.</p>	

3.	<p><u>Town Centre Report – J. MacArthur.</u></p> <p>1. Occupancy Update Occupancy has increased slightly – we are now at 86% occupied (or 91% without Capitol Walk). Changes since the last meeting include:</p> <p>NEW SHOPS (6)</p> <p>Gather – High Street</p> <p>Town Hall Bathrooms - High Street</p> <p>Eduardo’s Leather Shop in the Pedestrian Area</p> <p>Shared Treasures – Antrobus Street</p> <p>Olivia’s Nails – Market Street (outside of Capitol Walk)</p> <p>Habitat 8 Soul Food Café – above Simply Retro – Bridge Street</p> <p>MOVED SHOPS (2)</p> <p>Simply Retro – from Lawton Street to Bridge Street (Pedestrian Area)</p> <p>Butters John Bee – from High Street to the Pedestrian area</p> <p>RE-BRANDED SHOPS (1)</p> <p>Chatwins in the Pedestrian area (due to re-open on the 9th December)</p> <p>CLOSED SHOPS (2)</p> <p>Cost-Cutter – Pedestrian Area</p>	
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Life After Services – Capitol Walk

I understand that Capitol Walk Shopping Centre will be closing its doors to the walkway as soon as CT Mobiles (the only functioning shop inside the unit) moves into an outside unit. This will mean all the Capitol Walk shops can be accessed from the outside and the walk through will be closed. Clowes has confirmed that they are looking to minimize their losses after a year of marketing has not resulted in new tenants. There has been no further information from Scarborough Development or Cheshire East re any movement on the plans to develop Mill Street/Princess Street area.

2. Christmas Lights Switch on

Massive thank you to everyone from the Partnership for your help and support during the Christmas Lights Switch on. It was our wettest one ever – but still good to see so many people turn up to support the event. The lantern parade was stunning and a huge thank you to Community Projects for the hours of work they invested into the public workshops.

3. Congleton Artisan Market

In November this was moved to the Fairground Car Park to accommodate the Remembrance Sunday Parade. The trader's preferred the site and so the December Market will also be held in the Fairground Carpark. There will not be a market in January, February and March and during which time the markets will reassessed as they are not breaking even or having the initial desired effect of increasing footfall for the shops.

4. Public Realm

Early design ideas have been approved in principle by the Town Council which include some work at either end of the pedestrian area as well as new pavements, deep clean, new street furniture and lighting along the length of the pedestrian area. A small group which includes Steve Foster from the Partnership, a number of town councillors and Jackie MacArthur will be considering a number of options for street furniture and lighting to include in the proposals that will be presented to the public for consideration in the early part of the New Year. Public Realm work will take place next year – but after the completion of the National Grid gas works. There is not date for the start of this work.

5. Town Centre Map

We are working with Silver Maze to develop some display maps identifying key areas, roads, attractions and services for Congleton. There are a number of sites being discussed including Fairground Carpark or the bus station, West Street Car Park, Antrobus Street Car Park, Back Park Street Car Park, Railway Station, incorporated into pedestrian area (new Public Realm). One the map is produced other uses and areas will no doubt follow.

6. Dog Fouling

Three new dog bag dispensers have been put out in the town centre to help out with the amount of fouling in the pedestrian area and Lawton Street. Bins can be found in front of the community garden, B&M side wall, and the walk way at the side of Weatherspoon's through to Antrobus St car park.

OTHER NEWS

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The second questionnaire will go out to the public in December. The questionnaire is more detailed than the first one – hence the desire to get people to answer it on-line. Due to the delay in getting this out a new deadline will be set of mid-January or at least 4-5 weeks after the questionnaire is made public and advertised. It would be a great help if people associated with the partnership could fill in the forms – Mike will send a link via email.

Once the results are known this will be assimilated into the various groups work and assist in production of the draft plan which we are aiming to produce before the end of the first quarter of 2016

8. Commercial Partners for the Town Hall

Liz and Steve from Delacey's and Town Hall catering will be retiring at the end of December. After a process of expressions of interest, applications, business plans and interviews we are now in detailed negotiations with a preferred choice and hope to progress to a contract very soon.

9. Bear Necessities

The next edition of Bear Necessities will be distributed from the 6th January 2016. This edition will be written and set before Christmas and will include a calendar of events for next year and well as some of

	<p>the highlights of 2015.</p> <p>Issue. It would appear that areas of the town are still missing out on receiving copies of BN. Canal St being an example. It was requested that Jackie let us know where it is supposed to be distributed to.</p> <p>10. New Web Site Congleton Town Council's new web site will be launched early in the new year – it will be mobile responsive and much easier – and quicker – to navigate! www.congleton-tc.gov</p> <p>11. New Chief Officer Finally – just in case anyone hasn't caught up with the news – our current Town Clerk, Brian Hogan, will be retiring early in the New Year. Our new Chief Officer, David McGifford, will start on the 4th January.</p> <p><i>SF asked that we put on record our thanks and congratulations to the Xmas Lights team for putting on such a successful event, in what was appalling conditions.</i></p> <p><i>SF also thanked Jackie for her excellent report.</i></p>	<p>JM let us know the distribution area for BN</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Community Projects Jo Money.</u></p> <p><i>Xmas Lights Event.</i> Jo thanked everyone for their support of the event, also commented that we could still do with more volunteers to get involved. Considering the weather the evening went remarkably well.</p> <p><i>Food & Drink.</i> Work has already started on the next F&D Festival which is being held on Sunday 12th June. Once again the planned gas works could prove to be an obstacle to overcome, the sooner we know when they will be carried out the better.</p> <p><i>MMW Celebration Art Piece.</i> A sub group chaired by Jo has been set up, a preferred site for the piece has been agreed on. A draft commission brief has been put together. It is hoped to short list 5 pieces and hold a public exhibition to select the final piece to be developed. Funding still needs to be worked on, looking at an initial budget estimate of around £10k. Completion date set for November 2016.</p> <p>Policing Road Closures. With police support being removed for event road closure Jo is working on getting training for The Cheshire Marshalls to be able to take up this role. Currently Chapter 8 accreditation is required</p>	

	to be able to do this, Jo is looking for another way and is currently working with A.Latham (CEBC) to this end.	
5.	<p><u>Group Chairs Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Preface. More detailed reports of The Youth Forum, Senior Forum, CSG, and Projects & Finance can be found within their meeting minutes on our website www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</i></p> <p><u>Youth Forum – G.Williams / M.Smith</u></p> <p>'Uth Fest' Glen reported on the 'Uth Fest' that was held in July at the AGM. Since then it has been agreed that due to its success we should look to make it a bi-annual event. We should look to organise a 'Youth' activity /zone in the in between years during the Carnival event. Glen would discuss this idea with the Carnival committee.</p> <p>Projects planned / funds set aside.</p> <p>Basket Ball Hoops. This is currently being discussed with the Congleton Town Council Youth Committee.</p> <p>Chav Fashion Show. This project could well be developed and run by young people at the carnival as part of the Youth Zone. GW is in discussions with both secondary schools regarding developing / taking responsibility of this project.</p> <p>Skateboard Park. Initially part of the 'Uth Fest' but did not happen through availability of local coaches and the cost of outside people.GW to raise the issue with L.Malkin (Everybody Sports and Leisure), the Leisure Centre redevelopment may also have some effect on this.</p> <p>Project Themes for 2016</p> <p>Substance Misuse This is being now tackled by Healthwatch Cheshire, SF has raised the issue with</p>	

CCeP and they are open to working with Healthwatch on this.

Local Entertainment Opportunities. As it would appear that a lot of young people travel to Macclesfield and the like for 'Night Club' type entertainment, it was felt that we should look to explore alternatives within Congleton (Rumba, Ruffs etc)

Congleton Sustainability Group – P.Aston.

Vale Allotments. Unfortunately after a lot of hard works and an apparent agreement the project has fallen through. The battle to protect green space and provide allotment availability goes on. PA has been approached by a landowner with an offer of a site which may or not be able to be suitable. Work is also going on within the Neighbourhood Plan Subgroup to study the interest in allotments and increase availability as required.

Havannah Weir Community Energy Project. A feasibility study is being carried out by Derwent Engineering to look at the financial viability of an energy generation scheme. If the feedback which is expected around late March is positive then we will look to turn it into a Community Share Scheme.

Congleton Apple Juice / Congleton Co-operative (S.Halliday). The success of both Congleton Apple juice and now Congleton Cider is well documented. Only last week around £600 worth of produce was sold at the Rode Hall Market. The number of stockists has grown and opportunity to use other abundance produce is a reality. To this end Stewart Halliday is currently working on an idea and a business plan that may well result in local bottling of juices and ciders, new expanded range of products being demonstrated and sold through a community store / bistro.

Creative Congleton – S.Halliday.

Steve belatedly welcomed Stewart to the meeting, Stewart is the vice chair of Creative Congleton.

Terms of reference of the reformed Creative Congleton group were circulated to the Executive prior to

the meeting and will be put onto the website.

A new Logo has been created.

The group will offer all kinds of creative support to any of our subgroups on request.

What's On. A lot of satellite groups are putting on activities, it is hoped to pull these together in some form of hard copy document / flyer for distribution around the town.

A blog will be up and running by the end of this week and will be links to both The Partnership and Town Council websites.

Also looking into some form of 'Big Screen' / Media advertising.

Volunteer / Marshal Training. Looking to build a bank of trained volunteers / marshals to support local / outside events. Working with CVS (Kate Williamson) to set up training sessions within Congleton.

Senior Forum – S.Foster.

Weekly Blog – Congleton Chronicle – 'Bearing Up'. The weekly blog written by Louise Daniels is proving a very effective way of getting to our target audience.

Events Calendar. Discussions are going on around developing an events calendar to advertise all that is going on around the town and offerings from different organisations.

Senior Health Fayre 1.10.15. The event held at New Life Church was well attended both by residents (100+) and organisations offering help and support. Good feedback was received and it is planned to look at holding a similar event during 2016, possibly at a different location.

Name Change. Some members felt that the name Senior Forum was slightly belittling. Various options are being discussed.

Health and Wellbeing Ideas. V.Lockett advised of current Café Walks activity being organised by AgeUK. There may be an opportunity for us to develop this theme with AgeUK during 2016.

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. Patti outlined the scheme to the meeting. The Executive agreed to support the scheme financially (est £1350 to £1500)

Trails – Heritage/ Bear/ Walking and Cycling. PA to call a meeting of a subgroup to move this forward. We could well be looking at two project (Heritage trail with plaques on the buildings / Walking & Cycling on Maps and Handouts)

Town Destination Maps in the major carparks. Jackie is progressing this, see her Town Centre report.

Greening Mountbatten Way. This to be discussed by Bob Edwards with David brown.

Moody St Green Space. Site visit completed Nov 30th. J.Byrne working on a design for early 2016. Hope to complete by judging day July 2016.

In Bloom. At a recent P& F meeting BH had asked if there was another way of encouraging more volunteer involvement to drive the 'In Bloom' project by closer involvement of The Partnership. This idea to be further discussed by the In Bloom team. The Partnership Executive accepted in principal to support the volunteer element of In Bloom.

6.	<p>AOB.</p> <p>Cenotaph Refurbishment. It has been agreed that the Cenotaph should be refurbished on its present site. A plan of activity has been drawn up and is being costed so that fundraising can begin.</p> <p>D.McGifford is currently arranging meetings with D.Brown and Highways to look at refurbishing the wall at the back of the site.</p> <p>MMW Memorial.</p> <p>Celebration Art Work. Progressing as previously reported in these minutes.</p> <p>Community Book. Sub group has met and agreed on the sections / chapters to be included. Work on writing these sections is being allocated. MS to circulate what has been written about her 'Partnership Years' Editor being sort to pull the book together. Deadline for launch 18th November 2016.</p> <p>Trust Fund. The fund is open, CCF are receiving donations ongoing.</p> <p>Naming a Site. First choice site is the area known as Festival Sq in the Public Realm Strategy. If this area meets expectations once refurbished then it will likely be known as Williamson Sq. BH has cleared this with Cheshire East.</p>	
7.	<p>Meeting Closed:-</p> <p>At 7.32pm. Steve wished everyone a Very Merry Xmas !</p> <p>The next meeting is Tuesday 1st March, Congleton Town Hall, Main Hall, 5.30pm</p> <p>That agenda to include an update on The Museums move to Bradshaw House (D.Topping)</p> <p>Signed :- Chair.</p>	

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