

Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 7th June 2016.

Time: 5.30pm.

Location: Grand Hall, Congleton Town Hall.

In attendance: M.Smith, P.Aston, D.Daniel, S.Halliday, A.Morrison ,P.Boon, M.Gartside, D.Topping, J.MacArthur, P.Houldsworth, G.Williams (Vice Chair), M.Clarke, L.Alcock, P.Pinto, G.Baxendale& S.Akers-Smith.

Guests: Tim McCloud (TMC)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction & Apologies:</u></p> <p><i>The meeting was chaired by Glen Williams</i></p> <p>Glen opened the meeting by welcoming everyone including guest speaker Tim McCloud (TMC)</p>	Apologies: V.Cutcliffe, S.Foster,J.Beardmore, D.Murphy,J.Money
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st March were accepted as a true and correct record. Proposed by P.Aston and seconded by A.Morrison.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i></p> <p>There were no actions arising.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Heritage Trail Development – Tim McCloud.</u></p> <p>Peter Aston introduced Tim’s session by outlining a long held desire to develop a Heritage Trail along with possible other visitor attraction methods for the Town. We have had numerous discussion around the subject regarding Hard Copy, Leaflets, Maps, New and developing Technology etc. We felt it was time to take a more proactive look at what may be possible, what our ambition should be ,then consider value and cost before making a final decision on what to go for.</p>	

	<p>Tim outlined an overarching objective for the project to deliver by posing a question.</p> <p>How do we increase footfall and support health and wellbeing in the Town.</p> <p>He talked about 2 concepts:- Discover Congleton and Destination Congleton</p> <p>Suggested a scoping exercise to identify what could be done ,how to define success, building a legacy, cost and timing.</p> <p>He also talked about inclusion of other partners, Town Council, Museum,TIC, Other Groups, Business etc.</p> <p>Various discussion around the table indicated that the overarching objective was sound, we were reminded of the potential growth of population over the next few years, lack of WIFI support currently and possible involve developers to support in some way.</p> <p>Currently The Partnership has £2500 put aside to support development of this project and it was agreed that this be invested in a Scoping Exercise to look at a project /costings/ timings etc. A proposal for this scoping exercise was made by G.Williams and seconded by D.Topping, the Executive then voted in favour of this work being carried out. T.McCloud promised to support the project by matching his staff hours worked on the project by doing the same free of charge. This generous offer was gratefully received by the Executive.</p> <p>Time line:- T.McCloud to give interim feedback to P&F 26th July, 9.30am Spencer Suite</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final report to The Executive Tues 13th September 5.30pm AGM/Exec Meeting.</p>	<p>£2500 invested in scoping exercise</p> <p>Pres to P&F 26.7.16</p> <p>Final pres 13.9.16 Agm / Exec</p>
4.	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill Project – P.Aston</u></p> <p>Peter outlined the current situation regarding the development of the Old Saw Mill Project at Back River St.</p> <p>Change of use planning application has gone in, various pieces of work are being carried out in terms of decorating, electrics, flooring, gardening etc.</p> <p>Discussions have been held with a range of organisations, clubs, service providers for future usage of the</p>	

	<p>facility. This could make a very effective community hub in the centre of Congleton.</p> <p>Congleton Community Cooperative now has an accredited Logo (thanks to Phil Worthington, Congleton High school)</p> <p>S.Halliday sends out a weekly All Points Bulletin (MS will circulate to the Executive) updating development, plans and equipment/material requirements.</p> <p>G.Baxendale, G.Williams and L.Alcock to make Cheshire East Community Service aware of this development and for support both financially and service wise. This is a great opportunity for Cheshire East to be able to deliver their Community Hub objective.</p> <p>At the end of the session The Partnership agreed to support more electrical work on site to the value of £1200.</p> <p>Proposed by G.Williams and seconded by M.Gartside, this was then voted through by The executive.</p>	<p>£1200 for electrical work.</p>
5.	<p><u>Town Centre Report J.MacArthur.</u></p> <p>1. Occupancy Update</p> <p>Congleton has gained three more hairdressers and a pub in the past three months – two new barbers shops – Swan Bank, Antrobus Street and a hairdressers on Rood Hill. The Bulls Head also opened under new management last week. From my workings this gives Congleton an occupancy rate of 91% excluding Capitol Walk or 85% with Capitol Walk.</p> <p>Town Council had a meeting with Clowes Developers last week to discuss what their plans are for the site – pleased to say that they are working on ideas – and may be possible to use the venue for Tour of Britain too.</p> <p>A Cheshire East Council commissioned report into retail – the White Young Green Report – was released a couple of weeks ago and can be seen at http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/research_and_evidence/cheshire_town_centres_study.aspx Congleton Neighbourhood Plan Town Centre Group and the Town Centre manager has expressed a number of concerned about this report – particularly around the lack of recognition of</p>	

Congleton's increasing population and need to grow its offer to meet the needs of a growing population. The report recommends reducing retail space in Congleton. A report will be going to the Town Council to consider next week.

I have heard nothing further from the Universities Innovate Project, maybe they are waiting to see what happens later in June as it's European Funded!

2. **The Public Realm £1 million funding** The main bulk of the consultation has finished – although the group will be at the Food and Drink Festival on Sunday for further feedback. The Project Manager has not yet been given the electronic feedback – but the 140 + paper copies were largely positive about the scheme. This will be discussed with the CEC Portfolio holder and then the project board group and then hopefully the build will start early next year.
3. **Welcome MAPS:** Map is done and ready – just waiting for feedback from Cheshire East on whether or not they are putting funds into the project - so I know whether or not to include their logo – then this can go into production.
4. **Shop Mobility:** Closed at the beginning of April. The group is managing some long leases for regular users from a storage unit in Thomas Street. They are still on the search for a temporary and permanent affordable home in the Town Centre. Search is being led by Cllr John Wray from Cheshire East Council.
5. **Britain in Bloom / North West in Bloom:** North West in Bloom judging is on Monday 25th July and Britain in Bloom judging on Monday 8th August. The Group has been strengthened by the additional support of the Sustainability Group. Biggest improvements for this year have been the Community Orchard, the Antrobus Street Garden (hopefully to be renamed Margaret's Place, the Greening of Mountbatten Way project, The Bath House and Physic Garden and the Visyon Garden, all the additional signage. Even more business took up the offer of baskets and the streetscape staff are working hard on the formal beds, roundabouts and keeping the town as weed and litter free as possible – a huge task for 11 people in a town of Congleton's size. Volunteer help is required – weeding, litter picking, improving areas can take place at any time – but there will be a couple of organised mass community events on the two Sunday evenings before judging.

	<p>6. 150 Years of the Town Hall - Civic Reception on the 10th July, Living History three day exhibition in 11 – 13th July and a Guinness World Record Card Stunt involving 800 school children next Wednesday are the highlight events. There will also be an evening event on Monday 11 July from 7-9pm which will be ticketed.</p> <p>7. Tour of Britain – START TOWN FOR DAY 3! –We’re getting geared up for the race which will be starting in Congleton at 11am. We expect people to start arriving about 2 ½ hours before the race – hopefully the streets will be lined with thousands of people. Our job in Congleton is to make sure that the town looks great, people visiting the race have a good time and leave with a positive opinion of the town, townspeople have a good trading day. Cheshire East Council is working on the logistics with sweetspot – re Health and Safety, first aid, toilets, marshals.</p> <p>8. Neighbourhood Plan The groups are still working on their policies – with an aim of having all the policies ready to be consulted on in September. It is still hoped we will be in a position to go for a referendum early in 2017.</p> <p>9. Bear Necessities The next edition of Bear Necessities will be distributed from the 27th June 2016. I need to have all the copy ready by next Monday – so writing copy now!</p> <p>10. Sports Trust update for the next meeting from David McGifford</p>	
6.	<p>Community Projects – J.Money.</p> <p>In Jo’s absence Mike made a plea for support for the Food and Drink Festival on Sunday</p> <p>E.mailed report from Jo Money below:-</p> <p><i>Main activities have been:</i></p> <p><i>Food and Drink is full on we have 110 stalls with 25 new producers, a full programme of entertainment, including What’s Cooking? a menu of demos all day in the Town Hall 10,000 programmes have gone out,</i></p>	

	<p><i>nearly 1,000 followers on facebook, banners and road closure signs everywhere. Still need volunteers to help on the day, just an hour on an information stall and help with wheelie bin checking. Please contact Jo if you can spare some time.</i></p> <p><i>Margaret's Celebration sculpture, we had 29 expressions of interests, 9 responded wit ideas and 3 have been shortlisted. We've extended the return for designs from 19th June to the end of June. Designs will be displayed in the Pavilion</i></p> <p><i>Carnival procession and road closures all ongoing.</i></p>	
7.	<p><u>Group Reports (Main issues)</u></p> <p><u>Youth Forum –G.Williams.</u></p> <p>The major drive at the moment is around Mental Health Awareness and Substance Miss use. The last 3 meeting have been devoted to getting to understand more about the issues, what support is out there to address them and any gaps in provision that we need to try and tackle. Work on Substance miss use has resulted in presentations being made by “Evolve” (Legal Highs) to students at CHS, and we have a guest speaker from KOOTH (online counselling for young people) at our next Youth Forum meeting (8.6.16)</p> <p><u>CSG – P.Aston.</u></p> <p><i>Hydro Community Energy Scheme.</i> The feasibility study is now complete.</p> <p>PA reported favourable discussions with both Eaton Bank School and Siemens re supplying power and electronic devices sponsorship.PA now looking to develop a business plan and prospectus to put to the general public who wish to invest in the scheme. The total cost of the scheme will be around £400K</p> <p><i>Eco Schools</i></p> <p>We have 9 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster. Astbury, Bosley, Daven & Havannah have lapsed to silver but working on GF topics now);.</p>	

W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver, all working towards GF. 12 Schools due to apply or renew their Green Flag status in 2016.

Saint Mary's & Smallwood, both awarded 4th Green Flags on Friday 22 April (Earth Day)

24 May: eco cluster meeting at Saint Mary's

Congleton Creative – S.Halliday.

The CC group has held meetings approximately monthly since October 2015, in October, December, January, February, March, May and next meeting due this Month June (June 22).

In summary the group has been engaged in defining its terms of reference, and key actions in summary as follows;

- 1) Developing a presence in main stream media;
- 2) We have a group logo.
- 3) Facebook presence continues to develop, this activity has generated wider interest to some other groups including Clonter Opera.
- 4) Working with volunteers, first session working with volunteers has been given. Next/other sessions on trustees and bid writing tbc.

Included in these sessions have been local skills handover (how to use/setup facebook), resource sharing (signage). There is some increased partnership/resource sharing between the Electric Picture House and CJAB. These seemingly less obvious activities may be the items that make CC work more widely as the various groups involved share their knowledge, resource and experience.... The group will of course continue with agenda items.

The group continues to maintain its open stance at meetings, all local creative individuals/groups who have attended have been made welcome.

The main groups involved continue to work on and deliver their respective projects including Electric Picture House events, Alternative, Congleton Community Cooperative, Congleton Jazz and Blues (and Unplugged), Congleton Players, Congleton Community Projects (food Festival), and other events tbc (eg Open Space...not sure what plans are for this at the moment)

Next CC meeting due June 22.

Senior Forum – S.Akers-Smith.

We are planning an **Old Peoples Day Fayre** 30th September 10.00am to 2.00pm in Congleton Town Hall similar but larger than last years' activity at New Life Church.

Bob's Blog. This now appearing on a regular basis in The Chronicle, if you have articles /information that you feel is relevant please send it on to Mike Smith.

A couple of areas we are looking to develop is that of **Digital Health and IT/Chat clubs.** A sub group has been set up to work up a project (5.7.16 first meeting) could be something we take to The Old saw Mill long term.

Xmas Lunch. Another project being considered, need to see what is available across Cheshire East first. Will work on after Tour of Britain is over and summer events have subsided.

Projects & Finance.

No report given at the meeting, MS had issued a full report of all of the projects(2015/16) prior to the meeting to both Executive Member, Councillors and had the report placed on The Partnership Website

www.congletonpartnership.co.uk

St John Community Centre. They are now part of The Senior Forum and offer an opportunity for some localised activities within Buglawton. One area being considered is Cooking training / workshops for single older men and isolate people. They need 4 new cookers to be able to support this project. It was agreed for The Partnership to support them by funding 3 of these cookers with a view to the above opportunities being

£1650 towards St John Community

	<p>delivered along with support for other Senior of Youth Forum activities.</p> <p>Funding support of £1650, proposed by P.Pinto and seconded by G.Williams.</p>	<p>Centre kitchen improvement.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p><i>MMW Memorial.</i> All 4 projects are developing nicely. The endowment fund is standing at just over £72k and has now gone live, first funding applications due in Spring 2017.</p> <p>A site has been agreed in the Park for the piece of artwork, a budget of £10k has been set and 3 artists designs have been shortlisted awaiting public consultation.</p> <p>The book has several chapters written with photos provided. Deadline for article submission was the end of May, with a launch date of 18th November on what would have been Margaret's birthday.</p> <p>The principal of naming a site has been agreed. Site now being considered is the gardens in Antrobus St, agreement for this has been received from Readesmore Medical Centre (shared owner) we are just waiting for a decision from Cheshire east.</p> <p>S.Acker-Smith. Issued Tour of Britain posters requesting that we site them wherever we can.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Meeting Closed:- 7.15pm</p> <p>Next Meeting is :- Tuesday 13th September, Bridestone Suite, 5.30pm. AGM/Executive Meeting.</p> <p>Signed :- Chair.</p>	