

**Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.**

**Date :** 6.2.17      **Time:** 10.00am      **Location:- Old Saw Mill.**

**In attendance: P.Aston (Chair),** P.Pinto, S.Foster, M.Smith, Dewi Jones, M.Taylor, S.Akers Smith, P.Minshull,P.Ranson,O.Whitmore, B.Fox & M.Gartside.

Guests:-

| Item | Agenda Item / discussion  | Action / comment |
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| 1    | <p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>Peter Aston chaired the meeting.</p>  |                  |
| 2.   | <p><b><u>Apologies.</u></b></p> <p>G.Williams, M.Axford ,J.Cockell ,P.Hall,P.Hirst</p>  |                  |
| 3.   | <p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (9.1.17)</u></b></p> <p><i>Item 5. TOB Cycling legacy for Congleton.</i> MS put together a resume of Partnership and CSG cycling project achievements over the years. This was circulated to CSG and Congleton Town Councillors.</p> <p><i>Item 8. OSM Page on Partnership Website.</i> MS contacted Cathy Dean. She will set up a new page/ and social media facility when requested</p> |                  |
| 4.   | <p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was taken as advised.</p>  |                  |
| 5.   | <p><b><u>Tour of Britain Legacy for Congleton – S Akers Smith</u></b></p> <p>Suzie briefed the group on the latest developments. A handout was issued.</p> <p>Active Cheshire will help to put bids together for the project.</p> <p>Looking to use bear branding for the various routes – children will choose the route names.</p>  |                  |

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|    | <p>Suzie has recently presented the idea to both the Town Council and CEPC (school heads).</p> <p>May focus on one school to develop a safe route to school, as traffic free as possible as a trial.</p> <p>To help build up information and assist in decision making Suzie aims to get a questionnaire out to schools around Easter.</p> <p>PM/DJ to work at getting this idea into the Neighbourhood Plan and comment on planning applications making sure they link up with the new primary school planned and the rest of the cycle/ footpath infrastructure.</p> <p>Suzie then briefed the group on her Triathlon Event planned for St Georges Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April). CSG to put in a team, MS to send the detail and application form out to the group.</p> | <p><b>PM/DJ ensure join up with NH Plan and new developments.</b></p> <p><b>MS send out Triathlon info to the group.</b></p> |
| 6. | <p><b><u>New Green Space – Mossley Water Tower.</u></b></p> <p>Low priority at present. PP to canvas residents in the area during summer to get their feeling on what they would like for that site.</p>   | <p><b>PP canvas locals in summer.</b></p>  |
| 7. | <p><b><u>Community Walks – P.Aston</u></b></p> <p>The first two of six planned walks have been completed, the remaining four are planned for 10.00am on Friday mornings starting and finishing at The Old Saw Mill.</p>  |  |
| 8. | <p><b><u>Congleton Cooperative OSM Project.</u></b></p> <p>Peter Ranson brought us up to speed around the OSM Project.</p>   |  |

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|     | <p>3 main areas being tackled:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Management Structure / Framework in place Currently 3 directors on the board (PA / PR / AM) looking to include member reps on the board. Membership scheme to be worked up, this will include some form of discount on purchases from the OSM.</li> <li>2. Building Development including getting the commercial kitchen up and running, aiming for completion by Easter.</li> <li>3. Business plan development. Need to look at the lease, insulation, membership scheme, relationship between CSG ( Apple Juice)&amp; OSM as a landlord/ partner, future services etc.</li> </ol> <p>It was also reported that OSM has started to pay back to loan to CSG</p> | <p><b>PA/PR to look at the Apple Juice issue.</b></p> |
| 9.  | <p><b><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></b></p> <p>DVCE have applied to DEFRA for a £66K loan to fund getting all of the permissions / plans in place.</p> <p>Land issues resolved, Siemens on board with wiring and equipment support as well as buying all the power the project produces.</p> <p>Event being organised for 28<sup>th</sup> March at Eaton Bank Academy, aiming to attract around 200 people to attend (CSG, Siemens and Partners) PR being covered by EBA</p> <p>Looking to attract members/ investors, the scheme will cost around £460k in total</p>  |   |
| 10. | <p><b><u>Congleton Green Space Trust – Vale Allotments.</u></b></p> <p><i>The report below was issued to members before the meeting.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Applications have been received and plots will be allocated shortly. All available plots will be under cultivation. Any further applicants will be placed on a waiting list.</i></li> <li>1. <i>Work parties have continued with clearing rubbish and preparing plots. Our thanks to Congleton Town</i></li> </ol>  |   |

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|     | <p><i>Council who, through Chris Jones, have been very helpful.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Plans to repay the loans raised for the purchase of the site have been agreed by CGST trustees and include contacting previous donors directly, applying to appropriate grant awarding organisations for funds and organising a public fund-raising campaign</i></li> <li>1. <i>A stall has been booked for the Food Fair</i></li> <li>1. <i>Membership of the National Allotment Association has been taken out</i></li> <li>1. <i>There has been further discussion of the setting up of community plots. This has included contact with Marfields Primary School and with local scout and guide groups</i></li> </ol> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <p>Our plans have been affected by the collapse of a section of the stone boundary wall at the top of the site. Responsibility for the wall lies with residents/owners of 7 of the houses on Moody Street. Debris has fallen onto our land and a number of plots will be wholly or partially unusable until reconstruction work is complete. We do not know the timescale involved. It is likely that contractors will need access across our land to do the work. This affects several plot holders and is likely to affect the area allocated to community plots.</p> <p>PM is happy to use his experience gained from his engineering background to offer advice to CGST if they so wish PR to discuss this with J.Cockell</p> | <p><b>PR to discuss<br/>PM's offer with<br/>JC</b></p> |
| 11. | <p><b><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></b></p> <p>Chairs meeting planned for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, MS send PM an electronic copy of SAS's cycle plans.</p>   | <p><b>MS copy to PM</b></p>                            |

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| 12. | <p><b><u>Fracking - B.Fox.</u></b></p> <p>BF's paper has been circulated and rightly praised for its detail and information. Next steps are :-</p> <p>BF to produce an Executive Summary</p> <p>Then feed of that :- Leaflet for Congleton</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Partnership Website report</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Article for The Chronicle</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contact with Friends of the Earth</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PA present at the next Partnership Executive Meeting for their sign off support.</p> |  |
| 13. | <p><b><u>Group Reports</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Treasurers Report.</i></b></p> <p>Circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><i>Apple Juice.</i></b></p> <p>372 bottles AJ in stock</p> <p>54 bottles / 80L cider in stock</p> <p>2500L cider laid down at OSM</p> <p><b><i>Eco Schools.</i></b></p> <p><b>9 schools with Green Flags in Congleton &amp; District Eco cluster.</b></p>  |  |

Congratulations to the following five schools who renewed their GF in 2016:  
Marlfields (5) Black Firs (4), Buglawton (3), Smallwood (4), Saint Mary's (4).  
**Congratulations to The Quinta** who were awarded their 3<sup>rd</sup> GF on 27 Jan; Scholar Green will be assessed on 8 Feb.  
For the rest of 2017: Mossley (renewal applic ongoing), Marton due to renew 1 Oct.  
On Silver: Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven have lapsed to silver but working on GF topics now. W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver, all working towards GF.

Jan: PP working with The Quinta (GF), Scholar Green (GF) & Saint Mary's on eco schools (birdwatching & bikeability).  
PP also advising Goostrey CPS for GF renewal

**Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:**

9 Jan: CSG meeting;  
12 Jan: In Bloom discussions on seminar to give to East Midlands in Bloom (18 Feb)  
30 Jan: In Bloom meeting  
31 Jan: Discussions of future bulb planting in Congleton Park with Jo Money, tree planting with Rangers at Astbury Mere.

New facebook page continued for The Old Saw Mill (now 172 likes, from 0 on 20 Dec))  
Cong In Bloom (403 likes); CSG (44 likes) Cong food4free (231 likes)

**Publicity:**

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

PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG, Old Saw Mill & Saint

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| <p>Mary's Garden Club pages]</p> <p><b>Cycling Campaign.</b></p> <p>No formal report, long term project plans discussed earlier at the meeting. MS to send out copy of SECCAG minutes of their meeting 17.1.17.</p> <p><b>Commenting Team.</b></p> <p>No report this month, reading planning applications as submitted. Local plan appears to be progressing towards adoption. PM working on commenting on Seddons (Off Canal Rd) application, there are issues we raised at appeal that have not been actioned.</p> <p>Bellway ( Waggs Rd) public meeting in the Town hall on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.00pm, CEBC planner are supportive of this application.</p> <p><b>Food4Free.</b></p> <p>1. Planted areas:<br/>Continued to maintain (weed, mulch, litter pick) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on the Capitol Walk garden.</p> <p>Plants (asters suitable for shade/drought), which were planted in Capitol Walk garden in January, gave some splashes of autumn flower colour this year.</p> <p>2. Publicity:<br/>Facebook interaction continued when there are photos to post, or news items.</p> <p>3. Accounts<br/>Finalised for 2015-2016 accounting year (July 2015-June 2016). Summary sheet available on request from Val or</p> | <p><b>MS circulate SECCAG minutes</b></p> <p><b>PM comment on Seddons appl</b></p> |
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|     | <p>Olga. Detailed accounts can be inspected by appointment.</p> <p>4. Volunteering hours for all members Jul-Dec 2016<br/> PP: hours recorded in her monthly reports to CSG VS: 6 hours (Cap Walk; admin)</p> <p>OW: 6 hours (litter picking; admin)DW: 2 hours (business cards for group members; litter picking)</p>   |  |
| 14. | <p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p><b>PP.</b> Back to Back gardens to be sited in the smaller top polytunnel. We will still be able to get 10 plots albeit smaller than normal.</p> <p><b>PP.</b> Working on improving the appearance of the planting in River St, she is looking to run an event during April to coincide with National Gardening Week (10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> )</p> <p><b>BF.</b> Raised the issue of record hot years being followed by cooler normal years and the misconception that because it is cooler global warming issue has gone away.</p> <p><b>OW.</b> Ask with so many empty properties in the UK why are we still intent on building more new ones.</p> |  |
|     | <p><b><u>Next Meeting:-</u></b></p> <p>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 The Old Saw Mill ,10.00am</p>   |  |