

**Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.**

**Date :** 7.8.17      **Time:** 10.00am      **Location:- Old Saw Mill.**

**In attendance: S.Foster (Chair), M.Smith, Dewi Jones, P.Ranson, G.Williams & B.Fox**

Guests:-

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>Steve Foster chaired the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Apologies.</u></b> M.Taylor, M.Axford, P.Hall, M.Gartside, P.Pinto, P.Aston, P.Minshull</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (3.7..17)</u></b></p> <p><b>Item 3. Geothermal Report.</b> Glen still to contact Dan Griffiths to attend CSG meeting. Date agreed 2<sup>nd</sup> October Dan will give us CEBC Energy Vision and Geothermal Plans across the Borough.</p> <p><b>Item 8. Old Saw Mill</b> – DJ to put together an options paper around Apple Juice and Cider production and ownership. This to be deferred until the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p><b>Item 10.</b> Cycle report pick up in group report section.</p> <p>All other issues covered in the main agenda.</p>	<p><b>Add DJ options report to next meeting agenda</b></p>
4.	<p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was taken as advised. AOB BF &amp; MS</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>BF Geothermal report.</u></b></p>	

	BF to put together a short guide to geothermal ready for the September meeting. We can then discuss the subject and put questions together to send to Dan Griffiths prior to the October meeting.	<b>BF put together Short guide.</b>
6.	<p><b><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></b></p> <p>All on track.</p> <p>DJ to send MS a copy of the newsletter sent to EBA attendees, MS to circulate round this group.</p>	<b>DJ send MS newsletter for circulation.</b>
7.	<p><b><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></b></p> <p>DJ meeting with D.McG and A Thompson to finalise document. Will create a PDF out of the document then MailChimp out to the 650 registered consultees. Banners are being produced to advise the public that we are now at Regulation 14 and they can have they say by logging on to the web address shown.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></b></p> <p>4 directors now in place as Sarah Rathbone has now joined.</p> <p>The café has now become sustainable with extra supports from school students and some Rossendale Trust residents.</p> <p>Membership growing slowly (70+)</p> <p>Dewi to look to get a report in the U3A weekly newsletter to help drive membership.</p> <p>Wednesday lunch club now up and running 11 attended first lunch.</p> <p>Hoping to start “ Meals Delivery” from September depends on delivery volunteers (Meals &amp; Chat)</p>	<b>DJ look to get feature in U3A weekly newsletter.</b>

9.	<p><b><u>Congleton Green Space Trust.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>No official report</u></b></p> <p>Marlfield School taking over 2 allotments using Tesco Bag Grant Funding.</p> <p>Wall still needs repairing.</p> <p>Applying for grant funding to pay back the loans.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>Cycle Path Plans.</u></b></p> <p>No representative at the meeting, pick up in group reports.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>Green space / In Bloom – P.Pinto.</u></b></p> <p>3 July: CSG meeting</p> <p>3, 10, 11 July: IYN Astbury Mere, meeting with Ranger Matt Axford &amp; AMT Jeannie Silk re prep for NWIB on 20 July</p> <p>7 July: drove route for CIB tour &amp; meeting</p> <p>9 July: weeding along Clayton by pass with 2 DoE students</p> <p>12 July: CIB meeting</p> <p>15 July: weeding session at Antrobus St gardens</p> <p>20 July: In Bloom judging day 8.45am to 6pm</p> <p>28 July: RHS Mentor meeting (for Green Plan It Challenge 2017) at Whitworth Gallery, then visited Altincham &amp; Wilmslow to</p>	

	<p>see their In Bloom displays.</p> <p>Prep for portfolio and leaflets for IYN groups during July</p> <p>Back to back Bug gardens project, 10 confirmed, final gardens planted up in community polytunnel. Thanks to volunteers who helped to build the wooden edgings, DoE students who helped with watering, JS for helping with outdoor Bug Garden. 20 July shown to RHS BIBNW judges during tour of the park. Opened for public viewing Sat/Sun 29/30 July. Will be open each weekend to mid Sept.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Enhancing Congleton's Natural Environment.</u></b></p> <p>Nothing to report at this meeting, however a subgroup has met and is drawing up a plan of action.</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>Group Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Eco Schools – P.Pinto</i></b></p> <p>Note: 14 GF schools in CE 12 GF schools in CW&amp;C 9 schools with Green Flags in Congleton &amp; District Eco cluster.</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS: Mossley renewed 4<sup>th</sup> GF. Marton due to renew by 1 Oct (for 3<sup>rd</sup> GF). Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven have lapsed to silver, but working on GF topics, W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver, all working towards GF.</p> <p>Marlfields: Tesco bags of help grant awarded: school allotment planned: in contact with Vale Allotments &amp; Marlfields; visited Vale allotments with MG &amp; John Cockell.</p> <p>Weekly Garden club at Saint Mary's. Holiday gardening at Saint Mary's.</p> <p>Cong &amp; Dist Hort Soc School gardens competition judging at Saint Mary's</p> <p>CE JRO finals: Saint Mary's Catholic Primary won through to finals for 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. In top four in CE. The school won 'Best collections for recycling' award. Congratulations.</p> <p>Two primary schools in Solihull and Small Heath assessed for green flag for KBT Eco-schools (67 schools now assessed by</p>	

PP over last 6 years)

**Commenting Team.**

1. Seddon Development off Canal Road

PM has still to receive a response from Cllr Ainsley Arnold to the letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June raising issues about the low (or non-existence) of accommodation for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable within developments as a whole, citing this development as the example.

*(Peter has just received from Cllr Arnold to the letter sent on behalf of CSG regarding the provision of specific accommodation for the elderly, vulnerable and disabled in developments. Much as expected it is a bland response blaming the lack of a Local Plan on not providing such accommodation previously and claiming that now the Local Plan is in place everything will change – we will just have to see what actually happens.)*

2. CEBC Supported bus review

PM has submitted comments on behalf of CSG to the CEBC consultation on proposed reductions in supported bus services. The key issues raised were the need to continue to provide bus services for the elderly and vulnerable and the possibility of S106 money from developers to keep the bus services fully funded.

3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group

PM attended the meeting of group chairs signing off the Neighbourhood Plan policies for Regulation 14 consultation. As part of the evidence base PM has been asked by Andrew Thompson to produce a travel survey report based on the travel surveys carried out on behalf of CSG to challenge developers' transport evidence at appeal.

4. Paper on unfulfilled S106 obligations

As requested at the last meeting PM has started to prepare a paper for Cllr Brown and Cllr Williams on unfulfilled S106 obligations in Congleton related to the provision of cycling (principally) and walking routes.

**Cycling report.**

The Campaign, in conjunction with Congleton Town Councillor and Sustrans, are carrying out an assessment of all

S106 promises made by developers in planning applications, which are not being honoured. These include Astbury Place off Brook St where a bridge was promised into Congleton Park, Loachbrook Farm where a cycle/walking route behind the High School to Holmes Chapel Rd and on to Chelford Rd, and Back Lane where a new bridge across the Dane was promised to continue the 'Greenway' that is identified in the North Congleton Masterplan. None of these features have been delivered and questions are being asked of CE as to why these omissions' have not been pursued.

CCC have received the Sustrans report which is the result of a feasibility study into how we can improve cycling in Congleton. There are a number of things that we hoped could be done but which Sustrans think are impracticable. Report to be shown at meeting.

We have been approached by Congleton Partnership to look at the creation of a Walking Network map for SE Cheshire, like the one done by SECCAG. I have spoken to the Ramblers and will pass their details on to the Partnership.

#### ***Apple Juice/ Cider***

Around 230 bottles of Apple Juice in stock and 2 x 20 Ltrs Cider.

A quantity of cider now ready for blending / bottling.

#### ***Balance Sheet ( to 7<sup>th</sup> August)***

Circulated prior to the meeting, no issues raised.

#### ***Food4 Free***

No report issued

#### ***Carbon reduction group report for July 2017***

##### **SLIC courses**

Most of the month has been spent on updating the Workbook for use by the autumn course to be run at U3A.

##### **Fracking**

We need to monitor what is happening in CE. Is there any activity by the companies that hold licences to frack?

	<p><b>Geothermal</b> I could produce a guide to geothermal in general, if that is of any use. But really we need to find out what is happening locally. How?</p> <p><b>Air quality</b> I have only done enough on this to realise it is quite difficult to understand. Clearly it is not such an issue in Cheshire as it is in big cities. (According to the Chronicle of 20 July CE sent incorrect air pollution data to the government, not accidentally. What is that about, and what is the connection to the local plan?)</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b></p> <p><b>Air Pollution.</b> The issue of air quality in Congleton was raised. Loss of bus services v increase in house building (potential car usage growth)</p> <p><b>News Items:-</b></p> <p>BBC news reported on INEOS – fracking in Lancs / Cheshire?</p> <p>Badger Culling – Congleton is a place where it is about to take place</p> <p><b>August Meeting.</b> Need to discuss the value of holding meetings in August, it appears to difficult to get reasonable turnouts. Should I seriously look at keeping them to a minimum during this month.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Next Meeting:-</u></b></p> <p>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 The Old Saw Mill ,10.00am</p>	

