

**Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.**

**Date :** 4.9.17      **Time:** 10.00am      **Location:- Old Saw Mill.**

**In attendance: P.Aston (Chair),** M.Smith, Dewi Jones, P.Ranson, G.Williams ,S.Foster, P.Minshull, P.Pinto & P.Hall

Guests:-

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
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>M.Axford, M.Gartside, B.Fox, P.Hirst &amp; S.Akers Smith</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (7.8.17)</u></b></p> <p><i>Item 5. Geothermal Report.</i> Barry put together a report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Questions update circulated 4.9.17</p> <p><i>Item 8. Old Saw Mill</i> – DJ to look to get a report in the U3A weekly newsletter to help drive membership. This has still to be done</p> <p>All other issues covered in the main agenda.</p>	<p><b>DJones - U3A Newsletter input.</b></p>
4.	<p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was taken as advised.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>BF Geothermal report.</u></b></p> <p>BF put together a short guide to geothermal ready for this meeting including suggested questions for Dan Griffiths prior to his visit 2<sup>nd</sup> October. These were circulate prior to the meeting.</p>	

Mention was also made of the article in The Chronicle (31.8.17) by Prof John Underhill (Shell Centre for Exploration Geoscience ,Heriot-Watt Univ, where he is of the opinion that Britain's geology could be unsuitable for shale gas.

List of Questions to be sent to D.Griffiths:-

1. How do you know that there is potential for geothermal in Cheshire East? Which parts have the potential? Confirm that this is for district heating, not electricity.
2. What stage are you at now? What surveys, tests or research have been done, and with what results? (CE had DECC money for a feasibility study for a geothermal district heating scheme for Crewe town centre in 2015. Has that study reported?)
3. What do you intend to do now? For example what sort of schemes are planned, what areas will they serve, when will work start and when will it be completed. What will be the extent of the schemes e.g. number of houses, kilowatt hours or other appropriate units.
4. Who will develop the schemes? Cheshire East, arms length companies, independent operators..... ?
5. Who has the rights to geothermal resources (landowners, council, government.... ) and what permissions are required?
6. Would fracking be required to improve the flow of water through the heat bearing rocks? Why would this be any more friendly than fracking for gas?
7. Would the returning hot water be free of pollutants picked up from the hot rocks, and would there be any danger to users? For example from radioactivity or radon gas or other toxic substances?
8. Confirm that access to geothermal would not give CE any power to resist fracking for gas.
9. Please discuss the energy planning of Cheshire East, and the part played by geothermal.

MS send to D.Groffiths copy in D.Brown and G.Williams.

**Badger Cull in Cheshire.** Barry asked for this to be raised at the meeting following a report in The Chronicle (31.8.17)

Currently a decision on a cull has not been made according to Natural England, and it would appear that Wildlife activist are raising the issue as a potential threat. Cheshire police indicate that they have a plan in place should a licence for badger culling be granted in Cheshire.

It was decided that PA would write to the Chronicle to be seen to support Cheshire Wildlife Trust and their stance on the matter.

**MS send questions to D.Griffiths,copy in D.Brown and G.Williams.**

**PA write to The Chronicle in support of CWT**

6.	<p><b><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></b></p> <p>Issue around Derwent Engineering and when they would be able to commit to the work. Still hoping for Spring 2018 but could be more like Spring 2019.</p> <p>Community Share drive will be dependent on the above time table.</p> <p>Regular newsletter being sent to EBA attendees CSG to be included in this circulation. DJ send to MS for circulated around the group.</p>	<p><b>DJ send MS newsletter for circulation.</b></p>
7.	<p><b><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></b></p> <p>The completed report is now with CEBC ( Tom Evans) he is checking to see if a Strategic Environment Assessment is needed.</p> <p>Once released will go out to the 400+ registered members for their input.</p> <p>Reg 15 will then contain the delivery plans and will then go out to full consultation.</p> <p>Groups to meet to put together their action plans for next 3 years.</p> <p>Hulme Walfield is at Reg16 ,set of poits put together for Congleton to discuss as part of their delivery.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></b></p> <p>Building work mostly completed, just need a double sink unit. PA/PR to contact builders for availability of used sinks that have been taken out during refurbishment.</p> <p>Harriet Lomax is joining the team as an apprentice, tied in with Macclesfield College she will be working toward NVQ</p>	<p><b>PA/PR contact builders</b></p>

	<p>Level 4.</p> <p>OLS/Apple Juice is competing in Tesco for the Bags of Life award scheme, please put token in the box to support this activity.</p> <p>Now have the equipment to start bottling both Apple Juice and Cider. Apple Juice is being pressed every Tuesday and Thursday. Working on producing Cider Vinegar</p> <p>Report going into The Chronicle- Need to advertise OSM as a AJ/Cider selling outlet. RSP for both £3.</p> <p>DJ – options report on AJ/Cider production and ownership carried over to next meeting.</p>	<p><b>DJ. Prepare an options report.</b></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b><u>Congleton Green Space Trust.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>No official report</u></b></p> <p>Marfield School taking over 2 allotments using Tesco Bag Grant Funding. They now have the key and are planning to get the plots cleared.</p> <p>Wall still needs repairing.</p> <p>There is quite a lot of fruit there to be picked, Mike Knowles looking at starting this.</p> <p>Patti also reported a lot of fruit on Biddulph Valley Way. PA to discuss picking support with CHS.</p>	<p><b>PA discuss support with CHS</b></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b><u>Cycle Path Plans.</u></b></p> <p>Sustrans report now available, MS to circulate to CSG members for comment (directly to Peter Hall).</p> <p>2 of the 3 project ideas have potential, whilst the Mountbatten Way project is not really favourable.</p>	<p><b>Comments to P.Hall please.</b></p>

	<p>PH trying to get Claire Visco to Congleton to see the areas concerned and discuss the projects.</p> <p>Joint meeting to be arranged with interested parties in the near future.</p>	<p><b>PHall inviting C.Visco to Congleton.</b></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b><u>Green space / In Bloom – P.Pinto.</u></b></p> <p>3 August: CIB meeting (feedback &amp; discussion on NWIB judging)</p> <p>10 August: visited Belper to see the In Bloom displays (with DB).</p> <p>16 August: CIB meeting with IYN &amp; businesses</p> <p>21 August: Community orchard pruning</p> <p>Back to back Bug gardens project, Opened for public viewing Sat/Sun through August, will be open each weekend to mid Sept.</p> <p>Awards event 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Southport.</p> <p>Thank You event being planned for late November in the Town Hall.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<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>	
<p>13.</p>	<p><b><u>Group Reports.</u></b></p> <p><i>Eco Schools – P.Pinto</i></p> <p><b>Note: 14 GF schools in C.East 12 GF schools in CW&amp;C 9 schools with Green Flags in Congleton &amp; District Eco cluster.</b></p> <p>Due to renew 2017-18: 2017 Marton 1 Oct (3<sup>rd</sup> GF), Black Firs (16 Nov, 5<sup>th</sup> GF), Marlfields (1 Dec, 6<sup>th</sup> GF).</p>	

2018 Saint Mary's & Smallwood (22 Apr, 5<sup>th</sup> GF), Buglawton (6 July 3<sup>rd</sup> GF)  
2019 The Quinta (27 Jan, 4<sup>th</sup> GF), Scholar Green (8 Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> GF), Mossley (Jun, 5<sup>th</sup> GF)

Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven have lapsed to silver, but working on GF topics, W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver.

Marfields: Tesco bags of help grant awarded: school allotment planned: in contact with Vale Allotments & Marfields.  
Saint Mary's Holiday gardening sessions, including summer pruning.

***Commenting Team.***

No report this month.

***Cycling report.***

As per Cycle Path plans

***Apple Juice/ Cider***

Around 120 bottles of Apple Juice in stock and 2 x 20 Ltrs Cider.

A quantity of cider now ready for blending / bottling.

***Balance Sheet ( to 4<sup>th</sup> September)***

Circulated prior to the meeting, no issues raised.

***Food4 Free***

No report issued

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

No report this month.

13.	<p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b></p> <p><b>PH. Plunkett Foundation.</b> CSG decided not to take out membership, already receive ongoing communications form them.</p> <p><b>SF. 5 Towns Partnership joint project-</b> Walking Trial linking the 5 towns, some involvement from Ramblers Association and CEBC PROW team.</p> <p><b>GW</b> – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept Green Flag award ceremony Congleton Park.</p> <p><b>MMW Book</b> – PA getting printing quotes, the book is now complete and looking really good. Thanks to Jean Phillips for all of her hard work and dedication to making it happen.</p> <p><b>MMW Award Scheme</b> – Subgroup meeting planned for 13<sup>th</sup> September to assess and award against 11 applications.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Next Meeting:-</u></b></p> <p>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 The Old Saw Mill ,10.00am</p>	