

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 6.11.17 **Time:** 10.00am **Location:- Old Saw Mill.**

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), M.Smith, Dewi Jones, S.Foster, M.Gartside, B.Fox ,P.Ranson & M.Axford.

Guests:-

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting. Welcomed Dan and Alisha from Skills and Growth.	
2.	<u>Apologies.</u> P.Hall, P.Minshull, P.Pinto & P.Hirst.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (2.10.17)</u> <i>Item 3. Old Saw Mill Newsletter.</i> DJ has contacted U3A asking if we can exchange newsletters, no reply received as yet. <i>Item 3. Letter to Chronicle re badger culling.</i> PA still to write a letter to The Chronicle in our support of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and their stance against the badger cull in Cheshire. Not actioned no longer relevant. <i>Item 3. Old Saw Mill / used kitchen equipment.</i> DJ has contacted Plus Dane re used kitchen equipment when they are refurbishing houses. P.Scott has promised to contact DJ if anything suitable arises. All other issues covered in the main agenda.	
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> The agenda was taken as issued.	
5.	<u>Domestic Heating – B.Fox</u> Barry’s excellent paper (31.10.17) on Domestic Heating was circulated prior to the meeting. His conclusions were as follows:-	

	<p><i>Electric heating is the clear winner, particularly if heat pumps are used. This is totally clear if only emissions are considered, and it seems very unlikely the others will have sufficient cost advantages.</i></p> <p><i>Both the others use gas. Perhaps they are only in contention because of the power of the fossil fuel lobby.</i></p> <p><i>A variant of the electric option is to use gas with carbon capture to generate electricity, but this seems to be hardly considered.</i></p> <p>BF to try and find the answer on efficiency about the options highlighted. Bf commented that heat pumps efficiency is remarkable around 3 to 5 times more heat out than energy put in.</p>	<p>BF to look at option efficiencies</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></p> <p>No real change from the last meeting. Still waiting for wall renovation to take place.</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>Extraction permissions have been sent to the Environment Agency, full planning application should go in by the end of the year.</p> <p>Next newsletter should be out soon.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></p> <p>Monday 13th November is the last day of the 6 week consultation process. The steering group will then meet to discuss the results of the consultation and add anything significant before forwarding to Cheshire East to prepare for the Regulation 15 stage.</p> <p>The final stage to adoption will be a public referendum. This completed document will include a delivery plan of actions which will help some of our long term project planning.</p>	

8.

The Old Saw Mill .

Café. This is going very well and showing a 600 to 700% on last year when first opened. More staff have been taken on both paid and volunteers.

PR /Events. Harriet is working towards her NVQ Level 3 and making great progress getting our message out to the general public with some good turnouts resulting for our recent activities.

Partnership. PA wished to record OSM's thanks to The Partnership for its financial support in the extra power sockets and equipment required to meet our energy demands with all that is now going on at the centre.

AJ, Cider & Vinegar/ CSG relationship. PA /DJ reported on the substantial growth in both production and overheads since taking the drink production in house. The upfront purchasing of bottles, labels and various pieces of equipment that was previously the responsibility of the outsourced juicer has had to be met by OSM. Two directors have loaned the OSM close on £5000 which will need to be paid back through sales/ 2017/18 profits.

Once this has been completed then an agreement will need to be reached between OSM & CSG on the level of profit that should go towards future operating costs and towards CSG projects. PA, DJ & PR are working on a paper which will lead to a PENCE per bottle agreement (30p/40p) which will then be annually negotiated.

CSG will need to draw up a list of potential projects (possible ideas drawn for the emerging NH Plan) which can then be made public and meet our community promise to use AJ to improve our environment.

Storage for the product is an issue, the Community Store at The Park has no space available, if anyone is aware of places that may be of use please let the production team know.

DJ shared a recording document with the group. This shows production Volumes, Dates and Batch Codes by Product on one spreadsheet, with Sales by Batch Code, Type and Quantity on another. This will be vital information for various reasons as the "business" grows and accurate stock and sales figures become a requirement.

9.	<p><u>Congleton Green Space Trust.</u></p> <p><u>No official report</u></p> <p>There is still the issue of the wall reinstatement to be sorted out.</p> <p>A shed for community use has be sited.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Cycle Path Plans.</u></p> <p>PH report was circulated to the group prior to the meeting:-</p> <p>We have invited Clare Visco, the person now responsible for cycling matters at CE, to come in person to Congleton to look at a list of 18 'quick win' improvements to cycling infrastructure in the town. Waiting for a date.</p> <p>I have written to CE stating our annoyance that no cycling facilities have been included in the repairs to Park Lane Bridge. Not only have no improvements been included but no one in the cycling community was asked to make comments in the planning. This is despite asking Cllr Williams for details on the plan months before work started. Nothing was communicated until the 'work starts here on 19 Oct' signs went up.</p> <p>A joint meeting with Canals and Rivers Trust in May, on site, made recommendations about access between the towpath, the station and the road that would save thousands of £s if done when the road was being repaired. All ignored.</p> <p>Suzie Akers-Smith is in the process of applying for funding for cycling. MS to contact Suzie for an update of where she is at with her cycling master plan for Congleton.</p>	<p>MS contact SAS re Master Plan.</p>
11.	<p><u>Green space / In Bloom – P.Pinto.</u></p> <p>MG. Major successes for Congleton In Bloom, with Gold and Best Small Town in the North West, which once again puts us into the Britain In Bloom National Competition. So plenty of new ideas and commitments for 2018. PA stated that The Rossendale Trust involvement at OSM may offer an opportunity for work with them on improving the environment in the around the area local to OSM.</p>	

	<p>MG reported that our 3 businesses also achieved Gold standard adding to the successes of the In Your Neighbourhood teams the previous day.</p> <p>Patti's report circulate prior to the meeting:-</p> <p>4 Sep: CSG meeting</p> <p>9 Sep: Cong & Dist Hort Show; Bath House & Physic Garden Open Day</p> <p>11 Sept: WDT Grant meeting</p> <p>12 Sept: C Part. Meeting & AGM</p> <p>13 Sept Cong Park Green Flag</p> <p>26 Sept: weeded then planted up front garden at OSM (pansies & violas)</p> <p>Back to back Bug gardens project, Opened for public viewing Sat/Sun through September, will be open each weekend to close Sunday 1 Oct. School groups and other groups taken round the gardens. Still two more school groups to visit early Oct. We will be dismantling from 10 Oct.</p> <p>Planning for Kids tubs plant up in Oct.</p> <p>Publicity:</p> <p>Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom/CSG activities sent to & published by the Congleton Chronicle. PP continues to admin facebook pages, adding articles, photos, events etc [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG, Old Saw Mill & Saint Mary's Garden Club pages]</p>	
12.	<p><u>Enhancing Congleton's Natural Environment.</u></p> <p>Small subgroup set up to look at how best to implement some of the issues arising from the Cheshire Wild Life Trust 2017</p>	

	<p>report. They have received a presentation by Jenny Unsworth on her ideas for the River Valleys Project, this would be a massive project to undertake. N.H Plan (Delivery Plan) could help in terms of direction we need to go in or help in attaining funding.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Eco Schools – P.Pinto</i></p> <p>Note: 14 GF schools in C.East 12 GF schools in CW&C 9 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster.</p> <p>Due to renew 2017-18: 2017 Marton 1 Oct (3rd GF), Black Firs (16 Nov, 5th GF), Marlfields (1 Dec, 6th GF). 2018 Saint Mary's & Smallwood (22 Apr, 5th GF), Buglawton (6 July 3rd GF) 2019 The Quinta (27 Jan, 4th GF), Scholar Green (8 Feb, 4th GF), Mossley (Jun, 5th GF) Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven have lapsed to silver, but working on GF topics, W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver. Marlfields: Tesco bags of help grant awarded: school allotment planned: in contact with Vale Allotments & Marlfields. Saint Mary's weekly gardening sessions, eco environmental review etc.</p> <p>Wk beg 8 Sept; Worlds largest lesson focus on goal 2: food, sustainability and hunger</p> <p>Review of revised requirements from eco-schools for renewing schools.</p> <p>25 Sept: Assessment of school in Northwich for GF.</p> <p>27 Sept: Green plan it challenge, launch at Whitworth Art Gallery, PP now RHS Mentor to team at Holmes Chapel high school</p> <p><i>Commenting Team.</i></p> <p>No report this month.</p> <p><i>Cycling report.</i></p>	

	<p>As per Cycle Path plans</p> <p>Apple Juice/ Cider</p> <p>See OSM report.</p> <p>Balance Sheet (to 4th September)</p> <p>Circulated prior to the meeting, no issues raised. Actual funds available £994.44</p> <p>Food4 Free</p> <p>No report issued</p> <p>Carbon reduction group report for July 2017</p> <p>No report issued.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>There was no further business.</p>	
	<p><u>Next Meeting:-</u></p> <p>Mon 4th December 2017 , The Old Saw Mill ,10.00am</p>	