



Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 6th March 2018 **Time:** 5.30pm.

Location: Bridestones Congleton Town Hall.

In attendance:

Executive Members:- M.Smith, D.Murphy, P.Aston, G.Williams, J.MacArthur, P.Pinto , R.Edwards, J.Crowther, S Akers Smith , D.Jones, M.Gleave ,J.Money ,V.Cutcliffe, J.Beardmore,

In attendance: Guests:- C.Semper (Cheshire Connect)

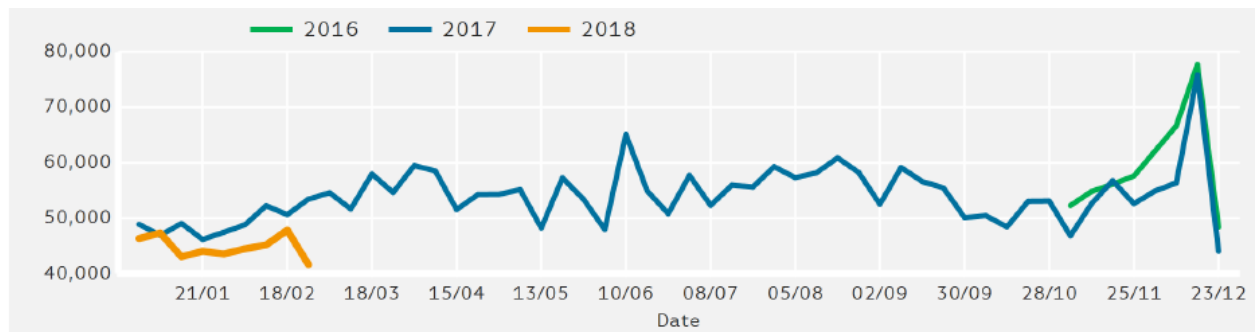
Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction & Apologies:</u></p> <p><i>The meeting was chaired by G.Williams</i></p>	<p>Apologies were received from : P.Houldsworth,,D.Topping, S.Foster,M.Gartside, J.Sewart,G.Baxendale.</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5.12.17 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair. Proposed SAS , seconded JM.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising:-</i></p> <p><i>MS to contact CEBC re extra parking days for Heritage & Antique Festival.</i> No action taken as yet, we</p>	

	already have 4 days in 3 carpark and require more information on dates/need before progressing further.	
3.	<p><u>Cheshire Connect – Cherie Semper.</u></p> <p>Cheshire Connect is a registered charity that matches skills and expertise of local businesses and professional, offered free of charge, with the needs of the community and voluntary sector.</p> <p>Cherie is the new business connector for Congleton and Sandbach.</p> <p>She is currently getting to know the organisations / businesses locally and has already helped various organisations with some of their business/ forward planning.</p> <p>J.Money commented on how grateful she was with Cherie’s support on helping her to put a business plan together, D.Murphy also commented on CAB’s dealings with Cheshire Connect.</p> <p>If you know of any charities, organisations and voluntary groups that need some support please let Cherie know. info@cheshireconnect.org or ring 01244688436</p>	
4.	<p><u>Town Centre Report – J.MacArthur</u></p> <p>1. Town Centre: Town centres have been having it tough all over the country with the continuing increase of on-line sales, financial squeeze on many families and higher costs of goods. The public realm works have added to the difficulties facing traders in Congleton, but thankfully this is coming to an end. It is anticipate that at least three of the five empty units in the pedestrian area will be filled in the near future. Rumba now has a new premises licence and planning permission for the former Maskery property on Swan Bank and Planning Permission has been submitted for a new restaurant in the High Street. Current we are around 90% occupied with 185 shops filled out of 203 rentable/ marketed units.</p> <p>2. Public Realm - this is still expected to be finished by the end of the month. The contractors are currently working on correction work in the road. The section from Boots to Card Factory will be worked on next week (week commencing 11 March). Thursday and Friday this week the contractors are working on replacing kerb stones in the pedestrian area. The Town Council has submitted a list of areas that needs some</p>	

work which has been passed onto Cheshire East Highways.

3. The **footfall camera** in the pedestrian area is now able to compare year on year figures. At the moment this doesn't make for good reading. Last week was the lowest since we started recording – although with the freezing temperatures and snow this was expected.

December 2017	283,835	December 2018	321,463
January 2018	180,829	January 2017	191,088
February 2018	181,154	February 2017	199,228



Notes

Year to Date % Change is the annual % change in footfall from January of this year compared to the same period last year. Week 1, 2018 to Week 9, 2018 Vs Week 1, 2017 to Week 9, 2017

Year on Year % Change is the % change in footfall for this week compared to the same week in the previous year. Week 9, 2018 Vs Week 9, 2017

Week on Week % Change is the % change in footfall for this week from the previous week. Week 9 2018 Vs Week 8 2018

4. **Makers Market** - Victoria Crane, Director of the Makers Market, has spoken to most of the shops in the High Street and Pedestrian area. The shops were very positive about a Makers Market setting up in Congleton. Some are adamant that it should be on a Saturday, others particular those not on the pedestrian area thought Sunday. Overall Saturday seems the most popular choice. It is most likely that the Congleton Makers Market will be on the last Saturday of the month – aware that Treacle is the last Sunday but believe there is scope for Congleton to have its own the day before. Expected start date is the 28th April.
5. **Easter Treats** – Planning to bring back the Egg Roll and Easter fun and games on the 3rd April in the Town Centre. Hopefully by then the pedestrian works will be complete. Also contacting shops to set up an Easter Egg hunt around the shops.
6. **Calendar of Events 2018** – work on a leaflet to be sent near and far highlighting Congleton’s programme of events for 2018 – including the new Heritage and Antiques two week festival in September.
7. **Congleton in Bloom** – on 6th Feb we were officially told that Congleton is in the National in Bloom finals 2018. First Spring Clean was postponed until 17th March due to the snow and freezing temperatures! Judging likely to be the 2 or 3 August for Britain in Bloom and 10 days or so earlier for North West in Bloom. The annual In Bloom survey is open until the end of March – please take a few minutes to fill it in.
8. **Triathlon** – still a few places available - if interest let the Town Council or Cllr Suzie Akers Smith – either to complete all three challenges or just one or two!
9. **Bear Necessities**
The next edition will be distributed from the 3rd April – copy needed by Monday 12 March.

	<p><i>J.Beardmore wished to register his thanks to Jackie for the work she is doing to retain the businesses in the town.</i></p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Community Projects - J.Money</u></p> <p>It was a quiet and very cold January spent on writing a comprehensive 5 year Business Plan for the next step for the Picture House. But also starting to work on the following:</p> <p>Letters of War project – MY Theatre – working with Jackie MacArthur supporting the project, fund raising and organising the performance in the Town Hall. Last performance on 14th February was very well received and over 100 kids took part. Next performance is on March 21st. Please contact Jackie or myself if you wish to attend.</p> <p>Promenade Theatre Day – refer to report from Electric Picture House regarding 6 workshops for children aged 7-12 to devise including writing the play, casting, scenery and costume making, stage management and direction and performing their own play on the day. Liaising with MMU students for their 4 pieces performed around the Town. Hosting the professional performance in the evening.</p> <p>Food and Drink Festival Sunday June 10th - on going planning. 70 stalls booked, all vetted for top quality produce and food to go with an average distance mileage of stallholders being 34miles. Road closures in place and stall company booked. Currently working on entertainment, Town Hall activities and 10 year anniversary celebrations. Thinking of making a giant replica of the Town Hall out of chocolate brownies – work in progress.</p> <p>Carnival Parade – planning, booking bands etc marketing, fund raising, road closures, marshals etc</p> <p>Planning to organise some town decoration public art workshops for the summer.</p> <p>GRIPP assurance – started the process with the CVS to ensure the Governance/Resources/Information/People and Places are all in order and update.</p> <p>Attended SHIFT and WEAVE Symposium in Macclesfield, 13th February, on the development of digital arts and industries. It was a very interesting event and I made some good contacts and did some good networking.</p>	

	<p>Attended the visit of Prince Charles and Camilla in the Town Hall in the role of introducing him to the representatives of our local Trusts and Charitable organisations.</p> <p>Attend Youth Forum and Projects and Finance meetings and CVS Volunteer Management events</p> <p>Supporting Nino with the Heritage and Antiques Festival with fund raising ideas and activities.</p> <p>Supporting Changing Lanes with fund raising applications</p> <p>Manage the roadside board hire for local voluntary groups and organisations to advertise on a fortnightly basis.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Group Reports</u></p> <p><i>Youth Forum – G.Williams.</i></p> <p>Currently working on the PB Project of Mental Health & Substance Misuse, 7 elements being delivered, have an update meeting planned for 20.3.18. Involvement from CEBC Youth Support, Cheshire Police, Everybody Sports & Leisure and Bromley Farm Youth Club.</p> <p>SAS raised an issue re Youth Forum support for the Junior/Youth Triathlon, possible need of funding support, this to be added to the next P&F agenda 19.3.18</p> <p>DM raised the issue of the CHS shelter/building project. MS to add to the Youth Forum agenda 20.3.18</p> <p><i>CSG – P.Aston.</i></p> <p>Dane Valley Community Energy: (Hydro)</p> <p>Environmental Extraction licence application has gone in. Planning application (18/0773M) now with Cheshire East</p>	<p>MS add to P&F agenda</p> <p>MS add to YF agenda</p> <p>PA contact DMcG for letter of support</p>

Will issue share prospectus April / May this year.

PA to contact CTC (D.McGifford) for a letter of support for the scheme.

The Old Saw Mill:

Good programme of events planned, monthly newsletter circulated.

New customers find the place as a result of the publicity around The Royal Visit.

Artisan shop launched 2 weeks ago with a good range of products. Looking to do a Cider Vinegar/Fruit Cordial (Shrub Cordial) in partnership with Purple Laura.

New Vegetarian range being developed, the Vegetarian Society Magazine to visit shortly to look to feature an article on OSM in a future edition.

Cycle Map – Biddulph Valley Way.

Joint funded project with CTC, Staffs Moorlands, Staffs CC, Sustrans & City Stoke on Trent. Biddulph Valley Way is part of the National Cycle Network launched by Sustrans in 1995. This project will highlight the connections to various cycle routes and The Biddulph Valley Way, attractions that can be easily visited using this route and also encourage healthier, cleaner and cheaper travel between these points. Leaflet should be available by Easter.

Congleton Creative – V.Cutcliffe

ELECTRIC PICTURE HOUSE

The Electric Picture House continues to build strong links and partnerships with the community and has had a busy start to 2018.

We are now on our second exhibition of the year called Duo (or 2) with work by artists Bruce Lyons and Petra Lea. There is some fantastic artwork on display so please come and take a look, it is on until Saturday 7th April.

We have also started workshops for people living with Dementia and their carers at the Old Saw Mill and these continue until 21st March. Visyon visited us to take part in a ceramic workshop to create flowers for their new garden space.

We have Hidden Places Promenade Theatre Day coming up on Saturday 5th May with performances by a group of local children, Manchester Metropolitan University students and a professional touring company.

We will be holding workshops for children aged 7-12 to create their own play, direct, act, make scenery and costumes, design posters etc. This will then be performed as part of the Hidden Places theatre day.

Our professional performance is by Sam Brady and is called Things I Say When I Don't Say I Love You and was created as part of the Lowry's 'Developed With' programme. It is a poignant and perfectly judged one-man play about male relationships within one family when dealing with a life changing dementia diagnosis.

CONGLETON UNPLUGGED 2018

Congleton Unplugged just held their annual event 15 venues, 46 bands, and despite the weather a very well attended event. Trying to generate a more diverse crowd, brought Music Gofer in to help organise artists for the event, and this was very successful, will consider using them again. Too soon yet to determine overall outcome, but early signs good. Will look at shuffling some of the news gigs around, eg the Ceilidh probably better on the Saturday afternoon/early evening.

CJAB 2018 Warm up gig 21st April

Town Hall is hosting a 3 artist gig, Robin Pierce Band, Heidi Browne and Vavoom, tickets £10 (£12 on the night).

CJAB 2018 August 25/26

Many of the bigger name bands already on notice, organising for this starts end of March. The Town Hall will be hosting

	<p>gigs Saturday and Sunday evening, otherwise a similar format to 2017.</p> <p>CHAF Congleton Heritage and Antiques Festival 8th – 21st September 2018</p> <p>The CHAF, events will be centric on Congleton, also the Old Hall at Biddulph Grange, Gawsworth Hall and Little Moreton Hall.....events across the three weekends. CC have facilitated marketing and promotion ideas also some networking, working with ADprofile.</p> <p><u>Senior Forum - S Akers Smith</u></p> <p>Dementia Steering Group (Dementia Friendly Congleton) is going from strength to strength. We are half way to our Dementia Friends Target for 2018. (TGT 250, achieved 134) with a widening range of Businesses, Organisations and Health Services coming on board. Activity programme for Congleton showing activity across 6 days per week, JMac putting together a more professional leaflet. We now have a regular column in The Chronicle.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Fayre. This is planned for Tuesday 2nd October and will be a joint project with Mid Cheshire Health Trust. Subgroup meeting planned for 27th March, more details at the June meeting.</p> <p><u>Projects and Finance.</u></p> <p>Town Centre Destination maps. Still to be sited at the Bus Station, Railway Station and in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Heritage Trail – waiting for development form TMC. We are no longer a developer of the scheme, but a potential customer.</p> <p>Mountbatten Way – 7 more large planters and tubs being sites which will give us 19 trees in total plus the 5 pear trees in Back St carpark in our drive to “green” Mountbatten Way.</p> <p>Play Area activity – national play day is 1st August, J.Money to work with Mark Gleave on some play area activity on the day.</p>	<p>J.Mac working on activity leaflet.</p> <p>JM work with M.Gleave</p>
7.	<p><u>Cenotaph Funding Commitment.</u></p>	

	<p>MS took us through the history of the Cenotaph Refurbishment project from conception in 2013 to the current day.</p> <p>Since rejection for funding of the scheme by HLF we have redesigned the whole project, worked with CEBC on restoration of the Colehill Bank wall, some tree work to both protect the walls integrity and public safety and now have full planning permission to deliver the project.</p> <p>MS has written to various organisations asking for letters of support (7 received currently) ,we have had coverage of the plan in The Chronicle and a public exhibition last October in The Town hall (Great War Exhibition).</p> <p>We are now starting on a funding drive. MS asked the Executive to commit £10k for the next 2 years from The Partnerships funds to kick off the fundraising effort. After discussion and a lot of very positive comment, PA proposed that we commit to this request, it was seconded by GW and passed by a unanimous vote.</p> <p>We are now looking for financial support from Congleton Town Council before going out to major funders and local trusts. We have already received a donation from a resident and Congleton lions, with a promise of a fundraising event by New Life Church.</p>	
8.	<p><u>AOB.</u></p> <p><u>Connected Communities Centre</u></p> <p>Mark Gleave updated us on the current plans to develop 4 Connected Community Centres across Congleton at The Old Saw Mill, Ruby's Fund, Bromley Farm Community Centre and Bromley farm Wellbeing Hub.</p> <p>The first joint Congleton Neighbourhood Partnership meeting is planned for Wed 28th March 3.00pm at The Old Saw Mill.</p> <p>MS circulate Marks' email to executive members. All are welcome to attend on 28th.</p> <p><u>700 Word Story Competition.</u></p> <p>SAS reminded all of the above story competition which has a closing date of 9th April. There are 3 prizes for</p>	<p>MS circulate MG's email.</p>

	<p>each of the 3 categories which will be decided by a celebrity panel.</p> <p>The Royal Visit.</p> <p>John Beardmore wished to record his thanks and congratulations to all involved in the organisation of the Royal Visit. A great occasion that left a good feeling across Congleton. BE commented on the choice of Congleton because of its strong voluntary sector and the close working across the whole of the town.</p>	
	<p>The meeting ended at 7.08pm</p> <p>Next Meeting is:- Tuesday 5th June 2018 , Bridestones Suite , 5.30pm.</p> <p>Signed:- Chair.</p>	