

## Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

**Date :** 2.2.15      **Time:** 10.00am      **Location:- Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.**

**In attendance:** P.Minshull G.Williams , P.Aston , M.Taylor, P.Pinto, M.Williamson, A.Scaresbrook, B.Fox, D.Daniel, M.Axford, P.Ranson, P.Pinto, D.Lindop & M.Smith.

Guests:- Phil Mason & Rebecca Shorrock (CEBC Environmental Protection & Air Quality

| Item | Agenda Item / discussion   | Action / comment   |
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| 1    | <p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by P.Aston. Peter welcomed our guests from Cheshire East (Phil Mason &amp; Rebecca Shorrock) and thanked Matt Axford for his hospitality for hosting the meeting at AMVC</p>   |  |
| 2.   | <p><b><u>Apologies.</u></b></p> <p>Cllr D.Brown, P.Hall, P.Hirst &amp; S.Foster.</p>   |  |
| 3.   | <p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (5.1.15)</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting (5.1.15) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Item 3. Carbon Reduction Team.</i></b> CR team still to put together a document for recording / assessing energy usage. Following the CR Team Jan meeting ,it was felt that this would not be useful at this stage.</p> <p><b><i>Item 9. Cheshire Show.</i></b> MT still awaiting feedback form WI re having space within their display area. MMW to try and use one of her contacts as well.</p> <p>Item 10. Food Festival. PA to look to invite Jo Money to the next CSG meeting.</p> | <p><b>MMW contact WI.</b></p> <p><b>PA to invite</b></p> |

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|    |   | <b>J.Money to next CSG meeting.</b>                                   |
| 4. | <p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was taken as circulated with the addition of a general discussion around Cvs. membership..</p>   |   |
| 5. | <p><b><u>CEBC Environmental Protection Air Quality. (Phil Mason / Rebecca Shorrocks)</u></b></p> <p>Phil explained that CEBC had been successful in gaining a funding award of around £21k from DEFRA to be used on a campaign to improve sustainable “ transport” in Congleton. Congleton has an above average of homes with 1 or 2 cars (71% v 66%) and a residents survey indicates that only around 23% are satisfied with cycle facilities in and around the town. Phil and Rebecca are currently meeting up with local groups to discuss gaps in provision and outline some of their initial ideas and budget allocations. They will revisit groups with more detailed plans in the coming weeks. Currently budgets are set around:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Covered Cycle Racks * (5) include Maps /Cycle Route boards</li> <li>(b) Website / Campaign (Interactive like All change at Crewe)</li> <li>(c) Updating Maps &amp; Signage</li> </ul> <p>Will also consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(d) Schools – Competition / Walking Buses / Encourage more cycling etc</li> <li>(e) Events (Food &amp; Drink / Every Step Counts etc)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>It was suggested that Phil contacts Brian Hogan re the siting of cycle racks and impact on the public realm development work currently being planned.</i></b></li> </ul> | <p><b>Phil Mason to contact Brian Hogan re Cycle Rack siting.</b></p> |

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|    | Phil will come back to the next CSG meeting (2.3.15) to discuss development.  |  |
| 6. | <p><b>Vale Allotments.</b></p> <p>Peter reported that Kevin James (Cheshire &amp; Warrington Social Enterprise Partnership) is working on/ drafting some legal documents / information.<br/>Peter has had offers of financial support from a number of people in varying amounts.</p> <p>The Town Trust has given a grant of £750 to help create a fighting fund to support leaflets / room hire /meetings etc.</p> <p>A trust fund is to be set up (not a share scheme) to canvas for donations so that an offer can be made to R.Minshull.</p> <p><b><i>Deadline for the bid is 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015.</i></b></p> |  |
| 7. | <p><b><u>Havannah Hydro ( Havannah Village).</u></b></p> <p>After further discussion it was decided that a feasibility study was worth doing. It would appear that the weir is capable of producing /supporting a 75Kw scheme, 260,000 Kw hours a year enough to support around 70 houses. John Armstrong (supported by Paul Guymer DVREP / Chris Brett) has started to write a bid to support a Community Energy Project. Looking to set up a company, possible name “Congleton Community Energy”</p>  |  |
| 8. | <p><b><u>Publicity / Website.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>The Partnership Website is <a href="http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk">www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</a></i></b></p> <p><b><i>The website is now up and running please send your article to MS who will arrange for them to be put onto the site.</i></b></p>   |  |

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|     | <p><b><i>The twitter account @congopar is also up and running please follow and retweet as appropriate</i></b></p> <p>PP working on review of 2014 and Eco Centre articles.</p> <p>PP to check with Sarah Faulkner re CSG facebook page status</p> <p>MS to check with Cathy re website hit figures.</p>  | <p><b>PP working on 2 articles</b></p> <p><b>PP check on CSG facebook page</b></p> <p><b>MS contact Cathy re website hits.</b></p> |
| 9.  | <p><b><u>Cheshire Show.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>(After much deliberation it is felt that it would be best to try and get space within the WI marquee (5.1.15).</i></b></p> <p>MT to find out the relevant people to contact to discuss this option. We will then have to make a decision as to whether we are to be involved or not. Mike is still pursuing this. MMW to try her contacts to see if she can resolve the issue.</p>   | <p><b>MT to find contact for WI / Cheshire Show.</b></p> <p><b>MMW to contact WI</b></p>   |
| 10. | <p><b><u>Food Festival Representation.</u></b></p> <p>Ian Wilson is currently working with Jo Money on the cycle group element and has been approached to be the liaison person for CSG (P.Hall 5.1.15)</p> <p>Debs Lindop advised that she is working with Jo and various groups to create a “Community Group “ area and it was felt that CSG should be included within the space. Interest was muted in some kind of cycle activity at on the day (making smoothies, creating power etc) It may be a good idea to have a discussion with Jo and she also appears to have information as to what is available.</p> <p>Jo to be invited to the next CSG meeting 2.3.15.</p> | <p><b>PA invite Jo Money to next CSG/ discuss cycle activity.</b></p>  |
| 11. | <p><b><u>Meeting Time &amp; Places.</u></b></p>   |  |

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|            | <p>Looking to organise an Open Evening on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Electric Picture House 6.00pm. We could arrange for a display of our activity, a visit to the Bees and also invite anyone interested to stay for a short CSG meeting afterwards. This would give us an opportunity to meet possible new members / gauge public interest on sustainable issues. PA to arrange with P.Lea at EPH.</p>   | <p><b>PA discuss with P.Lea at EPH.</b></p> |
| <p>12.</p> | <p><b><u>Chairs Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Commenting Team</i></b></p> <p>1. Planning Application – 220 homes off Canal Road (Seddon Homes)</p> <p>PM finalised and submitted a response on behalf of CSG to PINS regarding the appeal by Seddon Homes.</p> <p>2. Tall Ash Farm – 300 homes off Buxton Road</p> <p>PM has submitted a response on behalf of CSG to the consultation by Bloor Homes for their proposed development of 300 homes off Buxton Road. This is the first time we have responded to a consultation (as opposed to a planning application) and we will have to see what, if any, influence we have on the proposals.</p> <p>3. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>PA, PH and PM have attended meetings preparing the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>4. CEBC Local Plan</p> <p>PM attended workshops held by CEBC on 23<sup>rd</sup> January to discuss/comment on the proposed methodologies for the various studies that will be undertaken to address the issues raised by the Inspector. Attendance at these workshops was by invitation only to the participants in the Local Plan hearings. Further workshops will be held around Easter to</p> |   |

discuss the draft findings of the studies (again invitation only).

5. 104 Homes off Waggs Road

Following the dismissal of the appeal, the developers have indicated that they wish to take the decision to Judicial Review.

***Apple Juice.***

Stock in hand :- Apple Juice (320) Cider (100)

No market attendance until around May, need to conserve stock for Seed Swap / Food & Drink festival.

***Treasurers Report.***

To follow / MS circulate on receipt. Not much movement since last month.

***Food4Free.***

Capitol Walk weeding is ongoing, but activity low this time of year. Meeting to be held in the spring ,PP to let us have the groups plan for the year after that meeting.

PP reported that the Antrobus St Gardens development plan was progressing well. Agreement with Julie Byrne for 2 Apple Trees (Cheshire Variety), 2 Crab Apple Trees, Current Bushes and Herbs to be included. Archway and Statue agreed by the Partnership. Planting to be carried out by teams of volunteers (PP to arrange). This to be ready for the In Bloom visits this summer.

In Bloom thank you event at the Town Hall, 6 to 7.00pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. All welcome.

### ***Cycling Campaign Report.***

Cheshire East Council has allocated some funds for cycle facility improvement in Congleton Town Centre on the back of Pollution Control. One of their representatives will be at CSG to find out what we want and where and let us know how much money is available.

SECCAG has lost its Vice Chairman and are deciding on the frequency of meetings (possibly once every two months). They are also asking for more representatives from each town.

Congleton Food Festival is planning promote cycling and walking as the way of getting to the event. Ian Wilson is liaising with J Money and her team to arrange secure cycle parking.

Still too cold to do sustained cycling events!!!

Eco Schools.

We have **13 schools with Green Flags**, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF. Eight schools have achieved or renewed their green flags in 2014

#### **News**

- Schools which renewed or were awarded Green Flags in 2014 are:

Saint Mary's, Smallwood, Buglawton, Scholar Green, The Quinta, Black Firs, Mossley, Marfields.

- Schools due to renew their Green Flag status in 2015 are:

Marion, Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven.

- Schools working towards their first Green Flag: Congleton High School, Eaton Bank Academy, Woodcocks'

Well Primary.

- PP currently in contact with CHS and Bosley re GF applications.
- PP attended Congleton Fairtrade Steering Group meeting to discuss FT in Congleton schools and their involvement in Fairtrade Fortnight
- Birdwatching with young people: Assisted at Congleton Nature Watch event, AMVC; all 7 classes (~200 children) taken out to birdwatch at Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School as part of biodiversity eco topic, data for annual RSPB schools birdwatch.
- Congleton In Bloom:
  - 1) discussing 2015 garden projects with young people in Congleton in the polytunnel;
  - 2) discussing planting scheme at Antrobus St Gardens & possible volunteers involvement;
  - 3) planning event to celebrate gold success story in 2014 and future plans for 2015. Wednesday 4 February, 6-7pm Congleton Town Hall. All welcome
- Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to Chronicle.
- PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & contribute to CSG page]

***Carbon Reduction Team.***

- Attendance at Vale Allotments meeting in Trinity Hall Methodist Church to discuss future of the area  
Total hours = 1hr
- Congleton Sustainability Group monthly meeting at Plus Dane building



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|  | <p>Total hours = 1hr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly Carbon Reduction meeting held at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre</li> </ul> <p>Total hours = 5hrs.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b></p> <p><b>CVS Subscription.</b></p> <p>It was felt that The Partnership should subscribe to be a CVS member (£45) which would by default benefit all of the subgroups as against each group applying individually. MS to action</p> <p><b>BF.</b> Barry to send out a report to the group on 2014 being the hottest year.</p> <p><b>Deb Lindop.</b> Reported that her team and a group of councillors and residents had carried out a walkabout looking at area for improvement around the town centre. A list of priorities has been drawn up and will be acted on once a plan of action has been agreed by ANSA.</p> <p><b>MMW</b> Request to invite Team Congleton to the March meeting to brief us on their 'Every Step Counts' campaign.PA to action.</p> <p><b>MMW</b> Asked is a recent pavement survey had been carried out in Congleton GW believes this has been done by The Ramblers.</p> | <p><b>MS apply for CVS membership.</b></p> <p><b>BF send out report on 2014 global warming.</b></p> <p><b>PA to invite team Congleton to present at March meeting.</b></p> |
|  | <p><b>Next Meeting.</b><br/> <b>The meeting closed at 12.00pm.</b></p> <p><i>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, 10.00am. Plus Dane Boardroom.</i></p>  |  |