

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 6.7.15 **Time:** 10.00am **Location:-** Plus Dane Boardroom.

In attendance: P.Minshull, P.Hirst, G.Williams , P.Aston , P.Pinto, B.Fox, P.Ranson,O.Witmore,M.Gartside, M.Taylor, S.Foster & M.Smith.

Guests:-

| Item | Agenda Item / discussion | Action / comment |
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| 1 | <u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> The meeting was chaired by P.Aston. | |
| 2. | <u>Apologies.</u> A.Scaresbrook | |
| 3. | <u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (1.6.15)</u> The notes from the last meeting (1.6.15) were circulated prior to the meeting. <u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u> Item 5. Janet Mills to send through data to P.Minshull for N.H.Plan. Data received but a little light on detail. PM has booked a date to see Tom Evans. Item 9. Website Publicity. PP has sent photos of the EPH / In Bloom workshop activity for posting on the website. | |
| 4. | <u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> The agenda was taken as circulated. | |

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| 5&6. | <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></p> <p>A meeting has been arranged with Tom Evans next week (w/c 13/7) to find out what transport evidence is available, and what else is required. Also need to draw up more specific questions for the next questionnaire. This may also need to tie up with what CEBC are doing on the subject.</p> <p>Sustainable / Environmental Group. Matt and Jack Swan have come up with 5 important areas of open space:- River Dane Corridor , Biddulph Valley Way, Canal, Uplands (Timbersbook) and Lamberts Lane. We may want to add Westlowe Mere to the list.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>Vale Allotments.</u></p> <p>A meeting has been held with the site owner who has agreed to come back with a decision in the near future.</p> | |
| 8. | <p><u>Havannah Hydro.</u></p> <p>Meeting being held 9.7.15. Quotations being received from companies regarding the feasibility study. Once one has been accepted then the group will look for funding. Still looking to be able to decide on the practicality / financial aspect of the project by the year end.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><u>Open Day / Meeting – Monday 7th September at EPH.</u></p> <p><u>Issues.</u></p> <p>Timing 5 to 7 or 6 to 8pm Morning & Evening event? ie Meeting / Open Day How we attract people / need a ‘HOOK’ – N’hood Plan?? Each subgroup to plan their own ‘thing’ PA to contact Petra re booking the room Communications / Advertising</p> <p>P.Hirst to discuss some arts / music /theatre involvement during the event.</p> | <p>PA contact Petra re booking the room.</p> <p>P.Hirst talk to Petra about some activity at</p> |

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| | Final discussion at the next meeting 3.8.15 | the event. |
| 10. | <p><u>Publicity Website.</u></p> <p>Each group to put together its own articles and send to MS for uploading on the site.</p> <p>Each to use website / Social Media/ Chronicle to support what they are doing.</p> | |
| 11. | <p><u>In Bloom / RHS Tatton.</u></p> <p>Plenty of work still to do before 20th July. MS has / will send out litter pick and town tidy details. Final activities will be Town Ctr Sunday 19th July, 6 to 8pm at Community Gardens and Astbury Mere 20th July, 9.00am.</p> <p>RHS Tatton.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aiming for another highly commended for the Tremendous Trees and Bears. PP to arrange for one bear to be painted as Astro Bear / Night Sky. 2. LOL Trench Garden is coming along well. | PP to get a bear painted. |
| 12. | <p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p>Commenting Team for June 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demolition of Council Offices, Market Square <p>The planning application for the demolition of the Council Offices in Market Square went to committee on 10th June and was passed as submitted. Unfortunately PM did not attend the meeting so was not able to influence the decision regarding our proposals for community use of the site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Tall Ash Farm – 250 dwellings off Buxton Road <p>PM is preparing a letter of objection to this proposed development which will be submitted by the closing date of 17th July.</p> | |

3. Seddon Homes – 230 homes off Canal Road

In preparation for the upcoming appeal in September PM prepared and is currently conducting with the help of Anna Morrison a travel survey of the Canal Road and Howey Lane areas.

4. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group

After Janet Mills and Clair Kiffin attended our last meeting PM has followed up to try and obtain ticket information for bus use in Congleton. PM attended the housing group meeting to liaise between the two groups. The NP transport group met on 6th June and subsequently has prepared the first draft of questions for the 2nd and more detailed questionnaire. PM attended the NP Steering Group meeting on 11th June and the Steering Group workshop on 26th June.

5. CEBC Local Plan

Nothing to report.

Carbon Reduction

Blackfirs School now has new reception building in use, complete with sedum roof, low energy facilities along with solar PV panels on main School roof.

- Carbon Reduction meeting at AMVC on **Tuesday 14/7 at 1000hrs. Agenda issued.** Amongst other things need to develop poster/ info to promote low carbon living for CSG meeting on 7/9 at Electric Picture House.

- Advertising next SLIC/Green Living 7 week course on U3A website, which has been upgraded to allow people to register securely online for first time.

SECCG / Cycling Campaign – Report June 2015

The cycling campaign had a successful day at the Food and Drink Festival.

We had a secure bike park which was used by up to 30 people. More riders from the Sustrans rides from Crewe, Sandbach and Stoke used the park rather than Congleton riders.

We did see a number of bikes parked throughout the town but had no way of recording how many cyclists rode in from the Congleton suburbs.

We found that a lot of people did not know where the Bike event was as we were stuck in the Community Garden, out of sight. We will push to have more accessible site next year: Market Square perhaps?

Food4Free Jan to June 2015

1. Monthly volunteer Sunday session:

Not run in winter months; not run to date due to other commitments of individuals in the group.

2. Planted areas:

1. Routine weeding and care of various planted areas in the town.

2. Capitol Walk garden - some blueberries that were not thriving in the dry ground have been moved to the Fairground, and replaced with autumn-fruiting raspberries. The wet spring has meant plants have been growing strongly, but the garden needs mulch to retain moisture in the ground to maintain the display during dry spells. So in May, the group made a bulk purchase of 50 x 50litre bags of composted organic matter and has begun applying this after rain around the most vulnerable plants. The major mulching will be done after a wet spell in autumn/winter for long-term improvement of the site.

3. Publicity:

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| <p>1. Facebook interaction continued.</p> <p>2. OW was at the Congleton Food & Drink Festival promoting foraged and grow-your-own food.</p> <p>4. Volunteering hours for all members in Jan-July: includes admin (e.g.book-keeping, emails, meetings), Facebook, fundraising, time involved in caring for Capitol Walk garden and other planted areas.</p> <p>Eco Schools.</p> <p>We have 13 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster, three schools at silver (W. Well, EBA, CHS) working towards GF. Eight schools achieved or renewed their green flags in 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools due to renew their Green Flag status in 2015 are: Marton (expecting assessment in July, Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven (Autumn term)• Schools working towards their first Green Flag: Congleton High School, Eaton Bank Academy, Woodcocks' Well Primary• Eco cluster meeting held on 4 June 4-5pm, at Daven Primary. Next meeting at Buglawton 24th September.• Contact with Marton Primary re GF renewal application• June: Saint Mary's school garden, prep for summer term & Cong & Dist Hort Soc & RHS Judging <p>Congleton In Bloom:</p> <p>Attended Cong In Bloom team meetings, walkabouts, photos of flowers around the town</p> <p>Liaison with NW in Bloom, IYN teams etc</p> | |
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| | <p>Contact with schools, pre-schools, guiding and scouting groups re planting gardens</p> <p>Organised all paperwork with RHS for Tatton Show Feature (Tremendous trees, troughs & bears)</p> <p>Planting in Growzone (prep for LOL allotment garden at Tatton)</p> <p>Collection of all artwork from EPH to create displays for Space Gardens Exhibition</p> <p>Planting time in Growzone with schools & other youth groups for Space & the Planets Exhibition, 10/11 gardens planted by 4 July.</p> <p>Publicity</p> <p>Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to Chronicle.</p> <p>PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG page]</p> <p>Balance Sheet.</p> <p>Issued to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Bottom Line £4408.06</p> | |
| 13. | <p><u>News / AOB.</u></p> <p><i>Uth Festival 11th July.</i> MS to e.mail flyer to CSG.</p> <p><i>Cycling Champion.</i> CEBC has written to their cllrs to see if anyone is interested in picking up the cycling champion role.</p> <p><i>Todmorden Harvest Festival.</i> If anyone is interested in going once the date is known please let OW know.</p> <p>PM to write to Cllr Jones re the lack of Congleton Ward Members on the Southern Planning Committee.</p> | <p>MS send out flyer</p> <p>PM write to Cllr Jones</p> |

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| | <p>SF reminded all that we need Partnership project suggestions to MS before 27th July. Also advised the group of the planned 'Older Persons Day' 1st October at New Life Church. Does CSG / Carbon Reduction want a stand at the event. Let MS know.</p> <p>OW advised of the Alderley Edge Open Garden Event, 1st and 2nd August. MS send out link / details. www.gardenorganic.org.uk/events/open-garden</p> | <p>Let MS know if stand required for 1.10.15</p> |
| 13. | <p><u>Meeting closed at 11.55am.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting:- Monday 3rd August 2015, 10.00am, Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.</u></p> | |
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