

## Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

**Date :** 11.1.16      **Time:** 10.00am      **Location:-** Plus Dane Boardroom.

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

Guests:-

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by P.Aston who opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Apologies.</u></b></p> <p>P.Hall, P.Ranson &amp; R.Benson.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising (7.12.15)</u></b></p> <p>The notes from the last meeting (7.12.15) were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising were as follows:-</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Item 3 Town Hall 150 years' celebration 2016.</i></b> PA has contacted J.MacArthur regarding the CSG Oak Leaf logo being featured on one of the Town Hall shields.</p> <p><b><i>Item 6. In Bloom / Polytunnels.</i></b> DB / GW to talk to ANSA re availability of the polytunnels for next summers In Bloom activity. Confirmation received that these will not now be an issue.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was taken as circulated.</p>	

5.	<p><b><u>Lifetime Neighbourhoods Document.</u></b>  <b><i>This document had been circulated prior to the meeting.</i></b></p> <p>Whilst this document appears on communities and local government website it is without government support. Good for advice but with no real weight behind it.</p> <p>Some good ideas when looking at local planning applications and developing sustainable communities.</p> <p>Could be useful for support for some of the N Hood plan groups. PM to forward to D.McGifford to highlight at the next Steering Group Meeting.</p>	<p><b>PM forward the document to D.McGifford</b></p>
6.	<p><b><u>Congleton Co-operative - S.Halliday</u></b></p> <p>The business plan is not quite ready, still waiting for premises so that they can be costed into the financial equation.</p> <p>Also considering BF's view on operating as a pure co-operative.</p> <p>Stuart is looking at the possibility of extending the Apple Festival into an Apple &amp; Cider Festival. Look at the practicality of running a 2 day event at Astbury Mere on or around 20<sup>th</sup> October (National Apple Day), need to take half term dates in mind.</p> <p>SH to put a paragraph together to be presented to Astbury Mere Trust at their next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January.</p>	<p><b>SH to put a paragraph together for Astbury Mere Trust</b></p>
7.	<p><b><u>In Bloom.</u></b></p> <p>PP and J.Mac going to a Britain In Bloom briefing event in Birmingham at the end of January.</p> <p>5 small groups are now working on their own specific areas  The polytunnel is now available for this coming summer and the children's gardens project will go on again.</p>	

	<p>The In Bloom team have a meeting next week 21.1.16 and are planning an event to get all interested parties together late Feb early March to discuss the way forward.</p> <p>Looking to organise “Clean for the Queen” activity to support the national initiative.</p> <p>Community Orchard – Partnership has provided some funding support and the work on the project will start this month. Looking to improve accessibility to all areas of the site, create an edible hedgerow and a mini apple core carving using an already felled tree.</p> <p>Moody St Greenspace. Julie Byrne currently working up a design to further improve this site and increase its usage by the general public.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Congleton Green Space Trust.</u></b></p> <p><b>Allotments.</b> PA reported he had been viewing potential allotment sites around the Hillfield Steps area. He has been approached by a land owner and offered use of a piece of land for use as allotments, he is currently reviewing the Deeds to see if any potential issues would effect this development. He has noted another potential site and asked MS to organise a land search of possible sites around that area.</p> <p>MA to check out ownership of a strip of land off Swan Street.</p>	<p><b>MS organise land search report.</b></p> <p><b>MA check out land ownership.</b></p>
9.	<p><b><u>Dane Valley Community Energy</u></b></p> <p>Following receipt of the grant (£16380) Derwent have started the study work. A report should be finished late Feb / early March which will set out proposals on how the Weir can be exploited and the financial viability of the scheme.</p> <p>PA / GW still to meet with EBA regarding the possibility of them buying power from us.</p>	<p><b>PA / GW meet with EBA.</b></p>
10/11.	<p><b><u>N.H Plan Transport / Sustainability &amp; Environment Groups</u></b></p> <p>PM reported that the questionnaire is now out, the link is :- <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CNP2ndQuestionnaire">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CNP2ndQuestionnaire</a></p>	

	<p>(control + click will take you to the document)</p> <p>PM is working on a travel survey results of which will hopefully be added to the N.H Plan. This will require a further questionnaire / survey work with the general public in the near future.</p> <p>PA made a plea for all members to fill in the survey and encourage others to do the same.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Group Reports.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Report from the Commenting Team for December 2015</i></b></p> <p>1. Tall Ash Farm – 250 dwellings off Buxton Road  This application is still being considered by the National Planning Casework Unit at DCLG with a view to it being ‘called in’, i.e. going to appeal (despite being approved by CEBC). There is no certainty what the outcome of the review will be; we will just have to wait.  PM and Anna Morrison are pursuing separate complaints with Cheshire East Council on the way this application was dealt with by officers and at the committee meetings. In both cases the responses provided to the initial complaints were unacceptable and both of us have escalated the complaints to Stage 2; responses to these are expected late January.</p> <p>2. PM meeting with Fiona Bruce MP  PM met with Fiona Bruce regarding the way the Tall Ash Farm planning application was dealt with by CEBC officers and at the committee meetings. Fiona was very supportive of the complaints being pursued by PM and Anna Morrison and offered to help in any way.</p> <p>3. Seddon Homes development – 230 dwellings off Canal Road  PM received the decision letter from PINS in early December and unfortunately the Inspector has approved the development. This is very disappointing but PM considers there are grounds for the decision to be reviewed by the Minister as it appears that the Inspector has given no consideration to the professional advice he presented relating to road safety and road capacity. PM has started drafting a letter to the Minister.  PM has also received a response via Fiona Bruce from PINS regarding the road safety aspects of this application which he discussed with Fiona last month. Unfortunately the letter was received too late by PINS for it to be considered in the decision; nevertheless PM considers the response to be wholly unacceptable and will refer to this response in his letter to the Minister.</p> <p>4. Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Transport Group</p>	

PM attended the Steering Group meeting. The Transport Group has finalised the transport questions for the second round questionnaire, which is now out to consultation. PM has started to prepare a brief for technical support for the Travel Survey.

PM has raised two issues with CEBC.

1. CSG not being able to speak in their own right at planning application meetings following a Cabinet decision to change time allocations.
2. No Congleton representation on the strategic planning board. PM has put this in as a formal complaint. He will further write to M.Suarez, the Portfolio Holder and our Congleton Ward members

***Congleton Apple Juice.***

Selling quite well. 240 Apple Juice and 78 Cider in stock.

Olde Kings Arms selling Draught Cider well, should run out of stock around April / May.

Once S Halliday's scheme gets up and running we will look at the possibility of moving from glass to either Tetra Pack or Plastic.

***Balance Sheet.***

Issued before the meeting, cash in hand £3221.36

***Carbon Reduction Report for CSG November 2015***

No actual report this month.

***Eco schools.***

We have **10 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster**. Bosley, Daven & Havannah have lapsed to silver.

W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver, all working towards GF.

- 12 Schools due to renew their Green Flag status in 2016 are:

**PM to write to specific members re issue 2.**

Jan: Astbury, Saint Mary's, Smallwood;

Mar: Buglawton,

June: Scholar Green

July: Black Firs & The Quinta;

Nov: Marfields & Mossley

Havannah, Bosley, Daven (GF lapsed but working on GF topics now);

Dec: Prelim discussions with Astbury, Smallwood & Saint Mary's re GF applications due in January.

**Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:**

5 Dec: Rode Hall Christmas market selling Cong apple juice & cider

7 Dec: CSG monthly meeting

8 Dec: CP meeting (incl Community orchard improvements proposal)

11 Dec: picking & delivering ~200kg apples for pressing in Kelsall to make Saint Mary's apple juice

17/8 Dec: designed labels, collected 118 bottles juice, 60 bottles sold at school

22 Dec: confirmation that large polytunnel will be available to use for Children's Garden Project in summer 2016, from Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 to Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**Publicity**

Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom activities sent to & published by the Congleton Chronicle

PP continues to admin facebook pages [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG pages]

***Cycle Campaign Report – December 2015 – P.Hall***

The Campaign is proposing a relaunch to try and get new blood into it.

The current group of people have been involved for many years now and we need some new impetus.

We are proposing an article in the Chronicle to advertise a meeting this coming Spring.

PA reported that the Inner Cycle Path inside the ring road had been picked up on the master plan.

***Congleton Food4Free (July to Dec 2015)***

1. Monthly volunteer Sunday session:  
Not currently running these.
2. Planted areas:  
Routine litter-picking, weeding and care of various planted areas in the town, including an extra special effort in the run up to In Bloom. On Sunday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> the group transported bagged mulch it had stored (bought in May) and spread it on Capitol Walk garden in order to assist with moisture retention during drier spells. Autumn-flowering perennial plants (Asters) on order for early 2016 delivery and planting.
3. Publicity:  
Facebook interaction continued.
4. In Bloom judging in July  
PP prepared an update on the Capitol Walk garden and accompanied the judges.

	<p>5. Accounts Finalised for 2014-2015 accounting year (July 2014-June 2015) and available for inspection by appointment with Olga or Val.</p> <p>6. Volunteering hours for all members in July-Dec: includes admin (e.g.book-keeping, emails, meetings, researching/sourcing plants), Facebook, fundraising, time involved in caring for Capitol Walk garden and other planted areas such as Victoria St herb bed and helping PP with the Fairground.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>News / AOB.</u></b></p> <p><b>MT.</b> Feed in tariff reduction this month, although some slight improvement against the original plans.</p> <p><b>BF.</b> Concerned about recent years of record warming. He is also concerned about the planned fracking and raised the issue of the large methane gas leak in California.</p> <p><b>SF.</b> Indicated The Partnerships willingness the support the In Bloom Team particularly in the area of attracting more volunteers. In Bloom to discuss this issue at their next team meeting. The issue of Greening of Mountbatten Way also to be raised at the same meeting.</p> <p><b>PP.</b> Patti raised the issue of developing the old waiting room at Congleton Station. The franchise is being taken over by Arriva, once they are settled in then this could be discussed with them.</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>Meeting closed at 12.15pm.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting:-</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre.</b></p>	