

**Meeting :** Congleton Partnership Executive.

**Date :** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

**Time:** 5.30pm.

**Location:** Grand Hall, Congleton Town Hall.

**In attendance:** M.Smith, S.Foster ( Chair), P.Aston, D.Daniel, J.Money, S.Halliday, A.Morrison ,P.Boon, M.Gartside, D.Topping, P.Bates, J.Saville Crowther, J.Beardmore, J.MacArthur, D.Murphy, M.Jones, G.Hayes, P.Houldsworth, G.Williams & S.Akers-Smith.

**Guests:** D.McGifford, Tam Blair (Cheshire Fire Service)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Apologies:</u></b></p> <p>Steve opened the meeting by welcoming everyone including guest speaker D.McGifford.</p>	Apologies: P.Pinto,R.Edwards, V.Cutcliffe
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the chair. Approved by P.Aston.</p> <p><b><i>Matters Arising:-</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Item 3. BN Distribution.</i></b> Jackie reported that there were still a small number of issues to sort out, and that she was pursuing other delivery options.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Congleton Sports Trust – D.McGifford..</u></b></p> <p>David took us through a presentation on developing a sports trust for Congleton. The need to Create a Vision, Draw up a Constitution and develop a Working Partnership with sports clubs. The initial work will involve Football and Rugby clubs, who currently they have around 1200 playing members, and look at improving facilities / surfaces taking in the main areas of Back Lane, Schools, Hankinson’s Field and St Johns Rd Playing Field.</p>	

	<p>The benefits would include the ability to attract funding, support from the community with potential management of the areas by the community and a long term aim of potential ownership of the facilities.</p> <p>Start with pitches and facilities for Football and Rugby as a starting point to get the trust embedded and then open up to other sports as time and opportunities arise.</p> <p>Everybody Sports and Leisure, Ansa, Cheshire East have agreed in principal to support this idea.</p> <p><b><i>The Partnership voted to fully support this project.</i></b></p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Congleton Museum – Vision for the Future – D.Topping..</u></b></p> <p>David took us through a detailed presentation of both the current situation and the Museum’s vision for the future. The museum currently operates under a number of constraints mainly lack of space, lack of facilities and no real main street presence. Since it opened in 2002 it has built up a wide and varied collection but has been limited to what items it can display at any one time.</p> <p>Hard facts, the Museum made 169,681 public contacts, had 2253 visitors, Educational activity involved 1813 delegates and the website had 165,615 hits.</p> <p>Their vision for the future is to help make Congleton a visitor destination and grow our visitor economy.</p> <p>The plan is to relocate to Bradshaw House which would improve its main street profile, give space to develop more displays, themes and attractions. There are many exciting exhibitions planned in the current building but so much more could be done by relocation. David then shared some of the floor plans and extra services that could be offered. He issued a full brief of his presentation to everyone present.</p> <p>MS commented that The Partnership were also playing their part in building the visitor economy buy working on a project to develop both Maps and Apps for a town wide Heritage Trail. The Partnership is fully supportive of the Museums Vision and plans for the future.</p>	

5.	<p><b><u>Town Centre Report J.MacArthur.</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Occupancy Update</b> Shop Occupancy has remained fairly static in the first quarter of this year. We have a new beauty shop on Lawton Street. The Co-op Travel Agency has moved in with Thomas Cook. The Gallery Hair Shop has moved from Swan Bank into the pedestrian area. Bulls Head is waiting for new owners to take up occupancy. I have received no further information on the long term plans for Capitol Walk.</p> <p>This puts occupancy at 91% - or 85% if we were to include all the units in Capitol Walk – although these are currently not accessible.</p> <p>Congleton is one of seven towns that are part of a Big Data for Small Users project being managed through Manchester and Cardiff Universities. The project has received another set-back and is now due to start in April. It involves seeing how giving small towns access to big data (like they would have in big shopping centres such as the Trafford Centre) can help the performance of smaller towns. As part of this project we will have 24 hour a day footfall counts to gain a full picture of town centre usage.</p> <p><b>2. The Public Realm £1 million funding</b> has cleared all the processes at Cheshire East and the project was formally approved at Cabinet for consultation with delegated powers to develop the scheme and approval to procure the works through the Council’s Highway Services Contract. There is a project board meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. The Project Board will now take on responsibility for moving the scheme forward with a Steering group working on the details. It’s hoped that public consultation can start in April with an indicative start time for the project as early 2017. We understand that Scarborough will making an announcement in the next couple of weeks about plans for the Mill Street/Princess Street area.</p> <p><b>3. Database Intranet for Safer Communities</b> Congleton Traders Group in partnership with the Town Council is exploring introducing DISC into Congleton. The Police Crime Commissioner has agreed funding, but to make it a success there is some further work to be completed around Governance and Information Sharing.</p> <p><b>4. Welcome MAPS:</b> Congleton Partnership, Congleton Town Council and Cheshire East are looking to introduce Welcome to Congleton Boards in the car parks and some other key sites in the town. A draft map has been produced. The Town Council has approved at least £1500 to make the project happen. This could</p>	
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do with being matched by both the Partnership and Cheshire East Council to make the project live. The maps will be printed onto aluminium and placed onto posts. ***The Partnership agreed / voted to underwrite the project by £2500***

5. **Shop Mobility** - The Borough Council offices are going to be demolished in April. There is still a great deal of uncertainty around the where shop mobility can go and how it will be financed. Cheshire East has struggled with this issue for months and following finance and policy meeting in January the Town Council formed a project group to look into options. Everyone is keen to retain this service for Congleton. Finding accommodation and funding is extremely difficult. There is another meeting next Monday and if anyone has any ideas of places with some space to spare please let Cllr Dawn Allen or Jackie MacArthur know.
  
6. **Britain in Bloom / North West in Bloom** Work is well underway for the town's In Bloom efforts for 2016. The In Bloom has been strengthened by extra support from the Congleton Partnership, and in particular the Sustainability Group. A North West in Bloom judge visited us last week and gave us further tips on how to get the 8/10s upto a 9/10. The first big public event will be the Clean for the Queen right royal clean up on Friday 4 March – you can join in at any time between 9.30pm and 1pm. The next event will be National Gardening Week from the 11-17<sup>th</sup> April.
  
7. **150 Years of the Town Hall** - We have a great project group – made up of some people around this table – planning events to celebrate 150 years of the Town Hall in July. We are currently on the look-out for people with people with an interest in history who may be prepared to help with the Living History exhibition from the 10- 13<sup>th</sup> July. We are also looking to establish links with local families who may have been involved with the construction or funding of the Town Hall in 1866. Some other great plans in place to do with decorating the Town Hall and a schools mass participation card stunt.
  
8. **Tour of Britain – START TOWN FOR DAY 3!** – Congleton has been confirmed as the start town for day three of the Tour of Britain. This is immense – and is a grand prix of cycle races! The whole day of racing – 182km in total will be in the Cheshire East area – apart from about 400m. We can expect TV crews and thousands of spectators. Our role will be to capitalize on this opportunity and to make the most of it for Congleton residents, businesses and the Town. The first project board meeting is this Thursday so I'll find out more and keep everyone posted via Mike. See <http://cheshiretourofbritain.co.uk/>

	<p><b>9. Neighbourhood Plan</b>  We received 933 responses to the second questionnaire – which has provided us with some useful feedback. The working groups are using the feedback to help shape their policies. The Team is now looking at how to respond to the Local Plan amendments as the policies within our neighbourhood plan will need to be broadly in line with this principle document. The aim is to have all our policies complete by May.  <a href="http://www.mycongleton.org">http://www.mycongleton.org</a></p> <p><b>10. Bear Necessities</b>  The next edition of Bear Necessities will be distributed from the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016. I need to have all the copy ready by the 18<sup>th</sup> March – so if anyone has articles they would like included please let me know asap and ideally all the copy sent over by Monday next week.</p> <p><b>11. Commercial Partners for the Town Hall</b>  Just in case anyone hadn't caught up with the news the new Town Hall Events and Parties team is led by Annette Kanaruos, Jo Kanarous and Becky Lawton. This is the team behind Reuben Stubbs and Outside Catering.</p> <p><b>12. New Web Site</b>  The Town Council's new web site has gone live!! Congleton Town Council's new web site will be launched early in the new year – it will be mobile responsive and much easier – and quicker – to navigate!  <a href="http://www.congleton-tc.gov">www.congleton-tc.gov</a></p>	
6.	<p><b>Community Projects – J.Money.</b></p> <p><b><i>Food and Drink Festival. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.</i></b> 40 stalls already booked. The site will be the same area as last year with an added cooking demonstration tent on Market St. Please let Jo know if you will be able to help on the day. Our next Executive Meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> June just before the actual day. Jo has a team of people taking Chapter 8 training to be able to instigate the road closures.</p>	

	<p><b><i>The ALTERNATIVE Festival.</i></b> A complementary Art Weekend running from Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> April to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> May. The weekend will include Alternative Nature - a visual arts exhibition and Alternative Places - a day of theatre which will include performances by the local high schools, Manchester Metropolitan University and a professional theatre company. There will also be sculpture trail throughout the town centre, art workshops and an outdoor Art Fair with street theatre and global food stalls.</p> <p>The whole project is part of a wider scheme to build Congleton's reputation as a destination for Arts and Culture and as a centre for the Creative Industries. This will facilitate partnership working between the arts, other industries and the voluntary sector.</p> <p><b><i>Carnival 16<sup>th</sup> July.</i></b> Jo is working on a rolling road closure for the carnival, seeking advice and guidance from Cheshire Police.</p> <p><b><i>Art in The Park Festival August 21<sup>st</sup>.</i></b> More detail to follow.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Group Reports</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Youth Forum –G.Williams.</u></b></p> <p>Glen commented on 3 main areas that the YF is working on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><i>Mental Health Issues and Awareness.</i></b> We need to more fully understand the issues, what is out there to support them and how we can bridge these gaps. This will be discussed at the next Youth Forum meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March when Stitch Ltd will be making a presentation to the forum regarding some work they have been carrying out locally.</li> <li>2. <b><i>Congleton Carnival.</i></b> YF to support organisations that wish to take part in the procession</li> </ol>	

similar to last time. Also GW /MJ looking at creating a “Fun Day2 event in the Park.

3. ***In Bloom.*** As previous years the YF will support in bloom projects by its organisations.

**CSG – P.Aston.**

***Hydro Community Energy Scheme.*** Currently a feasibility study is being carried out by Derwent who will report back late March / mid April as to the viability of the scheme.

PA reported favourable discussions with both Eaton Bank School and Siemens re supplying power and electronic devices sponsorship.

***Allotments.*** Currently working on an allotment project. PA reported that a land owner around the Hillfield Steps area have promise use of his land for allotments. Congleton Greenspace Trust is looking at land adjoining this site to make the whole project more viable, we should know the outcome by the end of March.

***Apple Juice & Cider.*** Most of this years’ stock has been sold some being held back for Food & Drink.

Cider is selling well through Ye Old Kings Arms.

PA and S.Halliday looking for premises where we can produce and bottle our on Juices / Cider, maybe with other variant as well.

***Commenting Team.*** Peter remarked that The Commenting Team (P.Minshull mainly) was very busy commenting on various aspects of planning and highway issues.

**Congleton Creative – S.Halliday.** The group meets on a weekly basis, members include:- EPH,The Partnership, Community Projects, Jazz & Blues, Open Space,Daneside. Recnet guest at the meeting include Nino Mancini & James Byrne. A report about the group has appeared in a recent Chronicle

	<p>edition. Currently developing a blog and is available through The Partnerships' Creative Arts page.</p> <p>They are also looking at launching a Paper Blog.</p> <p>Kate Wilson - CVS is to provide a package of volunteer training. Attendance will be broadened with invitations to all of our groups.</p> <p>SH indicated that they would be interested in getting involved with the Town Hall 150 Years Celebration.</p> <p><b><u>Senior Forum – S.Akers-Smith.</u></b> Suzie has taken over the role of Chair of this group.</p> <p>We are planning an <b><i>Old Peoples Day Fayre</i></b> in October similar but larger than last year's activity at New Life Church.</p> <p><b><i>Bob's Blog.</i></b> This is now appearing on a regular basis in The Chronicle, if you have articles /information that you feel is relevant please send it on to Mike Smith.</p> <p>A couple of areas we are looking to develop is that of <b><i>Digital Health and IT/Chat clubs.</i></b> Lisa Alcock, Cheshire East Community Officer has agreed to support us in this project.</p> <p>Suzie also reminded everyone that there was opportunity for all of our groups/members to make use of the <b><i>Mini Bus</i></b>, please contact Mike Smith for information.</p> <p>Projects &amp; Finance. No report given at the meeting, MS had issued a full report of all of the projects(2015/16) prior to the meeting to both Executive Member, Councillors and had the report placed on The Partnership Website <a href="http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk">www.congletonpartnership.co.uk</a></p>	
8.	<p><b><u>A.O.B.</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Cenotaph</i></b> . This project is being revamped on the existing Lawton St site. New design and costings</p>	



	<p>being worked on, overall cost will be around £200k. Once design is complete we will look to go out to public consultation and work on funding support.</p> <p><b>MMW Memorial.</b> All 4 projects are developing nicely. The endowment fund is currently standing at £70100, we will look to approach business/ public in spring to see if we can build this further. A site has been agreed in the Park for the piece of artwork and design and costings are being worked for that.</p> <p>The book has several chapters written with photos provided. Deadline for article submission is end of May, with a launch date of November on what would have been Margaret's birthday.</p> <p>The principal of naming a site has been agreed but an actual site has still to be agreed on.</p> <p><b>St John's Community Centre.</b> Peter Houldsworth briefed the group on the plans and finances in hand to carry out Renovation and Conservation of this Victorian Hall and convert it into a modern community asset for Buglawton. A leaflet drop will be carried out to every home in Buglawton in the next few weeks.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Meeting Closed:- 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is :- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Bridestone Suite, 5.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>Signed :-</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair.</b></span></p>	