

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 7.5.19 **Time:** 5pm **Location:- The Old Saw Mill.**

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), Suzie Akers-Smith, P.Pinto, S.Foster, B.Fox, A.Linnet, Dewi Jones, and P.Ranson.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting.	
2.	<u>Apologies.</u> Ro.James, Heather Seddon, M.Axford, M.Gartside, P.Minshull, M.Smith, and G.Williams.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting (12.3.19) and matters arising</u> Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting. <i>Matters Arising.</i> <i>Item 3. Local Compost Project.</i> Still to be actioned, carry over. <i>See Item 13 below,</i> not sure Adam's detail was circulated? All other matters will be picked up on the body of the agenda.	DJ
4.	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> Agenda taken as written.	
5.	<u>Plastic.</u> Nothing new to discuss this time.	

6.	<p><u>Air Quality</u></p> <p>At the last CSG we were told we had been misled by exaggerated press reports into believing that there had been deliberate falsification of Cheshire East air quality measurements.</p> <p>Barry Fox checked the Cheshire East website which has a section on this subject https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/media_hub/media_releases/air-quality-monitoring.aspx</p> <p>In particular notice this extract “1) Serious errors have been made in the council’s air quality data for 2012, 2013 and 2014. It is clear that these errors are the result of <u>deliberate and systematic manipulation of data</u> from a number of diffusion tubes.”</p> <p>The statement on the CE website is based on the report commissioned by CE from consultants Bureau Veritas, which is similarly unambiguous but much longer. See https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/environment/env-health/cheshire-east-planning-review-030817.pdf</p> <p>It is clear from Cheshire East’s own statements and the Bureau Veritas report that incorrect figures were deliberately produced and as a result were used in planning applications, in defining AQMAs, and were supplied to the government.</p> <p>The figures have since been corrected and procedures are in place to ensure that nothing similar can now occur. Barry believes that it has not been made known who was responsible or why, and that a police investigation into the affair is still in progress!</p> <p>Apparently the £25K approx is still available to improve air quality in town, if we have a project that could qualify for this let Nick know. This will need signing off by Defra is criteria is changed from their original allocation.</p>	<p>Include in ‘what next brainstorm’ June mtg.</p>
7.	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.</u></p> <p>Project work plan meeting being held this week to move things forward. Prospectus being put together to measure public support and raise the funding required to deliver the project.</p> <p>Aim is for completion 2020.</p>	

	Adam happy to help with Woodland Management Plan	Adam/Peter A
8.	<u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u> DJ updated us on the latest situation. Steering Group further discussion / consultation is being considered next meeting 22 nd May.	DJ/PA
9.	<u>The Old Saw Mill .</u> AGM April 30 th had confirmed members wanted to go ahead and purchase the property. Full programme of activities sent out in the latest newsletter, website now up and running.	
10.	<u>Congleton Green Space Trust.</u> Wall repairs 70% complete, 4/5 allotments affected. Community Orchard with OSM meeting has been held, next steps noted.	PR
11.	<u>Cycle Path Plans.</u> Viking Way footpath + Macc Road, Cranberry Gardens and Astbury Place bridge + Link Road cycleway were all raised as outstanding issues. Suzie in her new role is going to find the right person to pursue to try to get clarification.	SAS
12.	<u>Green space / In Bloom – P.Pinto.</u> See Patti's report below.	
13.	<u>Enhancing Congleton's Greenspace – Adam Linnet</u> Adam is now Wild Communities Officer covering Cheshire East, he currently has 2 local project (will send detail to MS for circulation) and is looking for my projects locally. Community Orchards are of particularly interest and the Mossley Project ideas could fit well in this.	Adam send local project detail to MS for circulation.

	<p>Adam was unable to make the meeting with Fiona Bruce MP, two of his colleagues went, she showed interest in what was being discussed but there are no specific actions to be followed up as yet. Further discussions to take place in the near future</p>	
14.	<p><u>Group Reports.</u></p> <p>Eco schools: 5 schools with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster.</p> <p>2019 schedule: <i>The Quinta (27 Jan, 4th GF), Scholar Green (8 Feb, 4th GF), Mossley (Jun, 5th GF). Now defaulted to silver: due in 2017 Marton 1 Oct (3rd GF), Black Firs (16 Nov, 5th GF). Buglawton July 2018. Havannah, Astbury, Bosley, Daven have also lapsed to silver, but working on GF topics, W. Well, EBA, CHS on silver. 2020 Saint Mary's & Smallwood (6th GF) 2021 Marfields (7th gf) GF Renewal form now easier to complete, new website & lots of new resources from 1 Oct 2018 (KBT eco-schools).</i></p> <p>Working with Saint Mary's Catholic Primary Eco (transport, bikeability, grounds, waste _ recycling & litter). Citizen science, What's under your feet? 28 Mar: Working with volunteer via CE Nick Lane at Saint Mary's grounds</p> <p>Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG: 1 April: In Bloom cert to Ast Mere VC & CSg monthly meeting 3 & 17 April: Fire cadets at West Rd 6 April: town tidy at AMVC 9 April: Easter treats planting sunflower seeds 11 April: In Bloom meeting, 20 & 27 April: visit to Buglawton in bloom area, planting up lower rockery (plants collected from Nursery; 26 April: FoCP fundraising event at town hall Discussing info board for Capitol Walk Garden with Food4free group</p> <p>April: Monday & Fridays, some Sat & Sundays U3A gardening group on In Bloom sites, Community Gardens, Margaret's Place & Elizabeth's Garden, West Rd</p> <p>Throughout April: discussing, planning & growing for Tatton 2019 Blooming Border. Preparing for Back to back gardens 2019 (organising back boards): Organising wheelbarrows, compost & seeds for Wheelbarrow Challenge.</p>	

Publicity:

Photography & Press articles on eco-schools/In Bloom/CSG activities sent to & published by the Congleton Chronicle. PP continues to admin/edit facebook pages, adding articles, photos, events etc [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG, Old Saw Mill, Saint Mary's Garden Club, Buglawton in Bloom, Friends of Congleton Park & Congleton Park pages]

Commenting Team

Nothing to report

Cycling report.

The CCC continues to challenge Cheshire East regarding the provision of cycling and walking facilities in and around Congleton. We have been advised by CE that, contrary to the original plans for the Link Road, they do not plan to add a cycle path along the length of the Barn Road extension, otherwise to be known as Viking Way. We have been told that CE will rely on developers of the land either side of Viking Way to provide the funding for this via S 106 funds. Given CE's track record in extracting S1 06 funds from developers so far in north and west Congleton, don't hold your breath.

This is a council who have adopted a Cycling Plan, an Air Quality Strategy, Health and Wellbeing plans and who signed up with Cycling UK for the 'Space for Cycling' initiative but who continue to avoid creating strategic cycling infrastructure. Their latest reasoning for not extending the current cycle-path alongside Barn Road out to Viking Way is that 'no-one uses the current path'! This is hardly surprising as it doesn't go anywhere at present! Once the Viking Way is developed people will want to travel along it just as much as car drivers will!

An ongoing discussion with CE is in progress.

Cycle access in the proposed renewal of the Leisure Centre is also the subject of ongoing discussion. CE's ideas of providing safe access to the cycle parking at the new facility suggests that the cyclist shares the vehicle access road when there is adjacent space to add a cycle path.

	<p>Congleton Cycling Campaign will be running a stand at the Congleton Food and Drink Festival on June 9th.</p> <p>Apple Juice/ Cider</p> <p>See OSM report.</p> <p>Balance Sheet</p> <p>Circulated prior to the meeting. Current balance £5353.31</p> <p>Carbon reduction group report.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>Discussion around capturing the new Town Council with a ‘to do’ list to present to the June Partnership. Ideas to PA or MS.</p> <p>CCC proposed 60% emissions reduction by 2050 instead of 80% likely to be accepted by Government.</p> <p>Biodiversity report from UN has been published, BF to circulate, likely to be a very influential document.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BF</p>
	<p>Next Meeting:- Monday 3rd June at the Old Saw Mill at 10am.</p>	