

Meeting : Congleton Sustainability Group.

Date : 4.8.20 **Time:** 6pm **Location:-** Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: P.Aston (Chair), Ant Bolding, S.Foster, Glen Williams. M.Smith, M.Gartside,, G.Cook, B.Fox, O.Whitmore, A.Linnet, K.Wesley, M.Axford, P.Pinto , L.Miller and B.Speed.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Peter Aston chaired the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies.</u> P.Hirst , P.Minshull, H.Morley,P.Hall, J.Money and J.MacArthur.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting (6.7.20) and matters arising</u> Minutes accepted as a true record of last meeting.</p> <p><i>Matters Arising.</i></p> <p>Item 3.Tree Group Dewi has still to finalise work on the data base, Matt to follow up. PP to carry on with facebook activity.</p> <p>Item 3. P.Hirst Letter to the Chronicle / PA letter to the Chronicle. Both published . PA now looking to meet with CTC (Congleton Town Council) once they have set up their Town Regeneration Group. The new planning law changes on “change of use” may help this somewhat.</p> <p>Item 3. Partnership website. PA and PP still to work on updating the Sustainability Group front page.</p>	<p>MA PP and DJ</p> <p>PA meet with CTC</p> <p>PA / PP</p>
4.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> Taken as advertised.</p>	

5.	<p><u>Congleton Green:</u></p> <p>Meeting held 23rd July, minutes circulated to all CSG Members. Carbon footprint baseline produced for the Town Council, 10 areas identified, these will now go to the Council's management team to develop a plan (Sept)</p> <p>E-learning project progressing with TMC, it was felt that we should look to deliver a chapter a week, delivery mode still to be decided. Barry happy to work remotely.</p>	J.Mac.
6.	<p><u>Green Fayre 31st October 2020.</u></p> <p><i>At the last meeting it was felt that we should push ahead with working on the planned October 31st event with the pretext that this may be able to take place. Taking the latest guidelines into consideration it was felt that a physical event would be out of the question.</i></p> <p><i>As this cannot happen as a live event, then we may look to turn it into a 1 hour webinar using Zoom.</i></p> <p><i>Adam Linnet to offer support and advice to PA / MS on how we go about setting this up. Need to contact exhibitors to see if they wish to be involved. MS to action re exhibitors.</i></p> <p>It was concluded that a virtual event was the way to go, but before this could be developed further PA commented that the discussion was heading towards the next session "Making more noise –joining our projects together" so it was decided to take both elements together.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Making more noise – joining our projects together.</u></p> <p>Discussion developed around how we get to a wider audience, cover all of our different aspects / issues and drive both awareness of CSG and get the general public committed to adopting some of our desired behaviours and actions.</p> <p>It was felt that the best way was by regular CSG webinars, taking a subject at a time. These to be held on a regular day/ week (monthly) so as to build a solid block of supporters and work on new contacts/ audience as the programme delivered.</p> <p>To do this we will need a system to use, project manager, list of subjects and a project plan/ schedule.</p>	

	<p>Kay felt that this project would fit well with The Town Councils' business plan and that it may be possible to get officer support to help drive this .</p> <p>A subgroup was set up to develop this further (PA,KW,MS,Al and GW) o Friday 7th August. May approach The Partnership for funding of the initial stages.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Dane Valley Community Energy.(Hydro Scheme)</u></p> <p>Digging on site starts tomorrow 5th August, power to be produced early 2021.</p>	
9.	<p><u>The Old Saw Mill .</u></p> <p>Café now open from 10am to 3pm, 5 days a week. Some small groups have started booking meeting rooms</p> <p>Working on the Big Lunch Club scheme with St Johns and United Reformed Church. Starting Fri 10th July with around 50 meals being distributed. Could support more if required ,if funding was available (Covid 19 – Cheshire East)</p> <p>Apple Juice may clash with Café work, looking for a second site for a few months for production purposes.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Active Travel Congleton (incorporate Cycle Group Report)</u></p> <p>Active Travel Congleton have had a busy few weeks.</p> <p>In conjunction with Suzie Akers-Smith, Ant Bolding rode on a 'Cycle Safari' with Cllr Helmsley to look at the potential for creating safe routes to schools for our children. They rode from Eaton Bank High School to Congleton High School and looked at the poor infrastructure that works against making it safe for kids to cycle to school. A set of maps have been produced showing the current state of cycling provision and the proposed improvements that need to be made to make it safe for kids to ride to school.</p> <p>The government has published a couple of documents and policies that promise to improve the take up of cycling and walking.</p>	

£2bn has been promised to create 'thousands of miles' of protected bike lanes, to train any adult or child to cycle and a promise of the first ever 'zero carbon transport' city.

In addition the government has released £50 bike repair vouchers to encourage more people to get their old bikes out of the shed and get cycling. They used an unfortunate phrase when launching this - 'We encourage all keen cyclists to get their bikes out of their sheds'. Surely if they were keen cyclists the bike would already be out of the shed and on the road!

The government is also promoting cycling as a way to reduce obesity and to save the NHS. Let's see, shall we? It is odd that this has been promoted in the same week as they are promoting vouchers to get discount for the 'eat out to help out' scheme.

At least the government is making positive noises with regard to active travel. Let's hope that the promised funds become available and that our local authorities make the best use of it. Suzie A-S is pressing hard to make it happen in CE.

We are still working with Alderley Park to find a safe cycle route to there from Macclesfield. This has been thwarted by the Covid-19 crisis. The next step is to canvas the residents of the proposed 'quiet route' to seek their comments on improving the surface of Bradford Lane and Hocker lane. We are working with MaccTastic, Cycling UK and Sustrans on this.

Sustrans are in the process of amending the National Cycle Network and we are still waiting to see what exactly this will mean for Congleton. We will keep CSG up to date on this.

We are advised that NCN55 along Giantswood Lane should have opened up this past weekend after the construction of the new overbridge on the Link Road. Ant will give an update.

Link Road. Ant will give an update.

	<p>We are looking into getting an electrically powered tricycle/rickshaw type of machine that can be used to give trips from care homes and sheltered accommodation to residents who might enjoy a trip to their old neighbourhood or to a local beautyspot. We have seen this working in a number of places and you can see what this could mean if you look at https://cyclingwithoutage.org/. We would need to get significant funding for a project like this and we would like to ask CSG for ideas as to where we might get funding.</p> <p>Members might also like to take a look at this https://www.bikeisbest.com/home</p>	
11.	<p><u>Plastic.</u></p> <p>No report issued.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Other Group Reports.</u></p> <p><i>Commenting Team (P.Minshull)</i></p> <p>Nothing new to report. <i>Cycling report. PH / AB</i> (Circulated prior to the meeting). See active travel.</p> <p><i>Apple Juice/ Cider.</i> See OSM report earlier in these minutes.</p> <p><i>Balance Sheet</i> Cash available £4867, Grant Owed £4074, Balance £792.</p> <p><i>The Green Living Group- B.Fox</i></p> <p>Planning a new session with U3A via Zoom. Happy to do the council sessions with Zoom.</p> <p><i>Eco Schools – P.Pinto.</i></p>	

Congratulations to Buglawton Primary, Saint Mary's Catholic Primary and Marlfields Academy. These 3 schools have been awarded yet another green flag each. This makes 4 schools (plus Smallwood) with Green Flags in Congleton & District Eco cluster. The other 12 now defaulted to silver.

2020: 6th GF , due to renew Smallwood (Oct);

Schools can apply electronically and will be desk top assessed only, volunteer assessors stood down through lockdown until at least Sept.

Eco advice at Saint Mary's; via email sharing free resources,: grounds clearing with DoE students.

Attended five workshops run by charity Learning through landscapes (via zoom) on outdoor learning, developing school grounds with a focus on Covid requirements, taking numeracy & literacy outdoors

Wildlife trust workshop on Decline of insects and how to help by Prof Dave Coulson

Congleton In Bloom/ Congleton Partnership/ CSG:

03/7: trees for Congleton meeting (zoom)

12/7 planting with Buglawton in bloom volunteers

13/7: trees for Congleton meeting (zoom)

21/7: visit to Heathview

22/7: CIB meeting (zoom)

July gardening

working singly, or upto 6 volunteers (CIB, U3A, DoE) more recently, following safe distancing guidelines on- Congleton Park sustainable beds; Community Gardens; Margaret's Place; stock of plants in the Community polytunnel; Childrens' tubs; town centre tree trough planting, Astbury community orchard

Publicity:

Since lockdown, videos of various sites taken & shared via Facebook.

PP continues to admin/edit facebook pages, adding articles, photos, events etc [Congleton In Bloom, Congleton Food4free & CSG, Saint

Mary's Garden Club, Buglawton in Bloom, Friends of Congleton Park & Congleton Park pages]

Plastic Free Congleton Report:

See item 11.

Green Space Trust.

No report received.

Food4Free.

1. Planted areas:

Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on our Capitol Walk garden of perennial edibles/plants for pollinators, and the library shrubberies, which we replanted in the autumn with perennial plants for pollinators (see previous report). Plus some time spent clearing around the fruit at the Fairground.

LM planted some fruit trees in the verge (with permission from Streetscape) in Biddulph Rd, Congleton.

OW cleared out the old tyres on the Edinburgh Rd open grass area before planting with potatoes and sowing poppies.

2. Publicity:

Facebook interaction continued when there are photos to post, or news items. See

<https://www.facebook.com/CongletonFood4Free/> for videos, photos and posts about our planted areas.

Funding is being sought for a second explanatory sign for Capitol Walk garden, to be placed at the top of the library ramp.

OW led an evening foraging walk around the town centre on July 6th, with 6 attending, who were shown edibles, both cultivated and wild, growing in various areas.

3. Accounts:

2019-20 accounts are work in progress. Summary sheets will be available on request from Val or Olga. Detailed accounts can be inspected by appointment.

4. Volunteering hours for all members (except PP whose hours are in her monthly report to CSG)

LM: 2 hrs (planting fruit trees)

AS: 3 hrs (library shrubbery pruning)

VS: 40 hrs (library shrubbery weeding/pruning; Capitol Walk gardening/litter picking; admin)

OW: 40 hrs (Fairground gardening, Capitol Walk litter picking, foraging walk, Facebook, admin)

	<p>Trees – M.Axford.</p> <p>There is a meeting later this week. The group is looking for 3 sites for this winter. Possible funding available. Should have a clearer 2 year plan in 2 months time.</p>	
13.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>PP. Updated the group on the success of her solar panel heating and savings made.</p> <p>BS. Advised of the work being done with the collection of Green Groups across Cheshire East. BS and PA to put a paper together for the next CSG Meeting.</p>	
	<p>Meeting ended 7.10pm</p> <p>Next Meeting :- Mon 7th Sept ,10am , 2020, via Zoom.</p>	