



Meeting : Congleton Partnership Executive.

Date : Tuesday 7th Sept 2021 **Time:** 6.20pm

Location: Main Hall, Congleton Town Hall.

In attendance:

Executive Members:- M.Smith, P.Aston, J.MacArthur, P.Pinto, R.Edwards, S.Munro, D.McGifford, D.Brown, G.Williams (Chair), D.Ritherdon, A.Martin ,D.Murphy, R.Walton

Guest: Jackie Kay (resident)

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introduction & Apologies:</u></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Peter Aston.</p>	<p>Apologies were received from :</p> <p>.P.Minshull, V.Cutcliffe P.Houldsworth R.Chadwick, S.Foster,J.Money, K.Wesley, S.Firkin,L.Hulse,</p>

		J.Stewart.Bob Owen. M.Gartside.
2.	<p><u>Minutes From Previous meeting / actions arising.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8.6.21 were accepted as a true and correct record. Proposed D.McGifford, seconded G.Williams.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Town Centre Report.</u></p> <p>Town Centre:</p> <p>Working with Cheshire East who have some funding to help with re-opening the High Street. The first draft of the Cushman and Wakefield report has just arrived so considering that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figures 220 total shop units, 189 Trading or which 142 are independents still giving Congleton Town Centre an occupancy rate of 85% <p>Retail changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Wedding Shop has opened in the Chronicle Office • S-beauty has opened in Lawton Street (former Smiths Bait and Tackle) • Barley Hops has opened in the High Street (formally Not Just Cards) • The Lion and Swan has reopened as a restaurant, bar and hotel • Jo Jo's Kitchen has opened in Antrobus Street (was Crusty Cob) • Bird House hairdressers has moved to Antrobus Street (was Roger Howard) • New nail shop has opened on Mill Street - where Ink and Toners used to be • Ballooning Marvellous card shop has closed in the pedestrian area - marketed 	

- A company is getting ready to move into the former Co-op bank on the High Street
- Work is continuing on Capitol Walk and the former Royal Bank of Scotland - both will be food and drink premises
- A company has purchased 64 High Street (Age UK Shop) and the former Carl Christopher shop – awaiting details
- Meeting tomorrow to discuss a social supermarket opening.

The Makers Market is continuing on the last Saturday of the month and moved back into the pedestrian area for the first time in August and are now likely to remain in the pedestrian area unless COVID or other restrictions require more space.

Saturday 3rd July shops Indie Day – the Golden Ticket event on the 3rd July worked well and received lots of positive comments. Martha is looking to repeat in November with a Christmas theme.

Congleton Pride - 20th August – great atmosphere in the Town Centre and great to see a large community event return! A big thank you to all involved with Pride.

Congleton Jazz and Blues - August Bank Holiday - another fabulous event in the Town Centre. The Town Council stepped in to help sponsor the event when some of the pubs were questioning their ability to take part this year after such a poor year.

2. EVENTS

- a) **MAYOR'S PARADE AND CIVIC SERVICE** - Sunday 12th September. Meet at the back of the Town Hall at 2.30pm. Parade leaves at 2.45pm and church service at 3pm.
- b) **CENOTAPH DEDICATION SERVICE** - This will take place on Sunday 19th September with the public dedication at the cenotaph from 2.30pm – 3.15pm – all welcome.

	<p>c) CLIMATE FESTIVAL AND GREEN FAYRE – Organised jointly by Congleton Town Council and the Partnership, this event is about waking people up to the Climate Crisis and the devastating effect it is having on the natural environment and also looking at actions that people can take now to minimise their personal impact. The week is from 23rd – 31st October – so just before COP 26. Events are currently being finalised and for the publicity. The Fayre will be in the closed High Street on Saturday 30th October.</p> <p>d) CHRISTMAS 2021 - The Christmas Team is organising a more simple Christmas event to allow for more space for people to move around – but keeping the essential elements – lantern parade, santa, switch on, charity stalls and some music. The event will be on Friday 26th November. Congleton Partnership and the Town Council will jointly fund the small trees for businesses again this year in appreciation of the difficult year many shops have endured</p> <p>e) CONGLETON 750 - The Town Council has been working in partnership with Congleton Community Projects and others to develop up plans for the town’s 750th celebrations in 2022. The Town Council has agreed to lead on 10 projects for the year, other groups will also be putting on events. Lots to look forward to! Community Projects was successful in gaining a heritage grant for the heraldic flags and workshops are starting in late September. (see attached list)</p> <p>Bear Necessities The next edition will be distributed from the 11th October and contributions are needed the 24th September please let Jackie Mac know if you have articles that you would like included – Jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk</p>	
4.	<p><u>Congleton Community Projects.</u></p> <p>Get Involved index of Congleton voluntary groups and organisations. This has been updated now with an</p>	

extra 4 pages and 124 groups listed. The Index has now been published and is being distributed but I could do with some help on this to get them shifted. Met with the 4 newly appointed **social prescribers** for the doctors surgeries and they agree to take them to give to the GP's and their own referred patients. It will be a great tool to use to inform and encourage people to Get Involved in the community and ways to get healthier. Please contact me if you need a box of booklets.

Bob asked about the role of Social Prescribers, MS to try and get a brief on their role.

Group 2022 - CCP is leading on creating and managing a working group to raise funds, organise and deliver events and activities to celebrate 750 years of the Congleton Charter in 2022. This is an ongoing project. Any contributions of ideas and activities to take place during those months are welcome and anyone can either join the working group or receive information and updates via an email group. Let me know if you would like to be put on the mailing list.

Delighted to have been successful with a £9,200 grant from the Heritage Lottery for the **Heraldic Flag Project** which is already underway. The project has also been supported by the Inclosure Trust for £1,500 and the Town Trust for £600. The Town Council will be helping with the manufacture and installation of the 80 brackets throughout the Town Centre for hanging the flags in 2022.

We are organising 12 workshops in different areas of the town for the volunteer artists to paint the flags. The public will be invited to come along, watch the artists at work, find out about the project and enjoy a historic exhibition of Congleton being put together by Ian at the Museum for 4 vinyl pop up displays which then can be used at any other events or by schools etc. in 2022. There will be some kids' activities as well. Active Travel will be supporting us by encouraging safe cycling to the workshops. Workshops will be held in Bromley Farm Community Centre, St John's Buglawton, St Mary's West Heath, Visyon, for young people and the Electric Picture House as town centre from 25th September through to 4th December. Artists have kindly volunteered from the U3A and via EPH and we are hoping both High Schools will engage. 2 workshops will be held in the EPH specifically for school groups.

Had a meeting with the 750 group set up by the Town Council to plan their events and we are working together on planning a full programme of activities for 2022. Please send any ideas you may have to myself or to Martha. I have attached the programme so far.

MS follow up.

A specific 2022 marketing team has been working on the logo, advertising banners and development of merchandise.

D.Murphy raised the issue of some activity around 1st week in January (Ale Taster / Beating the bounds) he will talk to Jo Money about this.

Congleton Play Day was held on Thursday 19th August in the town centre. We provided all sorts of games lent to us by Bromley Farm Community Centre, Kid's Planet provided a little obstacle course, Amazing Steven did a circus skills and hoola hooping workshop and Ruby's fund brought their Sensory Bus into town. Electric Picture House offered a creative arts table where children could design and make a heraldic shield. Chris Boothe kindly provided the music. The day was funded by the Partnership and the CongletonTown Trust
It was busy in town all morning and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves then sadly heavy rain stopped play.

Currently helping with the **Hidden Talents theatre workshops** in the Picture House to be performed on Saturday 18th (for parents) and later an acoustic roots music evening with band **Mambo Jambo** as part of the Cheshire Rural Touring Arts programme. Tickets available form EPH for £10.

November we will be holding **lantern making workshops** for the **Christmas Lights Switch-on** which Jackie MacArthur will be reporting on.

Congleton Food and Drink Festival Planning is beginning for next year's Festival on Sunday June 12th 2022 after a break of two years. It will be interesting to see if we have any local producers left. It will have a medieval twist to reflect the 750 year celebrations.

We also have the very exciting news that local company Kanga are currently working on a fabulous new website for Congleton Community Projects and we can't thank them enough for this support for CCP. Hope

Denis discuss with Jo Money.

	fully ready to go live at the end of the year. Watch this space.	
5..	<p><u>Financial Report – D. McGifford.</u></p> <p>From 31.4.21 to 10.8.21</p> <p>Income including opening balance £77991, Expenditure £11177, balance held in account £66814.</p> <p>Summary of project balance (in progress or budgets allocated but not yet started) 57165 Available £9649 . Note that the project budgets are over a two year period.</p> <p>Balance Sheet available on request/ on Congleton Partnership Website.</p>	MS action.
6.	<p><u>Group reports.</u></p> <p><u>Youth Forum – G.Willams</u></p> <p>Nothing new to report .</p> <p><u>Congleton Pride – R.Walton</u></p> <p>Richard thanked The Partnership for its support of the event which proved to be both very successful and resulted in some very positive work going forward.</p> <p>Planning as already started for July 2022.</p> <p>He will forward a video “Thank you for being a friend” to Jackie for circulation.</p> <p><u>Sustainability Group – P.Aston</u></p> <p>Hydro Scheme.</p> <p>Peter updated us on the progress being made around the Hydro Scheme where good progress is being made. Power should soon be generated and sold to Siemens / Grid just a few administrative</p>	RW send video link to J.Mac

piece to be sorted. He wished to thank Ruth Benson for the rewilding work being carried out and stated that fencing to make the site safe and the interpretation boards are now being worked on.

Green Fayre / Climate Festival Week.

This is progressing nicely with a wide programme of activities been drawn up for the week prior to The Green Fayre. Around 34 exhibitors on the day.

Apple Juice.

The apples are starting to come in at a reasonable pace, 168 bottles produced already. PA to get some stock to CIC.

Creative Congleton – Petra Lea (New chair)

We are very busy at The Electric Picture House now that everything has opened up. We are currently surrounded by Heraldic Flags in various states of design and painting. In partnership with Congleton Community Projects we are leading a number of flag painting workshops at a variety of locations around the town, volunteer artists are helping to paint 80 large flags which will be displayed as part of the 750 charter year celebrations. If anyone is interested in taking part please let me know.

We are also in the middle of Hidden Talents, a project with children aged 7-12 years who are creating their own play and all the scenery etc. This will be performed by them on Saturday 18th September at 11am

At 7.30pm on the same day we have a band performing called Mambo Jambo, a duo of multi-instrumentalists and experts in world music. This is part of our ongoing partnership with Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. Tickets are £10 and available from the Electric Picture House.

We recently held art workshops at Bromley Farm with children on free school meals. They had a brilliant time

PA apple juice to CIC

and produced some fantastic artwork. (designed and created new board games)

Elizabeth Group – S.Munroe.

Road name

Elizabeth Elmy Way, culmination of a lot of hard work.

Funding.

Great excitement as a very generous donation from The Denise Coates Fund has resulted in the cost of the statue being covered. Now a big push to get planning application/ consent from CEBC so that the statue can be erected to meet the March 2022 deadline

More than double in terms of value. We intend to put in another bid shortly.

For more detail <https://elizabethelmy.com/>

R.Walton congratulated the group of ladies on their achievements to date.

Dementia Friendly Congleton – D. Ritherdon

PCSO joint project. £2000 project (Cheshire police and 4 local funders) Subgroup set up to work with local surgeries to find a list of recipients, plus adverts /articles in Congleton Chronicle and Bear Necessities. 81 packs were delivered during Dementia Awareness week, receiving some national acclaim via Alzheimer's Soc and The Lions . Great support from Debbie Coxon, new relationships built with AgeUK CE, Tesco, Morrisons. Able to refer clients onto other agencies, a very rewarding project.

For the record Helen Weeks and Karen Linton obtained funding from Cheshire Police commissioner Fund and with support from Cllr Murphy we were able to match fund the project. Our thanks to all involved.

Swap Shop Project. In partnership with Congleton Library and lead by Jill. We have a dedicated cupboard at the library thanks to Jenny Norton and will build up a range of products/ activities to swap. More detail as it develops.

CEBC Dementia Strategy./ East Cheshire |Hospice.Diane is working with Jo Cliffe CEBC and a subgroup to develop a Dementia Strategy for Cheshire. She is also addressing an audience at an event at East Cheshire Hospice later this month.

Events / Activities. As some groups are restarting we are looking at once again putting together a local Activities Leaflet for sometime in October.

Senior Forum – Suzy Firkin.

Many thanks to all of those who have contributed to the refreshed Senior Forum that has been in place for 12 months now. We have focussed our efforts on areas related to social isolation and building on services and engagement that was found to be so crucial during the height of the pandemic lock downs.

With this in mind we have been talking to Changing Lives Together - A Cheshire based charity that provides telephone befriending and buddying to those in need of a supportive friend. We will be launching an initiative which targets Congleton residents to offer them the Changing Live Together service which includes telephone befriending and access to additional mental health support services. We were conscious of the fact that we did not want to reinvent the wheel, but instead give a boost to an existing service that would provide a local network of befrienders and a Congleton telephone number. We hope the service will kick off in October and will use £3.5k of our allocated £10k funding for 2021/22. If the service reaches its target of an additional 15 supported residents (beyond the current 12) we will continue into 2022/23. The service will be reviewed regularly to ensure maximum impact.

Our next project will examine the potential to broaden access to the Congleton Talking Newspaper. The Health & Wellbeing Fayre has now been postponed until 2022. I am happy to continue as Chair of the Senior Forum but will consult with my colleagues at our next meeting to establish if anyone else would like to take on

	<p>the role for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Project and Finance. No report at the meeting, a project update sheet was issued prior to the meeting and is recorded on the website.</p>	
	<p>A.O B</p> <p>PA. Is looking to meet the other chairs to discuss where The Partnership goes from here.</p> <p>DR. Wished to thank Jackie, Debs, Marha and Mike for their ongoing support.</p>	
9	<p>The meeting ended at 7.03pm</p> <p><u>Next Meeting is on Tuesday 7th December 2021, Congleton Town Hall, 5.30pm.</u></p> <p>Signed:- Chair.</p>	