

**Meeting:** Congleton Sustainability Group

**Date:** 04.10.22    **Time:** 6:30 pm    **Location:** Zoom

**In attendance:** Peter Aston, Cathy Dean, Jackie Kay, Heather Seddon, Patti Pinto, Kay Wesley, Barry Fox.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>Heather welcomed all to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Alex &amp; Val Scaresbrook, Margaret Gartside, Peter Hall, Ruth Benson.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>Linda prepared the accounts attached with the minutes.</p> <p>Congleton Climate Action Group is expecting some money from Margaret Williamson Trust for the production of the website, and literature/attend local events. Around £200, need to check with Jackie MacArthur. It is the intention that the Climate Action Group will have their own bank a/c in the future. A little money is also expected from the closed Active Travel group which will go towards the new Sustainable Travel group.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Apple Juice</u></b></p> <p>Update from Peter Ranson: 2022 is a bumper year for apples. We are getting large amounts delivered to the OSM. Before the end of September, we will have produced over 2000 bottles of juice and 500+ litres of cider more already than the whole of the 2021 season. We are expecting that the season this year will be much shorter than in previous years when we have continued until late November. <u>With so many apples storage of the full bottles is becoming a real problem</u> because space in the OSM is limited. Hopefully we can find somewhere to take it which is close by. <u>We will also need additional outlets for the juice if we are to sell it all before the 2023 season starts.</u></p> <p><b>If anyone has any contacts for new vendors for the apple juice/cider or can assist with storage space, please do contact Peter Aston (peterjaston@gmail.com)</b></p>	

	<p>Current production levels are around 500 bottles per week, <b>we need storage solutions</b>. A garage would be ideal, can only pack stack the bottle 3 boxes hire. Murray Goerge might be able to help but just awaiting his return from holiday. <u>If anyone can help, please contact Peter Aston.</u></p> <p>Discussions will take place once production is complete about using the cargo bike for deliveries. This was popular during covid when outlets were shut. CTC and Partnership can certainly help with promotion to increase sales. Production is expected to finish end of October.</p> <p>We are still taking apples, please drop them at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre &amp; Old Saw Mill.</p>	<b>Cathy</b>
5.	<p><b><u>Volunteer Events</u></b></p> <p>Trees for Congleton group will be starting up soon and will be appealing for Volunteers. They also need new sites for planting. Contact Patti / Ruth. The tree planting season is getting shorter and shorter, with bad weather (mid-nov to mid-March). There is a meeting on Friday to discuss new sites, Cheshire East maybe able to suggest new sites.</p> <p>Once sites are identified, landowner permissions are in place, and then the consultation process with local people in the area is started, with 3 weeks to respond. Messages need to go out through social media channels and websites (Partnership / Town Council). Kay suggests keeping all parties informed so we can avoid any objections or adjust plans according before any planting is commenced.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Fracking</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, fracking is back making headlines, there are a couple of sites in Cheshire. Barry F produced a paper some years ago now but has offered to update and send it out to the group. We can also use this for communications to MP's and Cheshire East.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>There is outdated information on the CSG pages on the Partnership website. Can we have a list of affiliated groups on the website?</p> <p>CSG groups now longer running should be archived. Cathy to update the website.</p> <p>The active sub-groups of CSG are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congleton Food4Free</li> </ul>	

- Congleton Apple Juice
- Dane Valley Community Energy (Congleton Hydro at Havannah Weir)
- Eco-Centre (Astbury Mere Country Park Visitors Centre)
- Eco-schools
- Green Living Course (changed name of Carbon Reduction Group)
- Trees for Congleton
- The Old Saw Mill
- Plastic Free Congleton

Groups for archiving:

- Commenting Team
- Active Travel Congleton

Facebook – the decision was made to stop the CSG group as it's been targeted by spammers. The CSG page will be used for broadcasting information to the public. Most of the sub-groups have their own Facebook groups like Climate Change / Trees for Congleton. CSG group was essentially just duplicating information.

8.

**A.O.B**

Andrew Backhouse ([andrew.backhouse@phonecoop.coop](mailto:andrew.backhouse@phonecoop.coop)) has been in touch from Transition Wilmslow. They have funding for a pilot scheme to provide energy surveyors and retrofit installation etc. Transition Wilmslow are looking for a suitable person (paid) to conduct surveys and also to install insulation/draught-proofing Must have own insurance. Please contact Andrew if you may be interested in helping get the project launched. There is £10,000 to start the project.

**Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November Old Saw Mill, 6:30 pm – Cathy to send a calendar invite.**