


Meeting Minutes: Congleton Sustainability Group

Date: 4th April 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** The Old Saw Mill

In attendance: Heather Seddon (Chair), Patti Pinto, Cathy Dean (Secretary), Ruth Benson, Peter Aston.

Apologies: Peter Hall, Linda Aston, Margaret Gartside, Kay Wesley, Lisa Hargreaves, Jackie Kay.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 6th June 2023 at The Old Saw Mill, 6:30 pm
AGM + Meeting**

1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Minutes were approved from the last meeting 07.03.23</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to school Project, no responses as of 4th April. Communication was sent to all Primary schools on 16.03.23. Repeat communication on 17th April when schools return.
2.	<p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <p>Thanks to Linda for sending in the accounts prior to the meeting.</p> <div data-bbox="247 1205 311 1265" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Copy of I E CSG April 2023.pdf</p>
3.	<p><u>Spotlight Report – Biodiversity Plans</u></p> <p>Congleton TC & Green working group have identified 30 sites around Congleton, where there is an opportunity to promote more biodiversity. Each site will have its own specific plan, taking into account the local conditions and the views of the local residents. The initial focus will be on 7 key sites: Quinta Park, Back Lane, Stirling Close, land off Hillfields Close, Redfern Avenue, Windsor Place and Blackshaw Close.</p> <p>The official launch took place at Stirling Close on Thursday 6 April, 11 am. Thanks to Ruth Benson for taking us through the plans.</p> <p>You can find out more information and view site plans on the TC website. https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/biodiversity/</p> <p>More volunteers will be needed for each site, hopefully, we can encourage ‘friends’, and residents to take ownership. Can we use the AMI volunteering site to list volunteering opportunities? They will also be looking for a volunteer coordinator.</p>

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4.	<p><u>Volunteer Events</u></p> <p>Please see the tree planting dates posted on: https://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk/project/trees-for-congleton-22-23-season/</p> <p>Congleton Repair Café – 29th April 10 am – 2 pm Old Saw Mill</p> <p>Volunteering with Bromley Farm Community Hub – weekly drop-in sessions starting from 14th March looking for volunteers.</p> <p>30th September Green Fayre #savethedate</p>
5.	<p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>A Letter for Chronicle Land Share Project. (Cathy)</p>
6.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>Land share project – We were successful in applying for the Cost of Living grant for the Community Land share project:</p> <p>“There are waiting lists in Congleton for the limited supply of available allotment space, and there are homeowners/tenants who have gardens they struggle to maintain or would be happy to utilise their land to grow food. We will provide a match-making service between growers and garden owners with all the necessary tenancy agreements, land usage, visiting rights and safeguarding policies in place to protect both parties.”</p> <p>Cathy will be putting together a working group to deliver the project, interestingly Patti had a contact willing to volunteer their garden for growing food! Bromley Bloomers group are very interested in getting involved and has a community plot on Hilary Ave.</p> <p>We are looking for volunteer gardens, so please spread the word! Contact Cathy if you would like to work on the project.</p> <p>Could have a big launch of the project to co-inside the Big Green Week / Food Festival in June.</p> <p>Vale Allotments – Charity status is being applied for, and grant applications are being made.</p> <p>Trees for Congleton – Planting season drawing to a close, planted just under £17,000 plants which is a fantastic achievement. Patti to put together final numbers and press release.</p> <p>Due to local elections, the decision was taken not to hold the meeting planned for 2nd May.</p>

CSG Subgroups:

CSG Members		Subgroup	Facebook Page
Peter Aston	peterjaston@gmail.com	The Old Saw Mill, Dane Valley Community Energy	Congleton Hydro
Heather Seddon	heather.seddon2@btinternet.com	Plastic Free Congleton	Plastic Free Congleton
Patti Pinto	Pattipinto1@gmail.com	Eco-schools, In Bloom, Trees For Congleton, Food4Free	In Bloom
Margaret Gartside	cllrmargaret.gartside@congleton-tc.gov.uk	In Bloom, Trees for Congleton	
Barry Fox	gbarryfox@gmail.com	Green Living Course	Green Living Course
Alec / Val Scaresbrook	cycling@cheshirecycleway.co.uk	Congleton Food4Free	Congleton Food4Free
Ruth Benson	benson1ruth@gmail.com	Trees For Congleton	Trees For Congleton
Peter Ranson	peterjranson@btinternet.com	Old Saw Mill	Old Saw Mill

Useful Groups:

CSG Members		Group	Facebook Page
Jackie Kay	Jackiekay28@hotmail.co.uk	Climate Action Group	Climate Action
Adam Linnet	alinet@cheshirewt.org.uk	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Matt Axford	ASTBURY@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Countryside Ranger (Astbury Mere)	Astbury Mere

New members

There is a short membership form for new members, to be completed once. Members receive e-mails from the Group and having voting rights at CSGs annual AGM. Please send your membership form to our secretary, Cathy Dean, Cathy.Dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk.



CSG Membership
Application Form App

Important Dates

Next meeting 6th June 2023 at The Old Saw Mill 6:30 pm
CSG AGM

CSG Meetings are typically scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month.