

Meeting Minutes: Partnership Oversight Meeting

Date: 6th March 2026 **Time:** 11:30 am **Location:** Zoom/Town Hall

In attendance: Cathy Dean (Secretary), Glen Williams (Vice Chair), Abby Smith, Kate Fallon, Kay Wesley, David McGifford.

Apologies: Peter Aston, Stewart Price, Vic Brown, Richard Walton, Jeremy Lea.

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u></p> <p>Glen chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p> <p><u>Outstanding Actions –</u></p> <p>Minutes dated 06.03.26 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>A. Partnership website redesign to reflect changes, and discuss website development with Peter/Glen. (Carry Forward)</p> <p>A. Congleton STATS - Kate/Cathy to meet up to discuss using a survey at the Health and Wellbeing Fayre, what do people want?</p> <p>Cathy & Kate met to discuss survey questions, Cathy to make and launch at H&W Fayre</p> <p>A. Cathy to share the water watch results, contact Suzy Firkin to see if we can arrange a visit to United Utilities with a proposal to arrange a meeting with all interested parties.</p> <p>- Update Suzy and Peter have made contact with the respective parties and the intention is still to arrange a meeting. – Agenda item</p> <p>A. Pump Rack – Agenda Item</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Finance Update</u></p> <p>Full accounts sheet to be shared with the minutes.</p> <p>Total income: £47,305</p> <p>Total spend 25/26: £14,083.28</p> <p>Balance Remaining: £33,221.72</p> <p>Unallocated: £13,216.17 **Please note some of this funding will be assigned to events for 26/27.</p> <p>No change in figures from last month, CTC has reserved £3600 in the budget for Partnership Projects.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Water Project</u></p> <p>Congleton Hydro has contacted the Partnership to be involved in the water treatment/monitoring project. They want to put some equipment/monitor at the hydro station @ Havannah.</p>

A. Connect the hydro team with Abby, who is an analytical scientist at the University of Manchester, who will be able to discuss aims, and there is the possibility of getting grants* etc to cover the cost of analysis, and we may also be able to lend equipment.

5. **UK Town of Culture 2028**

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has launched a new competition to support towns wishing to bid for the title of UK Town of Culture 2028. Congleton Town Council, Community Projects and Congleton Partnership have met to discuss this opportunity and have agreed that Congleton should put itself forward.

As of today, 74 groups/businesses/residents/schools, etc. have signed up to support the bid.

<https://form.jotform.com/260324362570350>

A meeting was held with interested Parties to discuss what Congleton means to them. The following notes were captured:

Assets

- Museum
- Town Council
- Local Newspaper
- Art classes
- Congleton Half / Cloud 9 race (Harriers Club)
- Sports club – Rugby/Football/Cricket/Tennis
- Beartown – Rebellion
- Water Power – River Dane
- Schools
- Congleton Park – Green Flag
- Physic Garden / Community Gardens
- Youth Council
- Town Centre
- Dane side / Theatre Groups

Heritage

- Rich history
- Sense of history
- Hidden Stories / Hidden Gems
- Industrial Past
- Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy
- Henry De Lacey / John Bradshaw
- St. Peter's
- Town Hall
- Town Treasures

- Mills

Place

- Engage with new residents
- Born & Bred vs new people – how to get them engaged with the town
- Location – Countryside – Cloud – Canal
- Environmental vision – Eco Schools – Food 4 Free
- Walks BVW
- Biodiversity

Community

- Everyone is valued/accepted
- Welcoming Town
- A place for everyone
- A town where everyone is valued
- Green Future – 30,000 Trees
- Ask residents to rally – they always do (COVID as an example)
- Welcome new cultures – Ukrainians / Dutch Connections
- Change Makers
- Resident saving for the community hospital
- Theatre Groups

Creative

- Energy – Music Scene – Theatre – Business
- Festivals / Destination
- Enterprising Town / Business community
- Food Festival
- Jazz & Blues
- Unplugged

The next meeting to be held is on Tuesday, 10th March, to continue working on the expression of interest.

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Pump Track</u></p> <p>Peter has been approached regarding a Pump Track in Congleton. This is one of the ideas suggested at the YC and is one of the repeated comments on the Youth Council TikTok Channel.</p> <p>Jon spoke at YC, all members agreed to support a pump track in Congleton.</p> <p>We do need to factor in the buffer zone from residential properties (up to 30m for a pump track) & any impact on the playing pitches, pavilion/car park.</p> <p>Cathy contacted Cheshire East, and Back Lane Playing Fields have been put forward as a potential location.</p> <p>A. Members of the Youth Council and interested parties get together to discuss locations. Glen offered to drive a minibus, we could visit existing tracks in Macc & Kidsgrove. Cathy is to arrange a meeting.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Pride requests that Partnership sponsor the St Patrick's quiz night for £50, all agreed. Pride to send invoice to Congleton Town Council ref Congleton Partnership.</p> <p><u>Oversight Committee Meeting Dates 2026</u></p> <p>The usual meeting schedule is the First Friday of the month at 11:30 am via Zoom.</p> <p>Next meeting will be on 3rd April 2026, via Zoom, link on the calendar invite.</p>