

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 23 March 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Present:, Cllr Suzy Firkin (took role of Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Peter Aston, Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair), Cllr Duncan Aimes.		
2.	Agenda Approval	Added the Hillfields site to the Biodiversity item		
3.	Notes of Meeting of 16 February	Change the section about phase 1, 2 and 3 to focus on issues within our control. Add more of the details given about the Town Hall –detailed information given at the meeting was not captured. Suggested that we would add the detail to the green webpage and add a link in the minutes so it is available for all in a suitable location.	SF/JM to work on	
4.	Outstanding and Complete actions not on Agenda	On Hold – Green Assembly - not a clear way forward and is still on hold Green Fayre 2023 –action on this when H&W Fayre complete	New council JMacA/Cathy	
5.	Congleton Town Council Carbon Footprint progress Discussion around the accuracy of the tracker computers to monitor CO ₂ from Council vans. System independent of vans and takes account of speed, gears, style of driving - but only have a year's worth of data. All agreed that it doesn't make sense to base emissions on fuel spend. Suggestion to check all receipts for litres of fuel 2018 – today and test against computers in vehicles. Streetscape has taken on two additional staff, so no longer disposing of a van. Congleton is expanding and more work to do. The park van is being exchanged for an electric vehicle in the spring. Ruth's van is also	Organise a meeting with Serena, Paul Williams, Barry and Suzy F in April to go through the Carbon footprint details. Speak to Ruth and Serena about how best to take forward Additional staff will increase carbon footprint so need to account for this in the data - to be part of discussion on the Carbon monitoring form.	J Mac JMac Reports via THAS	Next mtg Next mtg

	<p>being exchanged and electric charging point added to the back of the Town Hall and Congleton Park. Still not an effective model on the market for tipper trucks.</p> <p>Town Hall - Cllr Suzy Firkin updated on the project plan for reducing the carbon footprint of operating in the Town Hall. Next steps are around getting potential secondary glazing in the Town Hall, a potential scheme to add solar to an unseen part of the roof that would generate electricity for the museum with any excess electricity being fed into the Town Hall.</p>	<p>Red flag against vans – generator of carbon footprint – can we put more pressure to speed up the change of vehicles? Question around private work of CTC Streetscape – this is listed in the THAS committee streetscape report– and includes 7 Parish Councils, Congleton Football and Cricket Clubs and Premier Estates</p> <p>Investigation work underway. The next steps are likely to involve applying for funding to pay for the works.</p> <p>Add the actions already taken on the Town Hall to the decarbonisation of the Town Hall web page</p>	<p>J MacA, Ruth</p> <p>SF- THAS committee</p>	
6.	<p>Update on Site Specific Biodiversity Plan –Cllr Suzy Firkin</p> <p>Seven priority sites have been identified – scheme being launched on the 6th April at 11am at Stirling Close.</p> <p>Looking into the accessibility of Redfern Avenue. Mark Stubbs progressing with the wildlife surveys</p> <p>Hillfields – Top of Town Wood. A paper went to THAS to get permission to go out to consultation on the idea of adding community allotments as well as wildflowers, bushes and trees to the area. Chronicle made a front-page article of the story as if happening. Ruth Burgess and two councillors thought they were going to meet a couple of residents about it and 30-40 turned up. This is still at an early consultation process.</p>	<p>Team members to help where possible on the 6th April for the launch of the Biodiversity programme Make sure web pages are up to date</p> <p>Getting quote for Redfern Avenue Share a copy of Mark’s notes</p> <p>Officers will meet with the public in the Town Hall on April 18th where all questions can be asked in a space where people can be heard. As we are in the run-up to an election this will be handled by officers.</p> <p>Team happy that so many people are passionate about the area and may want to become Friends of Hillfields to help with the Biodiversity project for the area</p>	<p>Group Jackie</p> <p>Ruth Jackie</p>	After mtg
7.	<p>Air Quality – Update</p> <p>Discussion around the CEC information. Want to see the data for the air quality monitoring around the link road.</p>	<p>Jackie to share correspondence with Adobi at CEC Jackie to request the information from the highways team – for the link road, if not forthcoming to submit an FOI request</p>	Jackie	Next Mtg

8.	<p>Off-setting Strategy</p> <p>Agreed that this needs to be part of the induction with the new Council so they are aware of the budget implications.</p> <p>Also worth exploring with neighbouring town councils as footprint will be too small for accredited schemes like Woodland Trust</p>	<p>A subject that needs to be included in the Town Council 2023- 2027 business plan.</p> <p>To be explored by officers after the elections</p>	<p>Jackie to speak to David to get it on the induction</p>	<p>May</p>
8	<p>Green Marketing and messaging</p> <p>Continuing to promote activities. Missed Global recycling day on the 18th March. April messages around Food Waste leading up to National Stop Food Waste Day on the 27 April</p>	<p>Potential to add more events to the calendar –and also contacts for the lead on these events. Add the calendar with contacts to the Green Pages</p> <p>Organise a meeting with the Green Groups in Late May/June for the 2nd half of the calendar</p>	<p>Jackie</p>	<p>Next Mtg</p>
9	<p>Feedback on the Net Zero CEC Conference</p>	<p>Cllrs Wesley, Firkin and Gartside and Jackie Mac attended a Cheshire East in person conference about the route to net zero on 23 February. Really inspiring. Lots of great speakers. Presentations can be seen here via this link</p> <p>Planning to recreate a net zero for business half day event in the Town Hall in June during the Big Green Week.</p>		
11	<p>AOB:</p>	<p>Heather thanked the group for the progress it had made over the past four years to raise the awareness and importance of green issues – making good progress even if slower than we would like. Change is happening and should celebrate successes as a town.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>27 April 4pm– 5.30pm via zoom - What’s been achieved, next steps, summary points, big ticket items.</p>		