

Congleton In Bloom Working Group  
11th March 2020, Spencer Suite, 9.00am

DRAFT MINUTES

Approved at meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Attendees:** David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Martha Hayes, Amanda Martin, Anna Morrison, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
  - Margaret Gartside, Jackie MacArthur
  
- 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
  - Approved.
  - Change to climbing clematis at Antrobus Street car park, not trailing.
  - Trees at the bottom of the fire station, will be planted along the fencing on Clayton Bypass- to be added to the portfolio- PP suggested on having a tree page.
  - ACTION MH- circulate plan of where trees will be planted/ have already been planted.
  - ACTION MH- to speak to JMac re: penny farthing sculpture and who DB needs to contact at Cheshire East to get a decision. Ask Belmont to create this design as the structure could always be positioned somewhere different.
  - Gold rosettes- just need sticking onto the signs.
  
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
  - None.
  
- 4. The Britain In Bloom Route Update:**
  - Route for Britain In Bloom, judges’ comments from 2019- they liked New Life Church allotment, St. Peters Church flower festival, they thought the street cleansing was at a high standard and loved the story of bears and Treo. Felt that they needed more information on Astbury Mere. Proposed extension for Cenotaph. They thought the number of hours for community involvement was amazing. Add name of who the judge is meeting on the tour guide, against each area.
  - Presentation needs to be different to the portfolio. Visit the “Hub”- email from Emily Reeves for access to the finalist hub- RB emailed to all.
  - PP focussed on the Britain In Bloom route. NWIB route is same time (3hr) as BIB, but we won't have the flower festival at St Peters for NWIB, so we have a little spare time for other stuff if we need it. To be agreed closer to the judging date.
  
- 5. IYN Support Update:**
  - £600 in grants from William Dean Trust for the x4 new IYNs (£150 each) the new IYN’s still need to apply to WDT for this. IYNs: Community Garden, Margaret’s Place, Vale Allotments, Congleton Town Football Club. WDT grant for the 4 new IYN has been sent to CSG already. They will need to provide receipts for expenditure to receive the grant via CSG treasurer. Other IYN can apply themselves to WDT for a grant
  - £200 Streetscape budget used for new plants at the back of the Town Hall/ library area
  - £75 Streetscape budget used for the Food4Free Garden
  
- 6. Town Tidies:**
  - **Review 7<sup>th</sup> March-** Started at Congleton Park, 56 people attended, x2 beavers and x1 cub group- also children from Saint Mary’s and All Hallows schools.
  - **Upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> March-** In line with the National Spring Clean weekend- starting at the Community Garden, Lawton Street. Congleton Mayor and x2 presenters from Silk Radio and a representative from Co-op Funeral Care, bringing bottles of water and bananas- all confirmed. PP will lead some gardening work here on that day. RB has ordered more litter pickers and equipment. PP suggested to create a compost bin in the community garden out of pallets.
  - **Upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> April-** starting at the Church House, Buglawton. Potentially lots of planting to do here.

- The group would like to encourage more Town Councillors to attend future town tidy events.

## 7. AOB:

- **PP- BIB Seminar-** BIB theme for Wildlife is butterflies. PP would like to do an art project with children to create their own butterfly which will then be displayed around the town. Suggested to also have a project with schools to breed butterflies. ACTION- can we have two beds in the park to be planted as butterflies- currently have one, but would be nice to have two.
- **AMorrison- Art Project** (Artists: Nils Udo, Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Long)- project that uses natural form either at Astbury Mere or Congleton Park. Items collected on a walk to create a structure/ art piece. Looking at the artist's work and creating this on patterns of growth, uses numeracy and art skills. Also shows recycling art.
- **In Bloom Stickers-** MH has these and they will be used at the Town Tidy and other In Bloom events where they will be given out for people to wear.
- **Bin Sticker Competition-** Thanks for GW and Bromley Farm Youth Group for submitting some posters. JMac is going to email and chase for more entries and extend the deadline.
- **Canvas Bags-** 250 in total, all agreed to sell at £3.00. Having a stall at the April Makers Market (25<sup>th</sup>).
- **Community Garden-** Open Day/ work session with Patti on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Hi-Viz Vests-** Ordered x20 new Hi-Viz from DP Sportswear, with the In Bloom logo on the back- to be worn at litter picks. ACTION MH- get a quote to order more.
- **Easter Treats Day-** 7<sup>th</sup> April, from 10.30am-1.30pm in the Town Centre- In Bloom will be having a stall to plant some little pots- gazebo will be set up and everything provided- PP and U3A ladies confirmed.
- **Ivy on the Bears-** BE noticed this on the bears on the roundabout- this needs pulling out. Suggested for bears to be decorated for VE Day, St. Georges, St. Patricks and other Congleton events etc. To have litter pickers for the clean-up on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- **Portfolio-** 15 pages double sided (total), needed by 30<sup>th</sup> June for Britain In Bloom- don't give the judges any agenda of where they're going, as the route will be subject to change. A map can be included with this to highlight In Bloom areas over Congleton, but not to show the route. Likely to be the Monday/ Tuesday of the second week of August for Britain In Bloom judging date- we will know for definite in April. Print off terms of reference for In Bloom for next meeting.
- **Results for Britain In Bloom-** 16<sup>th</sup> October in Manchester.
- **Blue Heart Campaign-** To have a blue heart made from anything to be placed in a bed to show rewilding. AMorrison suggested to have this information out in BN and on social media. Create a blue heart poster that can be used at sites that will be kept wild. ACTION- speak to Chris Shields re: new children wildlife poster.
- **Entry form details-** MH sent- for Large Town and Authority Park Award.
- **Video of Congleton-** ACTION DB- to try and get a drone to film this- this only needs to be a very short video as people will lose interest.
- **Question from Member of Public to Community & Environment Committee-** to ask why CE Committee has only received one set of minutes since spring 2019 and can CE Committee press the In Bloom team to post these minutes.
- *All minutes that should have gone to CE committee have done after approved at In Bloom meeting. All IB minutes will shortly be available on the CTC website, on a working group page.*
- **B2B Gardens-** Theme of Euro 2020- PP currently has 8 confirmed. Opening this up to other uniformed groups such as cubs/ beavers etc.
- **Wheelbarrow Challenge-** 19 children wheelbarrows and 6 confirmed care homes- 25 total.
- **Website-** PP suggested for a separate Congleton In Bloom website, which her son can create. Hosting fees £120.
- **Plastic Free Congleton-** lead by Heather Seddon, very good work by this group.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting: TBC.