

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

3rd June 2020 Virtual Zoom Meeting, 10.00am

MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** Cllr David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Martha Hayes, Cllr Amanda Martin, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams.
2. **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.
 - Jackie MacArthur, Anna Morrison
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the Notes of the previous meeting as a correct record. – 11th March
 - Approved- Minutes sent to CTC Community & Environment Committee on Thursday 4th June.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
 - David Brown- Cheshire East
5. **Tribute to Bill Blackledge:** ACTION MH- Contact North West In Bloom for the details of where to send card and flowers and action as appropriate on receipt of this.
6. **Weeds:** Noted that in some areas the weeds are quite high, PP reported on Canal Road, by the high pavement- ACTION DB to sort this. Rood Hill- wait a couple of days on this, as reported that the CE Highways programme for weed spraying started on 18th May and so some areas could be covered. Let DB know the areas of concern and he will sort.
7. **What have we been up to?**
 - Suggested to have an article in the Chronicle to show what the In Bloom group and neighbourhoods have been doing despite the current situation. ACTION RB & MH to arrange to have a full page article (paid for) in the Chronicle. Contributions such as what has been going on with pictures need to be sent to RB & MH. This will keep In Bloom in people’s minds and hopefully encourage people to look after their own areas.
 - Mention ‘No Mow May’ to say we did this the best we could to encourage wildlife.
 - Mereside Avenue- look into permissions for a Wildflower Meadow and send letter to surrounding residents.
 - Mountbatten Way- empty at the moment, could be filled, depends on number of left over plants.
 - Link up with Congleton Green group to get joint messages out.
 - PP & MG are putting together a leaflet of walks
 - Not ready for a tidy up yet, but the group discussed about the In Bloom team members still having a Town Tidy in the In Bloom Hi-Viz to promote that the group is still keeping up the good work alongside the Streetscape team- this would be socially distanced. GW to coordinate a date and time and communicate to the group.
 - UPDATE: also requested to add in the article mentioned above about the Purple4Polio bulb planting for Congleton Rotary, sponsored by Alan Finneron.
8. **Tree of Light:** Congleton Rotary would like to see this tree as a permanent feature in Congleton for future events. Suggested behind Treo in the Community Gardens- RB & JMac agreed to this. Need to wait and see what the new Cenotaph area looks like in autumn and will decide from there. Noted that Congleton In Bloom is happy to support Congleton Rotary in making this a permanent feature, but waiting until the site is complete to locate the best area to plant the tree.
 - October 2020 is the 25th anniversary of the Community Garden.
9. **Missing Hanging Basket Post Lawton St:** A couple of years ago, a lorry reversed into the post, damaging it and so it had to be removed. Confirmed that this will be reinstalled soon.

10. Provision of Shop Hanging Baskets: Traders would still like to see hanging baskets. Discussed as this may not be possible this year due to staff health and safety for watering and maintenance of the plants, also the provision of plants. To be looked into. If we can provide for shops that have previously supported, we will do so.

11. Community Involvement (BE): Look to reposition the neighbourhoods in the portfolio.

12. Cemeteries (BE): Noted that a lot of community groups are tidying up and wildflowering cemeteries- need to speak to/ draft a letter to St. Peter's Church wardens to see if CIB could do something like this, possibly make into a community project? Congleton Cemetery is currently cut three times a year.

13. AOB:

- Park Allotment- requested for possibility of volunteers digging out and planting vegetables- RB agreed to this.
- St Stephen's Church entrance into the park- ongoing work for 2021.
- Congleton Park is 150 years old in 2021, need to start thinking of plans and ideas to decorate and celebrate. Suggested for all groups that benefit from the park, to send a letter to Cheshire East to show support, e.g- Friends of Congleton Park, CTC Green group etc.
- Congleton Park to be put forward for a heritage green flag award- Ansa usually do this.
- Bearmania, 10 years old in 2021- ACTION RB: to contact all bear owners with the aim to get them on display again.
- Rosemary Bushes at Fairground car park- leafbeetle problem in this area- ACTION AMartin to look into.
- New Website- Group agreed to build more information and pictures into the page already existing on the CTC website, rather than a complete new website.

14. Date of Next Meeting: TBC