



# Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CILCA**

## Business Support Working Group

### Minutes

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 2pm, Virtual Meeting

1. **Attendees:** Cllr David Brown, Cllr Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Sally Holland, Cllr Kay Wesley, David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur, Martha Hayes
2. **Apologies:** None.
3. **Actions from the last meeting 26.11.20:** (Minutes approved by Chair and added to website). Nothing to report.
4. **Business Community Network (SF):** Much like the work of the COVID Community Leads group, Cllr Firkin suggested a business group for those interested, aimed at the larger businesses in the town, rather than the town centre retail businesses, as there is already the BBC group set up for this. JMac & MH met with staff from Franklyn Financial Management Ltd. who are looking to set up a similar thing. ACTION MH- to chase for an update on this. Suggested for this working group to collectively speak to different businesses, ACTION SF: to create a blueprint for the structure and involvement of this new business group.  
Useful Facebook links/ groups: Congleton Business Networking & Congleton Small Business Networking.
5. **Post Office Update (JMac/ SF):** Many different avenues have been explored. CTC officers met with representatives from the Royal Mail to discuss potential Town Centre locations. Further updates at the next meeting.
6. **Town Centre Update (MH):**
  - Festoon lighting and bunting will be installed in the Town Centre w/c: 22<sup>nd</sup> March in time for the re-opening of the retail shops on 12<sup>th</sup> April.
  - RC has noted and pictured areas in the Town Centre that need to be looked at. ACTION DMcG & MH to speak to Ruth Burgess regarding what services Streetscape could be scheduled to provide and what outside works need to be investigated. A report will need to go to Finance & Policy Committee to approve this.
  - Empty Shop Vinyl Stickers: After exploring a few different shops, to seek permissions, the only shop that we have firm permission to vinyl sticker is the British Heart Foundation shop in the pedestrian area. RC suggested and the working group approved to move forward on working on this one window, with a nice image or a collage of images of Congleton to promote the town. If this is successful, it may start the flow of doing the same on other empty shop windows.
7. **Market Area Redevelopment (RC):** Potential to host a Strategy Working Group on this for Councillors to discuss. Would also be good to get the opinion and input from other local business and development owners.



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8. **Town Centre Report (JMac):** No update from Cushman and Wakefield (commissioned by CE to complete this report). Consultants are currently working on this and they should be able to send something over to us in the next couple of weeks.
9. **Terms of Reference (RC):** RC highlighted the Terms of Reference and asked the group if they were happy to continue with this set under the current pandemic circumstances. All agreed to continue with current Terms of Reference, unchanged.
10. **AOB:**
  - Informed that although in the media, Mountview is not up for sale.
  - Need to inform the Chronicle to correct that the Active Travel Plan Consultation for Congleton is still active, although the Local Transport one has now closed. Needs to be corrected and to inform people that they can still have their say.
11. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 3.30pm.