

Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING – Meeting called to discuss Government Bus Back Better Strategy

Date: Wednesday 21 April 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 6pm – 7pm

Present: Cllr Suzie Akers Smith (Chair), Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Kay Wesley, Ant Bolding (Active Travel), Jackie MacArthur.

Guest: Steve Haydon, Hollinshead Coaches from 6.20pm – 6.40pm

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By who	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Margaret Gartside (not sent invite)		
2	<p>Cllr SAS introduced the meeting. Gave background to the meeting and introduced the Bus Back Better Government Strategy – aim of the meeting to review the April 2020 document sent to CEC with ideas for better buses in Congleton and to discuss any additions for ideas for better bus services in Congleton that the group would like to add in response to the Government’s Bus Back Better strategy.</p> <p>Understand that CEC as the tTransport Authority is the body that can apply to Government for a share of the £3bn to deliver better buses and increase uptake of use of buses as a mode of transport. Important to work with CEC and make suggestions for improvements in Congleton.</p> <p>Steve Haydon from Hollinshead Coaches gave a brief understanding from a bus operators point of view and some background to the Beartown Buses that his company runs via a contract with CEC Transport Services Solutions</p> <p>Things Group thought to consider: Main aim buses within Congleton v buses connecting Congleton to other towns. Impact and use of Open Bus Data Source</p>	<p>Cllr SAS to speak with Richard Hibbert re how CEC is likely to progress with the Government Offer</p> <p>Thanked Steve for his offer of help and advice</p> <p>Considered Power Point with ideas submitted in April 2020 – circulated after the meeting. Ideas to be sent to Cllr Kay Wesley. Comments needed to Kay within the week. Forward to other CTC Councillors to keep informed.</p>	<p>Cllr SAS</p> <p>Cllr KW</p>	<p>End of April</p> <p>End of April</p>

	<p>Better servicing of West Heath, Lower Heath and new estates: Buses to more places of employment/education Buses to commuter trains at Congleton/ Holmes Chapel Understanding how the Link Road impacts on journeys and use of road – serving new communities. Cheaper fares/ tickets to be used across bus services Bus timetables and services need to be easy, simple and cheap Electric buses More attractive bus infrastructure – clean bus stops, shelter, knowledge of timing Better connectivity for various modes of transport – eg bike racks on buses.</p>	<p>In line with CTC response to the Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan consultation and as it is only suggestions with no financial input from CTC felt the group was ok to submit this to CEC but would circulate response to all Councillors before sending to CEC. Active involvement from CTC would involve committees.</p>		
3	<p>Cllr SAS reported that CEC has been successful in gaining £21,820 from Clean Air funding from Defra to increase uptake of cycling and active travel in Congleton. Funding for wayfair markers showing time by walking/cycling, cycle buddy scheme for adults and 8 covered cycling shelters in Congleton.</p>	<p>Send a copy of the CEC project to ITWG members Work starts early May</p>	Jackie Mac	By 23 April
4.	<p>Clean Air Day – 17th June. Question about closing High Street to traffic to enjoy a car free time in the Town Centre. Agreed would need to wait until COVID-19 restrictions relaxed before encouraging town centre event.</p>	<p>Officers to develop a suggested plan and share with group</p>	Jackie Mac	End of April
5	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>To be agreed</p>		