

# Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting – focus on Carbon Offsetting and Cheshire Wildlife Trust

## NOTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 24th June 2021

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 11.30am – 1.30pm

**Present:** Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Peter Aston Barry Speed and Jackie MacArthur.

**Guest :** Joe Pimblett, Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies		
2	<b>Cheshire Wildlife Trust</b> Joe Pimblett gave an introduction to the work of <a href="#">Cheshire Wildlife Trust in relation to the nature and climate Emergency</a> . The group was particularly interested in the local work on creation of carbon insetting schemes, the development of carbon metric measures, the audits of peatlands in Cheshire East and the acceleration of woodland creation. Group keen to understand costs of creating peat land schemes. Would want any schemes to be either in Congleton or as close as possible.	To work with Joe Pimblett on an article for Bear Necessities and more detailed information to put on the website. Find out more about the Moss Rooms Peatland – (Peter Aston to send article from Inclosure) Promote the Moss lane/ Mossley Peatland as an important area to restore. Joe to work with the group on developing a worthwhile local project that for the sequestration of the CTC carbon emissions that will remain once all measures taken to reduce emissions. Predicted to be around 130 tonnes Group/Joe to look at potential for buy in from Congleton SMEs that want to off-set their carbon footprint. Potential for CTC/CWT to work together on promoting options for SME Check legalities around Council spending on Carbon off-sets especially around location	JMacA/JP PA CTC JP/MG/SF Group JMacA	Early July June 2021 2021-2023 Autumn 2021 Autumn 2021 June 2021
3	<b>Frequency of Meetings and Potential New Members.</b> Discussion around increasing the frequency of meetings and new members that the group believe would strengthen the ability to work on projects.	The Chair to approach Heather Seddon, Chair of Plastic Free Congleton, Adam Linnet from Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Matt Axford from Cheshire East Countryside Rangers. Meetings to continue to be held by zoom. Group suggested monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of the month to avoid clashes with Congleton Sustainability Group and alternative day time/ evening to allow	MG/JMacA JMacA JMacA	End of March Feb 21 July 21

		members working full time to attend. One month Thursday morning. Next month Wednesday evening. Various members to become more knowledgeable and lead on areas. Regular agenda items for start of meeting. Biodiversity, Waste, Carbon Footprint.		
4	Chair and Vice Chair	Cllr Margaret Gartside happy to continue as Chair Cllr Suzy Firkin as Vice Chair *Barry Speed suggested that the chair should be rotated – which will consider at the annual review	JMacA	May 2022
5.	Update on Rewilding Paper going to <a href="#">Town Hall and Assets Committee</a> on the 1 <sup>st</sup> July. 13 areas where rewilding is going to be piloted, although first need to let residents know what is happening and why.	Important that CTC shows leadership on this and helps people to understand the nature emergency and why it is important to give more back to nature. More promotion of the messages – Bear Necessities, press and social media  Important that Streetscape team understand the messages as they are frontline staff who are often asked questions – check with Ruth. Check if there is a training session the CWT could do for staff and councillors on biodiversity.	All  JMacA SF	June 2021
6.	Air Quality - Barry Speed has been able to borrow some professional equipment for the next month. So far 4-5 volunteers have stepped forward to help. Concern about how to answer questions would be answered if collecting data outside industrial premises	Check with Cheshire East Air Quality re rights to check areas and report back to Barry Speed.  Find out what Cheshire East Council will do with the information	JMacA  JMacA	June 2021  June 2021
8.	<b>Green Fayre</b> Issue with the booking for the Green Fayre as the Friday that the group wished to move the booking to has another booking. Group aware all bookings are subject the NHS not needing the Town Hall. As Town Hall not available for Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October other options were considered.	Group thought best option would be to close the High Street and erect a Marquee on the field behind the Town Hall. Costs for Marquee around £1500 plus costs of security and road closures. Option to be developed further along with ideas for funding. Further discussion at CSG early July.	JMacA/	July 21
9.	AOB	Ran out of time		
10.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 22 July 10am		

