

CTC 750 Working Group - Minutes
Thursday 2nd September 2021

Attendees: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Jenny Unsworth, Jo Money, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jess Imber, Debbie Coxon, Jackie MacArthur, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Martha Hayes

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Paul Duffy, Cllr Sally-Ann Holland, David McGifford
2. **Update on previous meeting; 20th May:** Approved £10k at Council and a further £15k for 2022.
3. **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** ACTION MH to amend total cost of grant approval.
4. **Update from last 750 Marketing Meeting (DC):** This group last met in June. It has been working on creating awareness. 750 vinyls window stickers have been added to the British Heart Foundation shop, banners have been up on the Town Centre entry boards. The domain name 'congleton750.org' has been purchased. Website holding page added to the CTC main site, The page will be added to with more information, history and details of events for 2022. The Information Staff are researching merchandise to sell in the lead up to Christmas and then to be sold throughout 2022 (t-shirts, tea towels, stationery, jigsaws, badges, finger puppets, possible calendar...) Cllr Wesley is to join this group and suggested creating a Facebook event for the year to create awareness/ excitement.
5. **Update from Jo Money re; 750 Wider Event:** Flag project for the Town Centre to have 80 hand painted flags to decorate. Different workshops to create these. Agreed a sub-group to target schools and get them engaged and involved for the year.
6. **Designate lead and budget for each CTC event;**
 - a.) Mountbatten Way Banners- JMac & KW. Have costings, just need design and then to start the planning application process. Double sided banners to decorate MBW and by the Firestation Roundabout to be sponsored by businesses.
 - b.) Ale Taster & Catchpole- SF, DB & MH. To start the year of events by appointing the Ale Taster at an Ale Festival in the Town Hall. ACTION MH- to contact local brewers to assist and to create a 2022 ale for the year. Catchpole has been appointed for Douglas Parker. SF speaking to Camra about this.
 - c.) Monthly Town Centre Activities- MH. Agreed to hold a Medieval style event in the Town Centre on the first Saturday of each month from April-October.
 - d.) Mayor Making- Linda Minshull and team as Civic Administration.
 - e.) Beating of the Boundaries- SAS, MG & Jeremy Condliffe (Chronicle). Suggested for 10th April and then to create a legacy map so people can still complete the walk after the one day event. SAS would like to see horses included with this.
 - f.) Civic Parade- Linda Minshull and team as Civic Administration.
 - g.) Platinum Jubilee- MH & JMac. Suggested for Friday 3rd June, 12-5pm, picnic in the park type of event with entertainment from the Bandstand.
 - h.) Town Hall Exhibition- JU. Schools Exhibition that could potentially be opened up for the public to view. Lots of historical sections of what times were like 750 years ago and the typical characters of this period. To include practical demonstrations also.
 - i.) Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park- CTC Officers, JU, DB, MG, JMon. Saturday 13th August, Congleton Park and Jousts booked.

j.) Medieval Banquet at Town Hall- CTC Officers, SAS & JU. Agreed date; Friday 23rd September to tie in with the finish of the Heritage & Antiques Festival. To follow the same format as the banquet that took place as part of the 700 years of mayoralty celebrations in 2018.

7. **Agree method of working:** Have sub-group meeting, led by names highlighted above and then report back with 4/5 minute update at the next full meeting. Preferred for this to be of issues going forward rather than reporting on what has been done. All agreed.

8. **AOB:**

- ACTION JU- to create a timeline of significant events from 750 years ago to present day.
- Another potential event for a Medieval Band, could be combined with the Banquet in the Town Hall.
- Alsager Theatre interested, need more details from them of what they can do- ACTION SF & MG.
- ACTION DMcG- to speak to the Carnival group about its future
- Look into creating a charter to give the children at the history exhibition with a seal or stamp.
- ACTION MH & MW to look into Town Hall decorations with JU.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Monthly meetings on first Thursday of the month at 11am. Thursday 7th October, 11am. Bridestones Suite will be booked for this. MH to send out a re-occurring calendar event.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 - 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Martha Hayes, Town Centre and Events Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	14		
REPORT TITLE	750 Charter Year Celebrations Update		
BACKGROUND	<p>At the Communities and Environment Committee on the 3rd June 2021, CE/11/2122 resolved to approve in principle the 10 proposals for Congleton Town Council led events as part of the Congleton 2022 celebrations and to delegate responsibility to the 750 Working Group to work on these initiatives within the budgets to be agreed at Council.</p> <p>A budget of £10k was agreed at Council to enable the group to start reserving dates, making bookings and commissioning work. This paper is to update Councillors on the plans.</p> <p>A summary sheet of the Town Council led events is attached in Appendix one. The events in yellow are ones that the 750 Working Group is leading on. There are more events planned for the year-long celebration, but these are being co-ordinated through other groups and organisations.</p>		
UPDATES	<p>All 10 Congleton Town Council (CTC) led events have been assigned a lead and work has started on some of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountbatten Way Banners- Costings sourced, design and planning permission to agree. • Ale Taster & Catchpole- Catchpole assigned and currently in discussion with local brewers for the 2022 Ale and event. • Beating of the Boundaries- horses to lead the event have been sourced, route being planned – proposed day for the event 10th April 2022 and then a walk that people can do themselves. • Platinum Jubilee- Congleton Park booked for Friday 3rd June 2022, now investigating entertainment to cover the 1952 – 2022 era. • Town Hall Exhibition- Jenny Unsworth is concentrating a lot of time towards this event, creating costume, information and diagrams, sourcing equipment and volunteers. The event will be from the 4th July 2022 for a week • Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park- Congleton Park booked for Saturday 13th August 2022, Jousts also, sourcing other entertainment acts and stalls. • Streetscape staff have tried and tested the Town Centre flag holder on the Cheshire brick of Brown’s Jewellers. It was firm when installing and withstood the heavy rain from previous weekends. Now this is known to be a secure fixing, the fittings can be ordered from Belmont and will start to go up in the new year, with the hand-painted flags added in March. Congleton Community Project will be hosting flag making workshops from late September. 		

Financial considerations	Congleton Community Projects was successful in gaining a heritage and lottery grant for the flag making workshops. The Town Council has ringfenced £10k in this financial year and will be looking to set aside a further £15k in next year's budget.
Environmental considerations	The 750 celebrations are primarily aimed at creating activities for local people. Normal Town Council policies being mindful of reducing carbon footprint will apply to decision making and purchasing.
Equality Considerations	All event planning will be mindful of accessibility issues for all residents and visitors and try to reduce all barriers to involvement.
Proposal	To note the report.

Group 2022 – Ideas and Activities – Last updated 16/9/21 - Item 14 Appendix 1

Date	Themes/Existing Festivals	Activities/Events
January	Flags up on Mountbatten Way	Add the banner flags to Mountbatten Way for the year
January	Decorate the Town Hall	Add inside decorations to add a medieval flavour
March 5/6	Unplugged Weekend	Devise a special 'Music through the Centuries' Commission a music composition for an event in h St Peter's originally a chapel of Ease in 14 th century
	Elect an Ale Taster with possible Ale Festival in Town Hall	Idea in development Ale tasting event, Ale trail, brewery tours
March 8th	Unveiling of Elizabeth Statue - Town Centre	Work with plans already in place Develop work on women's history through the ages
Late March	Heraldic Flags to go up through the town	Work created by CCP in Autumn 2021 will be put up in the town by Streetscape team.
April 10 th	Beating the Boundaries - Mayoral Event	Walk/ ride around the boundaries of the town & map for walks through the year
April 23rd	Choral Society	Concert in the Town Hall all depending on restrictions being lifted in time re singing groups
May – October	Town Centre Activities	First Saturday of every month – historic activity in the town centre
May	Mayor Making	Decorate the Hall in medieval style
May	Bath House Open day	Usual open day but with bigger event on history of herbs and medicinal practice from 12 th century
Early June	Mayor's Civic Parade	Grow size of parade – add 750 details to the service and reception
Friday 3 June	Royal Platinum Jubilee	Event in the Park
June 12th	Food and Drink Festival	Medieval slant, stallholders dressed up, related events to medieval food, Ale, ale making and Ale Taster medieval entertainment, cooking through centuries
June 24/25/26	Quilters Exhibition	Town Hall Quilt Exhibition June 2022. Tie our group quilts, to the Charter Year colour theme or any other theme that might have been suggested by the Council or other groups. We also run a group challenge each year, the results being displayed at the exhibition, and again it would be good to link this in with the Charter if possible.
July 4th – 9th	Congleton Town Hall	Transform Town Hall into a Medieval scene to show life of the days. Organise educational visits from schools over the week and open to the public at weekends, depending on volunteer capacity
July 23 rd	Congleton Pride	Event in the Town Centre
August 13 th	Medieval Festival in the Park	Re-enactment, living history workshops, food stalls, music
August 20 th	Congleton Pride	Town Centre event
August 27/28th	Jazz and Blues	Relate to above or develop other ideas – madrigals etc
September 10 th – 24 th	Heritage and Antiques Festival	Publication of a history book on the Bath House and physic garden and history of medicinal herbs 2 Open Days planned, May and September – tour of herb garden by Barbara Wilkinson Antiques Roadshow – Capesthorn Hall??
September 23	Medieval Banquet in the Town Hall	Ticketed event to finish off History and Antiques Festival