

## Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

### NOTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 5.30pm - 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Peter Aston, Barry Speed, Adam Linnet

**Guest:** Martin Varley – Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Ruth Burgess, Heather Seddon <i>Questioned whether really need to have meetings in the evening if it makes no difference to the ability of people to attend the meetings – to discuss at the next meeting which will be a daytime one.</i>		
2	Minutes of meeting on the 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Accepted as a true record - add to Working Group Page	Jackie	September t
3	<p>Martin Varley from Cheshire Wildlife Trust spoke to the group about options for off-setting locally as we know it will not be possible to get the Town Hall carbon emissions to zero</p> <p><b>Questions to consider</b> How official do we need the offsetting accreditation to be? Currently official certified accreditation available for tree planting and upland peat restoration. If we do need to be precise then an onerous task. CWT more fluid but can make rough calculations. It is not an exact science and a rapidly growing area of work.</p> <p>CTC has made a Climate Emergency Pledge. If we owned land could claim the carbon for new trees that we organise to have planted on that land, can also claim for hedgerows. Need to check if using</p>	<p>2019 level was calculated to be a carbon footprint of 230 tonnes for Congleton Town Council activities. Key ambition is to reduce this to as low as possible.</p> <p>Understand if CTC as local government needs certificated carbon off-setting for auditing purposes – or if acting with a partner like Cheshire Wildlife Trust and using best practice and estimation is enough - paper to Community and Environment Committee</p> <p>Understand in budgeting terms what CTC will include for off-setting. Suggested blended approach for the next few years. If 250 tonnes of carbon – planting 1,500 trees a year would off set this.</p>	<p>Paper to CE Jackie</p> <p>Cllrs MG, SF and KW</p>	<p>Raise issue at CE Nov 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Raise at budget setting</p>

	<p>grants who then claims the carbon value. Trees for Life claim the carbon for their sponsors. CWT said the general rule is planting 6 trees equates to 1 tonne of carbon sequestration over its lifetime. Carbon off-setting currently around £20 per tonne – this is expected to increase.</p> <p>Currently most of CEC peat is a source rather than sink of carbon. Interested in a future project around restoring some of the Mosses in Mossley.</p>	<p>Although ultimately the push must be to reduce carbon production, not off set. CTC needs to start to budget for offsetting its Carbon footprint – Cllrs to raise at budget setting meetings.</p> <p>Explore issue for a future project with CWT. Need to establish who the landowners are and if any would work with CWT</p> <p>Need to keep an audit of everything that we have planted and bank all activity</p>	<p>For future meeting</p> <p>SF/RB</p>	<p>Each meeting</p>
4	<p>Rewilding and Biodiversity – update on CTC work -verbal update from Ruth Burgess on the 13 areas that CTC is piloting</p> <p>Other areas - discussion around larger areas for planting and creation of meadows. Lawton review request for bigger, better and more connected. Review the 42 Green sites in the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Biodiversity – checking on species - plants, insects, birds seen at various sites. Monitor change. NOTE this is already carried out at Astbury Mere and Congleton Park</p>	<p>Rewilding sites have been agreed with residents for Banky Fields, Bridgewater Close, Redfern Avenue and Hankinson Field. Next to be consulted – Isis Close, Windsor Place and Derwent Drive. Then six more by the end of November 2021</p> <p>Need to reach out to landowners – identify potential partners for more rewilding than the CEC land.</p> <p>Need an action plan for each of the Green Areas mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan. – RB to co-ordinate first draft</p> <p>Send list of Green Sites to the Group</p> <p>Project with schools to check areas in the Spring</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>MG</p>	<p>Oct/Nov</p> <p>DEC</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>March/ April 2022</p>
5.	<p>CTC Targets – updates and plans</p> <p>Vehicles – now on short rolling leases until suitable electric models can be found. Supervisor van can be swapped when electric chargers in place.</p> <p>Cleaning Products – now swapped to eco-friendly versions of products.</p>	<p>Jackie to update the plan and publish</p> <p>Full report for the next meeting</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>JM – MW</p>	<p>For next meeting</p> <p>For next meeting</p>

	<p>Bear Necessities printed on certificated recycled paper with vegetable inks</p> <p>Discussions with a second set of advisors on methods to reduce the carbon footprint associated with heating and lighting the town hall.</p> <p>Streetscape – sourcing local plants, more sustainable beds, all 5 link road roundabouts will benefit from sustainable planting. Peat based fertiliser not used. As many plants as possible given away for others to over-winter and use next year.</p>	<p>Report back to the next meeting</p> <p>Share plans for the five Link Road roundabouts – three currently in design but will be subject to CEC Highways approval – Ruth to share at the next meeting. -</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>RB</p>	
6.	Update on Air Quality survey (Barry)	The equipment has now been sent back to the company that loaned it to Barry. Hope to be able to loan this again in the future. Note Barry is now studying air quality. Off the agenda until Barry asks for it to be re-added.	Barry	
7.	E-learning – update	Will be set live for Climate Week	Jackie	End of Oct
8.	<p><b>Green Fayre</b></p> <p>Climate Week 23- 31 October. Green Fayre 30 October. Around 20 events and 34 stalls for the Green Fayre.</p>	<p>More help needed to distribute publicity.</p> <p>Most of the group involved in the organising and on the day.</p>	ALL	Oct
10.	Date of Next Meetings	<p>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November – 10am – 11.30</p> <p>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 11.30am</p> <p>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm – 7pm</p>		