

## Congleton In Bloom Working Group

### 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Meeting, Minutes

Attendees :

Clr D Brown DB, Clr M Gartside MG, G Williams GW, B Edwards BE, S Conway SC, P Pinto PP, CTC Officer R Burgess RB

#### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance. - Clr R Chadwick

#### **2. Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

- a. David Brown- Cheshire East
- b. Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG
- c. Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
- d. Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG
- e. Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
- f. Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG

#### **3. Update from Bernard Pendleton on RHS - RB**

North West In Bloom have put forward Congleton In Bloom for the RHS Britain In Bloom Best Large Town Finalists, A very supportive 200 word document from Bernard Pendleton has been put forward, Electronic copy of the portfolio to be sent late Spring, Also pre judging from RHS Judges to help with the judging day

#### **4. Back to Back Gardens – Theme -PP**

As part of the 2022 Celebrations, the annual Back to back gardens projects will be themed around the Heraldic Flag Project at part of the Congleton Town Council 750 Charter Year

#### **5. ROUTE- All**

See draft appendix 2

#### **6. Marketing- Spotter sheets and info packs for all to explore our open spaces and Congleton Park – RB**

Create a marketing folder for local school, youths group, nursing homes, on our different parks and gardens, including spotter sheets, fun facts and maps

#### **7. Green Boulevard – BE**

Video shown to In bloom committee of a Green Boulevard and how it could be created in Congleton.

#### **8. AOB**

- a. PP = Bee Garden awaiting approval from CEC and Ansa
- b. PP = Football Club, liaise regarding entering as a IYN, arrange a site meeting
- c. PP = Sawmill will be entering as a IYN for 2022
- d. PP= Re-branding the work on re-wilding, for example planting for pollinators.
- e. GW = Volunteers equipment now available through CEC/ Ansa includes PPE and equipment, only to be used through CTC volunteers activities.

#### **Actions**

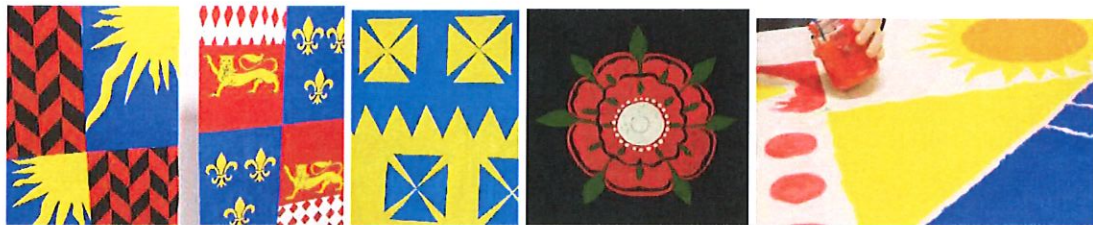
- Everyone to go through the Portfolio, make changes and add comments for next meeting
- PP = contact all local scouts, brownies, air cadets etc regarding joining the Wheelbarrow Challenge.
- RB = Contact B Pendleton regarding our scores of 9/10, how to increase to 9.5 or 10/10 ( A3 – Plant Selection, A4 -plant Quality , B2-Natural Environment, B3- Environmentally quality and resources, C1- Year around activity and future commitment)
- RB = Next Bear necessities – calendar of events of in bloom activities. Tidy Days, and Spring Clean up
- Wells Pharmacy – Pedestrian Area clean up
- Mountbatten Way – Trees to be planted in the ground not planters
- RB - CEC wildlife signs



## Heraldic Back-to-Back Gardens

As part of the 2022 celebrations, our annual **Back-to-Back gardens** project (part of the **Community Gardens Festival at Congleton Park**) will be themed around the Heraldic flag project currently going on around the town.

There will be 60 flags flying in the Town Centre and we would like to reflect some of the colour themes (bright primary colours, see below) and designs (bold shapes) in the gardens. You might design a new emblem for your school or choose shapes to block plant.



We are also looking for local schools to help us with decorating the poly tunnel (with 70m of walls to make brighter) with **Heraldic-style bunting**. The designs can be shield-shaped for example or other appropriate shapes designed by the children & students.

The back-to-back gardens will be 1.2m x 2.4m or 1.5 x 2.5m. As usual we will be planting out the gardens in early July, so there is time to design and grow during the spring.

As part of the festival there will be **wheelbarrows** (provided by Congleton in Bloom & WDT) planted by local nurseries, schools, care homes, other groups. These are part of the WDT Wheelbarrow Challenge competition.



The visitors, including the RHS judges were thrilled with our 'Colours of the Rainbow' themed gardens and wheelbarrows in the first Community Garden Festival in 2021, with comments including 'Excellent show feature, amazing work by the children, so colourful, uplifting'. Congleton won a gold medal & best large town in the NW in 2021, the festival played a big part in this. We are representing the NW in the national competition in 2022 and want the festival to be our WOW factor.

If you want to take part in the 2022 Festival with a garden, wheelbarrow and/or artwork please contact Patti Pinto on: [pattipinto1@gmail.com](mailto:pattipinto1@gmail.com) or 07577 611973

**Britain In Bloom: Large Town Category - Congleton In Bloom**

**1<sup>st</sup> draft Judging tour itinerary 09.30 – 13.00 \* August 2022**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Judges ** & ** arrive 1 August ** station, collected by Dave Brown, staying at <i>Lamb's Inn</i> .		
	2 August – to be collected from Lambs Inn at 08.45 by Bob Edwards/Dave Brown		
08.50	<i>Drive along A34 to Astbury Mere VC, Sandy Lane</i>		
08.55	<i>Arrive at AMVC, welcome to CIB team, refreshments, comfort break</i>		
<b>Congleton in Bloom Large town Category (3 hours plus 15 m presentation &amp; 15 min press call)</b>			
<b>09.30</b>	<b>Astbury Mere Visitor Centre Presentation (15 m)</b>	<i>C1, C2, C4</i>	<i>D. Brown, Chair In Bloom team: RC, SC BE, MG, PP GW</i>
<b>Congleton in Bloom main tour</b>			
<b>09.45</b> <i>15m</i>	<b>Astbury Mere Country Park</b> – Eco centre, Green flag holder: outside: biodiversity, conservation, wildlife/ wildflower areas, view of AMCP	<i>A2, 3, 4, 5 B1, 2, 3 C1, 2, 3</i>	meet Astbury Mere Trustee Alison * MBE, Ranger MA
<i>10.00</i>	<i>Drive along A34 to</i>		
<b>10.05</b> <i>15m</i>	<b>Astbury Mere Care Home</b>	<i>A1-4, B2, C1-4</i>	meet staff, volunteers & elderly residents [NWIB Gold medal business, IYN L5]
<i>10.20</i>	<i>Drive back along A34 to</i>		
<b>10.25</b> <i>5m</i>	<b>Alexandra Court Hotel</b> grounds	<i>A1, 2, 4,5, B5</i>	Meet owner Andy [NWIB Gold, business]
	<i>Continue to drive along A34</i>		
<b>10.35</b> <i>5 m</i>	<b>Elizabeth's Garden</b>		<i>Vol gardeners, reps from Elizabeths' group?</i>
<b>10.40</b>	<i>Walk to view St Mary's Church return to vehicle</i>	<i>A3</i>	<i>Volunteer gardener meet Dennis v &amp; Denis M</i>

10.45	drive around 'Fire station' roundabout Drive along Clayton by-pass, view 'Tesco' sustainably planted roundabout, to Rood Hill	A1, 2, 5 B5	Streetscape gardeners
	<b>Two Bears' Roundabout</b> (Community Pride Little Gem & heritage story, pull in at Aldi)	A1, 5 B3,5; C5	DB
	drive all along Mountbatten Way. (trees & floral displays)		New: Penny Farthing, in memory of Stephen Sebire Partnership sponsorship of trees
	Drive back to town. View: Dutch wall, bus station, taxi rank, Capital Walk Gardens*;	A2, A4 C1, C3	
10.55 15m	Drive up Moody St to St Peter's Church flower festival, visit Grade 2 listed Georgian church	A1,3,5, B1, 3, C2,3	Maintained by Volunteer gardeners new business* Church Warden, Volunteer flower arrangers /gardeners
	Drive back down Moody St, stop at	B3	
11.12	<b>Moody St Garden</b>	A1,3,5 B5, C1-5	Kids Planet, young gardeners maybe ???
	drive back to Lawton St, stop at Colehill Bank		
11.20 15m	<b>IYN Bath House &amp; Physic Garden</b>	A1,2,3,5 B1,2,3,5 C1-5	Meet Volunteers from IYN group. [NWIB IYN L5 x 5y]
11.35	Walk down Colehill Bank to start		
	<b>Town Centre (walking tour)</b>	A4, B4, B4, 5, C5	RB, RC
11.38	<b>Cenotaph</b> Lawton St	A1,2,3,5 B3, C2	Garden planted by Community volunteers, maintained by Streetscape
	<b>Treo</b>		
	<b>Community Gardens, Garden of Reflection</b> (Community Pride Little Gem)	A3,5 B5, C1	Volunteer community gardeners (IYN L4 in 2021) Rotary Club rep (Tree of Light)
11.45	<b>Town Hall</b> & other buildings: heritage comfort break if required	A1, 4 B3 C4	DB Historian, Town Crier
11.50	<b>Bridge St/ High St</b>	A1, 2, 4	]M, RB,

	(new street art: EWE Statue Planters, with trees, grasses & perennials, herbs)	B4	KW, SM in Suffragette outfits
	<i>Pick up at Swan Bank, drive along West St down Antrabus St to Mountbatten Way, turn into Worrall St</i>		
	<i>View Congleton Paddling pool &amp; theatre planters. Park and stop at</i>	A5	
<b>12.05</b> 15m	<b>Congleton Park</b> (14 x Green Flag holder, 2 x Heritage GF) Tour of formal planting in park & formal plaque (750 years Congleton's Charter). Wildflower meadow, historic trees etc View Bandstand (100 <sup>th</sup> anniv. 2014); Cong Park 150 in 2021 New for 2022: <b>Bee Garden</b>	A1, A2, A5  B3	RB Meet Streetscape gardeners & apprentices,  FoCP
	View Town Wood, park allotment, bug hotel* <i>walk to polytunnel</i>	A1, 2, 5 B1, 3, 5 C2	AJ/PP, CHS, Queen's jubilee wheelbarrows by care homes Interpretation board Allotment gardener young gardeners, wheelbarrow challengers*
<b>12.25</b> 15m	<b>Back to back gardens young peoples' Gardens</b> project [Theme, numbers 5 or 20]	A3, C1, 2, 5	PP, Meet young designers & gardeners
<b>12.40</b>	<b>Displays of IYNs etc</b>		Vols, displays, future plans
<b>12.45</b>	<b>Press call</b> (Back to back gardens and park) (15m)	C2	Local press
<b>13.00</b>		<b>END OF TOUR</b>	
	Lunch & community reception (venue Congleton Park)	B3 C1-5	Meet IYN & volunteers
<b>14.00</b>	Judges depart to Railway Station [Kidsgrove, dep 14.45 to Colwyn Bay, via Crewe]		

**RHS judges \*\*\*\*** will meet community representatives and go on a tour of local projects, taking into consideration three key criteria; horticultural achievement, community participation and environmental responsibility, demonstrated across public spaces such as the town centre, parks and communal gardens, as well as natural spaces including conservation areas and wildflower meadows.

Our large town's final score also takes into account a whole range of complementary factors, from the condition of street furniture to the engagement of people of all ages and abilities in Bloom activities.

**We will show the RHS judges evidence including the three key criteria; horticultural achievement, community participation and environmental responsibility**

#### **A Horticultural achievement [40 marks, 40%]**

##### **A1 Overall Impression, A2 Maintenance of Planted Areas, A3 Plant Selection, A4 Plant Quality**

Examples of formal bedding, design, sustainable planting. Town: Congleton Park, *Moody St Gardens*, roundabouts, green spaces  
Businesses & IYNs: Alexander Court Hotel, IYN Astbury Mere CH, IYN BHPG, IYN Community Gardens

#### **B Environmental responsibility [30 marks, 30%]**

##### **B1 Local Identity B2 Natural Environment B3 Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas**

Heritage/identity: Bath House & physic garden, Cenotaph garden, Treo, St Peters, Eliz statue,  
Conservation, biodiversity: Town Wood & Astbury Mere Country Park, spring bulbs at W&H rbt, wildflower/pollinator friendly areas  
Pride of place: No graffiti, no litter or weeds, street furniture, recycling bins, sculptures & planters

#### **C Community participation [30 marks, 30%]**

##### **C1 Year Round Activity and Future Commitment, C2 Communication and Awareness, C3 Funding & support**

Working together: IYN groups, businesses, schools, Congleton Youth in bloom, Congleton Partnership (including Congleton Sustainability Group, OSM, apple juice project) , U3A garden group, Care Homes IYNs = lots of community involvement

Funding streams: Town council, Congleton Partnership, Businesses, local Charitable Trusts, Tesco Bags of help/community grants (grants awarded to IYNs, schools & town since 2016)

Communication & publicity: local newspaper, local & regional news, Facebook, twitter. Many Facebook pages for town & IYNs

We have numerous sustainable projects, designed, created, planted & maintained by volunteers and Streetscape staff

**Portfolio** max page numbers ? typically 30

see RHS BIB info; typically include history of CIB, team, range of projects, funders, volunteers, Trees for Congleton new hedgerows, trees & community orchards

**Presentation 15 minutes max, 10mins plus 5 for Q&A**

Include images of volunteers working on variety of projects throughout the year; consider several team members to present on different projects

Do not repeat things in presentation which were in the portfolio

Must show on the day (new for 2022 sustainable, biodiverse, wildlife friendly projects, in addition to our WOW places)

- **Astbury Mere CP:** biodiversity & conservation; used by 250,000+ visitors annually, volunteers help with maintenance, owned by local trust, management plan, range of activities; GGs café with recycling (booklet)
- **Elizabeth's Garden:** small pocket garden, history, planting design, plant list, volunteers from various groups, sponsorship
- **BHPG** (IYN L5 x 5y) history, biodiversity, knowledgeable dedicated volunteers (booklet)
- **Astbury Mere Care Home** IYN & business, gorgeous gardens for elderly residents; work with local schools
- **Congleton Park** RHS gold medal park, IYN FoCP L5 x 5y;  
Jubilee Gardens (formal bedding & sustainable borders, trees, shrubs), allotment, Town Wood, playing fields, wildflower meadow, bowling green  
Bee Garden (co-designed by 12 yro Annabel & Patti P (CIB, silver & silver gilt medals at RHS Tatton), involving 200 from CHS, design, plant list, sustainable, biodiverse, wildlife, for Queens' platinum Jubilee, our newest project for 2022

- **Community Garden Festival**

(Little Gem; back to back gardens (8<sup>th</sup> year) & wheelbarrow challenge, age range of gardeners 2-102), theme Charter year: celebrating 750 years, eco-schools, Tree Champions, pre-schools & nurseries; care homes, range of groups, ages

**Heritage:** Flower festival at St Peter's, town centre /town hall/street art

**Prepared by Patti P, 27 Jan 2022**