



# Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CILCA**

## Congleton Regeneration Working Group

### Minutes

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 10am – 11.30am Virtual Meeting

1. **Attendees:** Cllr David Brown, Cllr Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Rob Moreton (work).
3. **Actions from the last meeting 29.04.21:** (Minutes approved by Chair and added to website)
  - **British Heart Foundation Vinyl (JMac):** Good to see this window installed. Next target the former B&M shop and Mill Street - (JMacA)
  - **Business Community Network (SF/KW):** Work continuing this and will be a meeting immediately after this Business Working Group with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss.
  - **Post Office (SF/JMac)** Pleased to see a Post Office now operational in WH Smiths. Thanked SF for work on this project. Good addition to the town centre, although still a vital role for High Town Post Office and West Heath Post Office.
  - **Town Centre Maintenance Update (RC):** Good that the Town Centre was jet washed. Need to fund this on an annual basis. Action DMacG/ RB to discuss building in the costs of the Town Centre clean to the Streetscape contract with CEC. Want to see a push on Mill Street – clear buddleia, power wash, vinyl.
  - **Camper Van Stop Over (RC)** – idea discussed at last meeting to boost tourism potential. Discussion with CEC (RC/JMacA) – note to be aware this facility exists in Astbury.
4. **Market Area Redevelopment (DMcG):** The market area and Mill Street remain in poor condition. The Scarborough Project is going nowhere. David reported that a group of local business people who are committed to improving Congleton are in the preliminary stages of creating a plan for the area that would improve connectivity, simplify the area, make it more accessible, increase retail and bring the area back to life. Group agreed an exciting prospect that it would want to encourage and look forward to seeing the ideas when at a stage to share.
5. **Shop Front Improvement Grant (RC)** The idea was accepted by Finance and Policy Committee and approved by Full Council so there is now an ear marked reserve for £10,000 to give grants to property owners to improve the visual public appearance of the first and second floors of their properties within a given town centre area. Clarification was sought on some aspects of the grant and the group recommended:
  - Grants will be on a first come first served basis, but individual property owners limited to two properties at the initial stages to give a chance for more to benefit
  - Criteria paper will go to the January F&P requesting that two councillors from this group can sign off promissory notes. Grants will only be given after the works are complete and on receipt of the invoices.
  - Sticking to the Town Centre priority area and will be open to all commercial properties.



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- Will need to make sure that all properties are aware of the offer at the same time – and will need to rely on shops passing details to property owners as do not have a list of all property owners and trusts that own properties.
- Change the 14 days to 15 working days for a decision on an application
- Must be new works, will not pay out retrospectively for works already conducted or in process when applying for funds.
- Website needs to be more proactive on what we are doing to help town businesses (JMacA)
- RC and JMacA to prepare a paper for F&P with criteria

## 6. **MOODY HALL (SF)**

Concern that there is no action on this and other significant buildings in Congleton. Looking for an urgent update on

- Moody Hall
- Bradshaw House
- B&M
- Mill Street Pharmacy

Action David Brown to speak to CEC Planning and Heritage to understand the current holdup on Moody Hall. Need to secure the integrity of the building so that it does not become a dangerous building. DMcG to support.

## 7. **AOB**

GRITTING: Macclesfield TC contracted an outside company to grit areas not being covered by CEC. Didn't think CTC should go down this route but an action for all councillors to check grit bins and continue pressure on CEC for gritting where needed [current routes gritted according to CEC website](#).

You can report empty grit bins, request for grit bins at <https://fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk/>

MILL STREET: -

Request a change to the hoardings on the fence – JMacA to speak to Scarborough to see if we can take down and replace.

Contact owner of the Mill Street Pharmacy Shop to discuss vinyl and front of that shop.

## 8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022 at 10am**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84739735609?pwd=akEzTUQrZmxPNmxrdlFhMEldHI6UT09>

Meeting ID: 847 3973 5609

Passcode: 156785