

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 21th January 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 10am– 11.30am

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Adam Linnet (CWT), Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Ruth Burgess, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr Martin Amies		
2	Minutes of meeting on the 25th November 2021	Accepted as a true record – with the addition of two actions Green Marketing Plan and tree/hedge spreadsheet missed off mins of 25/11/ Jackie to add and update on Working Group Page	Jackie	January
3.	Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Supply question – Congleton Town Council uses West Mercia and is on a wholly green tariff in a consortium with many other local authorities. • CTC has approved a budget for an Energy Efficiency Carbon Net Zero Roadmap for the Town Hall – carrying out due diligence on preferred supplier. • Training of Streetscape Staff -many already completed online training course on Woodland management and Planting. Streetscape Manager signed up to other online courses. • Green Fayre booked for 24th September – to pick back up • Developing 2020/21 and 2021/22 carbon footprint spreadsheets will be worked on by Serena and Barry in November 	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>MW/SF</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>JMacA KW/RB</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>March February</p>
4.	Biodiversity Plan Working on a site- specific biodiversity plan. Ruth Burgess, Margaret Gartside and Suzy Firkin put together ideas with Ruth Benson.	Group supported the proposal for the work from Ruth Benson. As Working Groups are not a decision-makers a paper will go to Community and Environment to support this work and to Council to request the funding. If successful can commission after 10 th Feb	SF/RB/ MG/	February

	Barry Speed would like a plan for ALL green spaces – agreed that the Biodiversity plan will only cover areas that CTC has some influence over.	Cllr Suzy Firkin found a CWT calendar for making your garden more wildlife friendly. Adam to find out if CTC can either distribute for the CWT or can badge up and print additional copies with CTC supports...	Adam/ Jackie	January
5.	Rewilding - Streetscape Update by Ruth Burgess Another 6 sites in consultation for rewilding. Successful consultation on the pre-Christmas sites and waiting for the ground to thaw to add wildflower seeds.	Streetscape to add Wild flowers when soil at appropriate temperature – late Jan/Feb (not frozen) Team consulting on more sites. Report on Streetscape targets was taken to Town Hall and Assets Committee	RB RB RB	Jan/Feb Jan/ Feb Done
6.	CTC Targets – updates and plans Needs to be a major focus for the group - how CTC is fulfilling its Climate Change Emergency and the Town Council’s work to reduce its carbon footprint across all aspects of its work. Committees now report on Environmental, Equality and Diversity impact of decisions.	Since last meeting CTC has approved funds for a partner to work with us on a route map to zero carbon emissions for the Town Hall. Due Diligence work ongoing into preferred supplier. To create a visible dashboard on the website showing CTC carbon footprint and work and projects being carried out to reduce our environmental footprint. This should be discussed at every meeting.	JMacA	Jan/Feb
7 .	Off Setting Report from Heather Seddon – Chair of Congleton Sustainability Group outlining the various options, benefits and pitfalls. A developing field. Clear that to be able to claim the carbon it must be a new scheme that wouldn’t have taken place without your input. Cost of off-setting likely to increase over the years. CTC working on assumption of £50 – 370 per tonne.	Discussion around the subject and various benefits. Agreed for now priority needs to be on the Council doing what it can to reduce its carbon footprint and to continue to work on creating more space for wildlife and supporting the planting and protection of trees and hedges. Speak to Finance Manager re implications for off setting and any additional considerations the Council would need to make. Should CTC donate to the Woodland Trust to help them protect current UK woodlands? Add the tree and hedge planting to the CTC dash board.	All JMacA	Ongoing
7.	Green Marketing and Messaging Cllr Kay Wesley reported back on a workshop held with Jackie Mac, Debbie Coxon and Celeste Smith	Group supported the work already carried out around the aspiration to normalise Green behaviours and the objective of getting Congleton to be	Kay/ Jackie	Feb

	into Green Marketing – part two of which would be held later on that day.	recognised as a Green Town. Green Marketing Team to complete workshop and report back. Update on Eco-learning – 1285 people have visited the course in the past 30 days but only 10 have registered their details. More work needed on the google analytics and on the marketing of this course. To report to the next meeting	Jackie	Feb
8.	Green Citizen's Assembly Cllr Suzy Firkin spoke about the different ways of delivering a Green Assembly.	Agreed more thought and consultation with others involved in this field needed before making a recommendation to CTC on how Congleton may deliver an assembly. To report back	Suzy	Feb
9	Update on Air Quality	Ran out of time – agreed this would be best tackled in a meeting just on the subject to be organised ahead of the next Green Group meeting	Barry/ Jackie	Jan
10	AOB	Nothing raised		
10.	Date of Next Meetings	Thursday 17 th February 10am – 11.30am Wednesday 16 th March 5.30pm – 7pm		