

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 25th November 2021

Location: Zoom

Time: 9am– 10.30am

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Peter Aston, Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Martin Aimes, Ruth Burgess, Jackie MacArthur

| Item | What was discussed / description | Actions | By whom | By when |
|------|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Apologies | Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Adam Linnet | | |
| 2 | Minutes of meeting on the 26 th October 2021 | Accepted as a true record - add to Working Group Page | Jackie | December |
| 3 | <p>Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>Working on a site- specific biodiversity plan. Ruth Burgess, Margaret Gartside and Suzy Firkin meeting with Ruth Benson to discuss.</p> <p>Barry Speed would like plan for ALL green spaces – agreed that the Biodiversity plan will only cover areas that CTC has some influence over, but would be good</p> | <p>Scoping work. Will need some budget to pay as professional skills needed. From the plans can then assess areas where we can make the biggest difference. – could be adding hedges, bird boxes, ponds, bat boxes etc. Linking with conservation volunteers.</p> <p>Note work needed to update the Neighbourhood Plan on the website. Ruth Benson needs help with OS Maps Green spaces and green issues need a space on the Website – Tree Group added as a separate page. Also see Climate Emergency</p> <p>Find a simple biodiversity plan for your garden that we could promote to local residents</p> | <p>SF/RB/ MG</p> <p>JMacA JMacA JMacA</p> <p>SF/HS</p> | <p>December</p> <p>DEC Dec Dec</p> |
| 4. | <p>Rewilding - Streetscape Update by Ruth Burgess 10 sites fully consulted on, 3 out for consultation and 3 still to go out. Shrub work being carried out – chopped down and used for weed supressing. Hedge cutting being reduced to every 3-5 years. More community orchards. Another public allotment likely. Battery operated tools being used rather than petrol operated.</p> | <p>Wild flowers to be added in January – Feb depending on soil</p> <p>Hedge cutting from Mid October until end of February - create more publicity around the good work being carried out by the Town Council’s Streetscape Team.</p> <p>Additional training: more training to be organised for Streetscape team in Conservation and environmental management issues.</p> | <p>RB</p> <p>RB / JMacA</p> <p>RB</p> | <p>Jan/Feb</p> <p>Jan</p> <p>2022</p> |

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| | Issue raised about the Tree Group needing help turf clearing - | Communications issue. Ruth to meet Tree Group team 2 days before any works to understand any role needed by Streetscape in advance. In the issue on social media Ruth's team had been told NOT to remove the turf. | RB | On going |
| 5. | CTC Targets – updates and plans . | Report given at Community and Environment Committee Report published with committee papers but add to Climate Emergency Page. Barry to work with Serena on the 2020/21 figures and start on the 2021/22 so this becomes part of the general monitoring. Updates and actions to be published on the CTC website under Climate Emergency. | JMac JMac BS / SVS JMacA | December |
| 6. | Energy Efficiency in the Town Hall We need professional advice. Complicated, listed building, consulting a couple of companies on the road map to net zero. Huge area of work – the company working with CEC who prepared the plans for Macclesfield Town Hall is very busy with large councils. Need to get to the next step | Start a conversation with another company Going to have to be prepared to pay for a report BS suggested that CTC needs to check that its electric energy supplier is as green as they can be. – JMacA to ask Serena to check the energy supplier – but also to be mindful of the current issues with suppliers going out of business. | JMacA | Jan |
| 7. | Off-setting Following on from discussion with Martin Varley at previous meeting some concern about the carbon capture by trees. Peat bogs – not easy to find areas. Basic message to keep on planting and not don't get hung up on double accounting of trees as doing the right thing. BS and SF said that currently tree planting will not achieve required carbon offset needed for the Council. | Look to create ring-fenced projects that wouldn't have happened without CTC involvement. HS said we should consider projects outside of the town area More research needed on accredited schemes Create a table to show the Carbon offsetting being achieved through tree, hedge and wildflower meadows added in Congleton | HS/SF KW/RB | Next meeting Next Meeting |
| 8. | Green Fayre Need to reflect on this year. Was successful in raising awareness and good footfall. Climate emergency not gone away – need to keep up the messages. Series of constructive messages and advice. | Make use of the left-over booklets – new cover create new book Regular clinics and columns in Chronicle and Bear Necessities Create a plan for 2022 with messages and actions Let people know how they can off-set their own carbon footprint Series of talks on things of interest – electric cars, home heating, food etc Create interest and easy steps to follow. | ALL | Jan |

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| | Separate discussion on Green Marketing and need to look at audience, channels, messages, tactics. Etc | Agreed to sort a separate meeting to look into creating a Green Marketing Plan | KW/JM | Next meeting |
| 9 | E-learning – update | Needs lots more publicity and pushing. Check user analytics – saturation of the messages needed and lots more leg work to get people to be aware of the course. | KW/JMacA | Jan |
| 10 | AOB Green Citizen’s Assembly - idea from SF – to get interested parties together – at least once a year for a creative talk about what we can all do together. Air Quality Climate Change Exhibition - needs a new home to go to after the library | Paper to go to CE Committee on the 3 rd Feb – SF to provide notes, JMac to draft the paper. Barry to write a report for the next meeting Ideas to Barry of suitable venues. | | |
| 10. | Date of Next Meetings | Friday 21 st January 10am – 11.30am Thursday 17 th February 10am – 11.30am Wednesday 16 th March 5.30pm – 7pm | | |
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