

Congleton Regeneration Working Group

Notes of Meeting

28th July 2022 – 9.30am – 11am

PRESENT: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy, David McGifford

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Kay Wesley
2. **Accept Agenda for meeting** – Agreed.
3. **Actions from last meeting not on the agenda (24.03.2022)**
 - a) **First Floor Grants** – **RM** taking lead with RC. Project in progress and 8 applications received.
 - b) **Travel Plan** – SF to look at the travel plan for the housing near the new Airbags, JM to invite Richard Hibbert to future meetings to understand CEC travel plans
 - c) **Update on vinyls for shop windows:** The vinyls on former British Heart Foundation still look good. Should expand to more empty premises. **JMac** to speak with Tim McCloud about former B&M.
 - d) **Update on Diorama** Considering options for displaying the Diorama of Medieval Congleton. **JM** to progress library which would be temporary, **DM** to explore a long-term possible option.
 - e) **Mill Street:** Still looking to utilise the space on the fence to promote Congleton. Well Pharmacy is looking better and the group is pleased to learn that the owner will be working on restoring the property over the next few months.
 - f) **Camper Van Stop Over** - exploring if a motorhome stop over point would be beneficial for Congleton. It would need the support of Cheshire East Council as likely to have to be on their land. **JMacA** to raise the issue with Cheshire East using a Tourism strategy angle.
 - g) **Chamber of Commerce** meeting in the Town Hall 29/09/22 – ideas to present: Town Hall, Partnership, Sponsorship, Green Agenda, Cheshire East Recycling Site **ACTION SF**
 - h) **Cleanliness of Town Centre:** - **RMC** to contact Makers Market re leaving town clean and tidy and paying for any additional specialist cleaning needed after their events. Write to shops to encourage fronts to be painted and write a target list for areas to improve Action **RC/RM** Batons need removing from shops with the For Sale boards, which are no longer needed, we will find out which contactor is used for the estate agents. **ACTION RC/RM**
4. **Carpark Charges**

Discussed ideas to make car parking more attractive for users in Congleton and residents eg/ possible refund schemes. RM to explore. Questioned whether there will still be a CEC car parking review in the autumn. DB believes there will be no increase in price.

5. Market Area Update

A local developer has now purchased the site that was owned by Scarborough and is keen to improve the area. Work has already started to tidy up the area. The developer is keen to know what ideas the Town Council has for improving the use of the market area on non-market days.

6. Moody Hall Update

DM approached the developer as there has been no action since CEC secured the building. Keen to find out what the developer has in mind and to inform him that there are other parties that may be interested in purchasing the building if he is no longer going to develop it. **Action JMacA**

7. Capital Walk/ Town Toilets

The public and councillors have raised concerns about the state of Public Toilets in Congleton. DM had a meeting with Tino, to discuss options for Capital Walk – **this is ongoing Action DM**. Other options need to be considered. Agreed that public toilets in the park and town centre to be added to next agenda ACTION RM. In the meantime research community toilets, other potential sites and potential for improving the market toilets **JM/RM**

8. AOB

- Landlord list, email RC the updated version ACTION **RM**
- Footfall – confused by the Town Centre report issued by Cheshire East Council showing a 13% reduction compared with the previous year. Action **JMacA** to write to Peter Skates and circulate previous footfall information to group members
- Get Car parking stats from Cheshire East Council
- Circulate KPI for the Town Centre with Agenda ahead of next meeting. **RM**

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th October 2022