Congleton Regeneration Working Group

Notes of Meeting

24th March 2022, 10am – 11.30am Virtual Meeting

**PRESENT:** Cllr David Brown, Cllr Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Suzy Firkin,

David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy

1. **Apologies**: None
2. **Accept Agenda for meeting** – Agreed. Toilets to be added to AOB
3. **Actions from the last meeting (16.12.2021) not on agenda**
4. **Vinyl’s** – British Heart Foundation looking good. Working on B&M – Royal visit theme **–** Action RM to speak to company, find out timescales and if vinyl’s are still possible.
5. **Mill Street** – hoardings on fence need replacing– more appropriate messages
6. **Mill Street –** Well Pharmacy – Cllr SF has spoken with owner. Should see some improvements soon. Not possible for CTC volunteers to paint windows.
7. **Post Office –** good that this is in town. Issue now closed.
8. **Maintenance –** Pedestrian area needs power washed (Ruth), Buddleia needs chopping out from Mill Street.
9. **Camper Van Stop Over** – to remain on agenda, it will be a CEC activity as they own the car parks. Include in Town Centre discussions.
10. **Chamber of Commerce** – Good that the connections have strengthened. Suggested a rota for the Thursday Thirty events rather than all pressure on KW and SF. DM has said the numbers were limited to 2 per organisation, although KW could attend via Kanga Health as KH is a member
11. **Heritage Buildings** –

**Moody Hall** – still boarded up, urgent works notice has been served against them, Cheshire cannot do much more. Action **DM** to approach landlord to understand plans

**Bradshaw House** – They have applied for change of use, town council refused as this is not possible on a heritage building (flats).

1. **Update on Grants Above the Shops**

The grants and the process were approved by Council. RM has delivered letters to all the shops and businesses in the area for the attention of the owner or landlord. RM also letting estate agents know about the grants so that they can tell potential buyers. As the applications are returned they will be collated in order and discussed with Chair of this group and Chair of Finance and Policy for an in-principle promissory note. When all funding potentially allocated will decide the next steps. ACTION RM – sort meeting to discuss applications when returned.

Note still need to work on a comprehensive Landlord List – Action RC/JMacA/ RMc. Will need to respect confidentially around this list as not all landlords want to be known.

1. **Update on Regeneration Work**

**Welcome Back Campaign –** Cheshire East funded, ended on 31/03, donations to Congleton via this fund included,

* 6 X 3metre gazebos – in the community store for use
* 30 X deck chairs
* 7 X wooden tables
* 28 X wooden foldaway chairs
* Litter picking equipment
* 3 Video campaigns
* Press Campaign
* Initial road and pavement barriers

No further comments from the Cheshire East Town Vitality Plans.

Concerns raised about lack of buses and a need to link new housing estates. **ACTION SF** to look at the travel plan for the housing new Airbags. JMacA to Invite Richard Hibbert to future meeting to understand CEC travel plans for new estates to the town

**Question raised about Carpark charges Congleton –** this to be discussed at the next meeting **DB** feels CEC may try to change things in Sept/Oct 2022. Action RM to add to agenda

1. **Future Working Arrangement**

The Market Working Group has been disbanded. A discussion was held around whether the business working group should also disband and all matters related to Regeneration be discussed by all councillors via regular Strategy Working Groups.

Agreed that the Business Support Group is important for many start and finish town centre smaller scale projects, but right that big scale regeneration projects should be opened up to all councillors via a Strategic Working Group which allows ideas to be discussed, formulated and developed ahead of public discussion via committee.

Actions: Business Support will continue within the Regeneration Group

– Rachel lead officer

Large scale development including market area to be considered by Strategy Working Group DM lead officer

RC to revisit terms and conditions.

1. **AOB**

**Toilets** - Concern about the condition and number of public toilets in the Town Centre and a need to understand the future plans for public toilets – including what Capital Walk will have available. **Action** JM to speak to Capital Walk. **Action** RM Add to agenda for next meeting

1. **Thursday 28th July 10am**