

Congleton Regeneration Working Group

Notes of Meeting

8th November – 11am – 12.00pm

- 1. Apologies** – Cllr Robert Douglas
- 2. Accept Agenda for meeting** – Agreed.
- 3. Actions from last meeting not on the agenda (28/07/22)**
 - a. **First Floor Grants** – 5 quotes returned/5 with no quotes returned, we have potentially used the £10,000 allocation. 5 extra people requested an interest for the grant. Do we go back to committee to ask for a further £5,000? Do the businesses have more pressing issues, electricity etc? **RC** go back to committee to ask for extra funds. Can we mitigate to help businesses, shorter hours, fewer days?
 - b. **Travel Plan** – **SF** ongoing
 - c. **Update on vinyl's for shop windows** – Vinyl's ripped off the Heart Foundation shop at the moment, we will look at this for other empty shop units **RC**
 - d. **Update on Diorama** – This was located at the library during the Heritage Festival, and is now located at Jenny's house where she will break it down.
 - e. **Mill Street** – went to auction, didn't sell, **RC** has complained to Cheshire East regarding the broken windows
 - f. **Camper Van Stop Over** – **RC** has said he has had a positive response from Cheshire East
 - g. **Chamber of Commerce** – positive response
 - h. **Cleanliness of Town Centre** – Ruth has a plan when to clean, tarmac areas have been addressed from Cheshire East **DMc** to pick this up.

4. Landlords List/Forum

Ongoing **RC & RMc** – get landlords together forum

5. Congleton Means Business

Done this previously bringing developers together regarding land, space and businesses – How many shops and offices are empty – review. Maybe bring three businesses into one unit and refill the shop like in Macclesfield. Look at empty units, Cheshire East used to keep data on empty units and push those out wider. Its now a trend working from home and offices that are local could be used rather than working in Manchester. Can we ask Sion, Timothy Browns

the trend with the new units, any interest? Busy? Scope out a document and bring to next meeting – understanding town centre shops, main office areas, retail, Eaton Bank Industrial , bring to next meeting. Phone call to David Gladman. **DMc** Cheshire East could supply information, Jo Wise conversation on empty properties, head of regen. **DMc** to ask.

6. Shop Watch Scheme

We need a forum to get owners together, breakfast meeting monthly? Difficulties getting owner away from their business – maybe remote meeting, do they want it? **RMc** how often? Chamber trying something similar but they pay for the scheme.

7. Marketing the Town

Events within the town based around green marketing, events plan. Campaign is driven from each group e.g. Business Group, Green, Easter, RC wants to see a marketing Plan, needs to be visible, events need to be pushed out to other towns. We did link in with Marketing Cheshire, but it wasn't successful as this focused on Chester. Maybe a more strategic approach regarding marketing. Revisit objectives of marketing plan,

The idea for the new council to be elected. Put ideas into a framework for approval.

8. Town Vitality Plan

Consultation response is needed by 5pm today, Jackie has done this based on Councillors comments given at the Community and Environment Committee on the 3 November 2022.

9. Chamber Magazine

Opportunity to take a paid for advert in the Chamber Magazine. Will do when have the correct information about the Town Hall

10. Kinsey Street Church - AOB

Joules Breweries – plans for that area has hit become stuck.

DMc organising meeting between Joules Brewery, North Rode Timber and CEC conservation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9TH 10AM – 11AM