

Congleton In Bloom Working Group
15th September 2023 Meeting,
Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3169828607>

Meeting ID: 316 982 8607

PRESENT:

Working Group members:

Officer Ruth Burgess

Cllrs: David Brown, Glen Williams, Susan Mead, Heather Pearce, Rob Brittain

Volunteers: Bob Edwards, Patti Pinto, Sue Conway

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllrs R Chadwick, C Booth, H Seddon

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

David Brown- Cheshire East,

Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG

Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, Town Tidy Champion

Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG, Astbury Mere Trust

Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, Astbury Mere Trust, Town Burgess

Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG

Susan Mead – IYN Friendly Faces, Bromley Bloomers

Heather Pearce – Hilary Ave Allotment Holder, Green Working Group , Cllr

3. **Introduction from all members**

BE – Founding member since 2011, enjoy the planting scheme, main role is a labourer getting our ready all year and for the competition

GW – Lead on the Town Tidy initiatives been on the group for 10 year

RB – new to the group interested to see what the group is about and how he can help

MG- interest in gardening and volunteering, involved with Astbury mere trust and founder member of the tree group, also green group member 10 year

Sc – 4 years been volunteering, love making the town nicer

Pp – 10+ years work with all ages runs the volunteers groups on the different gardens, run the eco school, help with the portfolio, route, and main photographer,

SM- done in bloom for 8 years – runs two IYN group Bromley bloomer and the friendly faces nursery, take part in the back to back garden schemes, keen on volunteering on different aspects especially with the early years children, has an eco award for the nursery

HP – keen gardener, new to the council, what’s to get involved and see where she can help

DB – founder member, Margaret Williamson passed on the lead baton on to DB to run the group and worked and won many awards through his time as chair,

DB – Add thanks to previous group for their work and support over the year, mentioned the difference between other Cheshire east towns, would love to get that extra half a mark to win the overall award for large town for Britain in Bloom - A BIG THANK YOU !!! lets carry on having fun and making the town looks fabulous with the different biodiversity roundabouts.

4. Terms of Reference

- a. Vote of Chair – Cllr David Brown voted in favour of

5. What In bloom Is responsible for

Congleton In Bloom has its own budget, however the budget is not for all floral displays and gardens, this is from the Streetscape Budget which is managed separately. The key to our group is to encourage residents and visitors to get outside enjoy Congleton and even get them to join our volunteer gardeners,

Aims of Congleton in Bloom

- * To encourage biodiversity, energy conservation, sustainable growing and growing food locally
- * To make Congleton an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- * To make Congleton a clean, green town through anti-litter campaigns, organising litter picks, removal of graffiti & fly posting, improving local grot spots and recycling campaigns
- * To provide opportunities for volunteers in the community to become involved either individually or in groups & encourage people to take pride where they live and work
- * To raise standards and promote the town by entering competitions such as RHS Britain in Bloom
- * To promote tourism and support the retail sector by providing attractive floral displays and green spaces.
- * To encourage our Eco Schools and parks to gain green flag awards.
- * To encourage intergenerational involvement

Working with many other volunteer organisations helping to improve the biodiversity within Congleton, also encouraging more people to join the different working parties.

Working partnership with Streetscape Operatives high standard of work which the group appreciates.

6. Town tidy up's

First Saturday of the Month April – October(inc), location varies on what tasks need to be done, includes, litter picking, weeding, pruning, washing down street furniture, planting, painting.

Cllr Glen Williams (Town Tidy Champion) leads on the town tidies

7th October – 10am – 12pm Meeting at Mossley Village Hall

Action GW task on Himalayan Balsam across the town

Action RB email out to local nurseries and schools, email to all councillors

7. Breakdown of IYN groups

A note to the group the below list of all our current IYN Groups

- a. Alexandra Court Hotel (business)
- b. Bath House and physic Garden
- c. Bromley Bloomers
- d. Bromley Farm
- e. Buglawton In Bloom
- f. Congleton Community Garden
- g. Congleton Football Club (2024 Entry)
- h. Congleton Tennis Club
- i. Friendly Faces Day nursery

- j. Friends of Congleton Park
- k. Green Gables care Home
- l. Hilary Ave Allotments
- m. Lion and Swan Public House and Hotel (Business)
- n. Jubilee Club (2024 entry)
- o. The Old Saw Mill
- p. Vale Allotments

8. 2024 projects

- a. Back to Back Gardens Theme – Number 10, and its 10 year anniversary of the scheme
- b. Congleton Park Plaque – Congleton War Memorial 100 years
- c. Wildflowers Verges – new wildflower verges on amenity land similar to the ones already in Macclesfield.
- d. Green Walls – new scheme, Rood Hill will be the first project, other walls that are in place already have been identified.
Action R Bittain to look in to green walls at Bentley

9. North West In Bloom awards day @ Bolton (4 Tickets Only)

- a. Thursday 19th October Cheshire Category
- b. Wednesday 18th IYN Category

10. Congleton awards evening

Date is 7th November @ 6pm Congleton Town Hall, doors open at 5.30pm, where displays boards can be looked at and groups interact with each other share ideas etc, refreshments available. Thank you and awards given out.

11. Summer bedding 2024

To be sent to supplier by end of October if not sooner, next meeting will be based on just plant choice and design.

12. Volunteers Sites (see separate Sheet Appendix 1)

List was went through with the group looking at all sites and the volunteers groups

13. AOB

Look at meeting dates

Next meeting : Friday 20th October @9am