

Minutes – CONGLETON GREEN WORKING GROUP

Thursday 21st September 2023

Attendees : Ruth Burgess, Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Heather Pearce (Chair), Suzy Firkin, Debbie Coxon, Kay Wesley

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:
Committee Members: Cllr Glen Williams, Resident

2. Minutes from previous meetings

Approved and acknowledgement of minutes with changes made and approved
Minutes of 23/3 agreed
Minutes of 17/8 agreed with BS amendments

3. Declaration of Interest

Heather Seddon matter related to Cheshire East Council

4. Actions from previous meeting

SF- to liaise with Ralph Kemp and Sam Corcoran regarding the heritage of the building and how we can reduce emissions, still awaiting new meeting date, SF has had discussion with Sandbach Town Councilors on similar topics and working together. The new Climate Champion at Cheshire East is Mary Brook

BS – retro fit invite to the green fayre
Spoken to the manager at Arriva Renewables Rick Marlow

SF – Net Zeron Business Roundtable update- received a lot of support and should be a day full of successful talks and exchanging of ideas.

5. Green Marketing and Green Fayre (DC)

Verbal update from DC – 30 exhibitors booked in which 7 are new, a separate Programme of talks which are to be all year round is being looked at.

Visit to Vale Allotments – tour guides around the site

Talk at the Hydro Scheme in place

E-Bike events at Astbury Mere showing the public the E-bikes and the opportunity to find out about the mere.

Action – BS offered a presentation on Air Quality to a targeted audience, as one of the year-round events

Green Marketing Focus for September is around “ Second hand September “ focus on Oxfam led initiatives, all shops have been given posters to advertise the campaign.

Social Media Post on Air Quality 7.9.23 big focus on car free day on Friday 22.9.23 also back page of the chronicle

A Green Glossary has been produced and can be seen on the town council website and also copies within the CIC

Witchy Wednesday in Town Hall for School Holidays
17-23 October energy saving week

Action – Everyone to look at the main 3 pages on Green Living on Town Council website feedback any information not requires. Out of date or links not working etc DC to Lead with support from KW

6. Streetscape action plan update(RB)

Streetscape Vehicles reduce in numbers,
More sustainable bedding being created

Huge message around sustainable planting scheme for the remaining floral displays and where annual planting remains the message across regarding plants being given to community groups, care homes, nurseries etc

Looking into compost bays at different sites within Congleton

Action – create updated Streetscape action plan on carbon footprint and changes RB

7. Biodiversity – suggest we need at least an action to measure baseline biodiversity across the whole CTC estate. Sounds hard, but we can build on the work from Mark Stubbs has done with his wildlife leaflet and wildlife count,

Action Invite Guest Ruth Benson to next meeting to give us an update on 30 site Biodiverse plan and to assist with the baseline assessment across all CTC sites

Notice boards to be added to some of the sites – look into William dean Trust for support on funding, the boards will feature what has been done on the site to help wildlife and what has been seen since the new schemes etc.

Action – to liaise with member needs the 7 main site to see if a Friends of the sites can be formed.

8. Air Quality (BS)

3 sites are being visited organised by BS testing will be on 22.9.23

Action – Invite someone from CEC to speak on Air Quality SF

Action – RB to look into monitoring machines for Congleton, paper to go to next council meeting

9. Methodology Update

Create a sub group to go through the methodology and update SF to lead with BS suggestion of the following in the group, Paul Williams, Heather Pearce, Kaye Wesley , Serena

10. Sub Pod Wormery (HP)

New idea from HP to add to the garden and also promote to local business- should be a good demo project within the park working with stocks

subpods for our open spaces <https://subpod.co.uk/>

11. Trees for Congleton (RB & MG)

To receive further update from meeting held with Trees for Congleton and Streetscape on 12th September

KW working on communicating with all local farmers on planting trees and hedgerows on their land with the support from trees for congleton group

Handover sheet will now be put in place when schemes are completed between Trees for congleton and Ruth Burgess . including maintenance plan and costings. Handover every March.

12. Any Other Business

Decarbonisation Town Hall – summary plan of the savings in the different sections report ready for next meeting (SF)

Public sector funding grant is being put in worked on SF closing date 10.10.23
Solar together scheme by Cheshire east council – informing the group when you sign up you are just showing an interest not fully signing up to the changes and work. (HS)

Link sent to all the group on monitoring air quality

School awareness on biodiversity and green issues (HP)

Would like to look at new approach for the carbon footprint of the paddling pool (HP)

CEC update new biodiversity net gain document – a planning document all about how developers are expected to increase biodiversity on their sites- this will be out for consultation soon (HS)

Green Spaces consultation will be out soon as well 89 out of 530 are in congleton and will be affected

RB to put a paper to the next environment council meeting

Household waste and recycling sites there is going to be three option which the council committee at CEC will be voting which will affect congleton – further info on CEC webpages

13. Date of Next meeting

26.10.23 @ 1pm via zoom

