

CONGLETON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2018

At The Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN

PRESENT Councillor Suzie Akers Smith (Town Mayor)
John Carter, Speaker on the Congleton Cenotaph
David McGifford Chief Officer and speaker on Congleton Neighbourhood Plan
Diane Ritherdon, Speaker on Working towards a Dementia Friendly Congleton
Susan Munro – Speaker of Raising the Profile of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy
Alistair Lewis, Project Manager, Speaker on the Congleton Link Road

96 members of the public

INTRODUCTION

The meeting is convened under the provision of the Local Government Act 1972 SEC (1) and 13(1) and due notice has been given in the local press

1. Welcome

Cllr Suzie Akers Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the proceeding for the evening.

2. Congleton Cenotaph

John Carter gave an update on the cenotaph project. The project is to improve the area, and create a suitable space so that all those service personnel who died in service can be remembered. There are 250 missing from Congleton's cenotaph. Questions were asked about planting, fundraising, reusing the stones and the ability to add new names in the future if necessary.

3. Working Towards a Dementia-Friendly Congleton

Diane Ritherdon outlined the impact that dementia has on individuals and the impact on local communities and outlined what Congleton is doing to make the town a more dementia-friendly town.

4. Update of the Neighbourhood Plan

Andrew Thompson, a Planning consultant working with the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan team, outlined some of the issues and the expected timetable connected with the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. This led to comments about developers applying to remove planning conditions during the project or ignoring conditions, why the Neighbourhood Plan didn't wait for the Cheshire East Local Plan to be sorted, how the plan can ever be up to

date when planning laws keep changing (it needs to be a living document). How can we add more cycling and walking routes to link up all the developments in and around the town?

5. Update on Congleton in Bloom

David Brown, Chairman of the Congleton in Bloom Team gave a presentation on the In Bloom team's campaigns for both the National and Regional Finals in 2018.

6. Questions From the Public

These were based around:

- Excited about the new Link Road, but what measures would be taken to mitigate the impact during the build (to be raised with CEC)
- Concern about the increased fees for hiring the Congleton Library and the impact that this may have on the ability of local groups to raise funds via coffee morning.
- Request for an update on the Boat on the Dane and why can't it be Compulsory Purchased and sorted out.
- Concern that the boat is tilting towards the river and asking if it was safe
- Concern about the route in from Buglawton being dirty and muddy and need of action to clean it up.
- Concern about access to Congleton Recycling centre

7. CLOSING REMARKS

The Town Mayor thanked the residents for attending the Annual Town Meeting and for their contribution to a lively debate on the issues affecting Congleton.