

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

1ST MARCH 2024 10.30 – 12 noon

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

1. APOLOGIES:

- Cllr Robert Douglas

PRESENT:

Committee members

- **Cllr Russell Chadwick (Chair)**
- Cllr Kay Wesley
- Cllr Susan Mead
- Cllr Amanda Martin
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr David Brown
- Cllr Susan Mead (via Zoom call)

Non-Committee Members: Bob Edwards

Officers: David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur and Rachel McCarthy

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 18th August 2023

Approved.

3. Vinyls for shops

Identify recent empty units within the town centre, Boots has become vacant, find out landlord. Possible themes, the history of the war memorial hospital, information about Elizabeth. Check if CMQ would have them in his windows on Mill Street, Agree projects then cost them out, apply for budget. **ACTION RACHEL**

4. Princess Street Carpark Wall/Antrobus Street Junction

Concern raised about the wall on Mill Street at the bottom of Mill Street. Believe it is owned by CEC as part of highways. Bob offered to arrange for a builder to look at the wall, assess and report back. Report will be passed to Cheshire East. Concern about the Budlea which is in the wall.

5. Mill Street/Cross Street – Red Dot Agency

This is an area of Congleton that we would like to see developed. Rachel updated the group on the current situation regards the properties as far as we are aware. Agreed to write to Cheshire East regarding the safety of Red Dot and Cross Street buildings and other concerns about the buildings. **ACTION DMCG AND CHESHIRE EAST**

6. First Floor Shop Review

Hotspot broken windows, have been offered first floor grant. Believe the situation is dangerous with broken falling glass. No action taken, Write to Cheshire East regarding public danger. **ACTION DMCG**

7. For sale batons on shop fronts

The group would like to see the batons removed from shop fronts, they look unsightly, we think around 130 of these should be removed. Identifying which estate agents could be hard, rendered walls would cause damage. Write to estate agents, ask them to remove batons.

ACTION RMC AND STREETSCAPE?

8. Broken brickwork repairs

Identify broken brickwork, compile a list and cost out i.e. Mountbatten Way, public spaces, walls. List to be generated so that we can go to finance.

9. Pavement Repairs – Seat Cleaning

Streetscape deep clean/jet wash/sand down/paint the benches across town, LED lights are broken and need replacing on the seating outside Peacocks. Park benches are also in need of cleaning/maintenance work, bee garden etc. FOCP to maintain park?? **ACTION STREETSCAPE** Community Trust planter has broken nails. **ACTION ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/RUTH**

Elizabeth statue clean before the 8th March – **COMPLETED**

Bridge Street – bike racks are bent, believed damaged by a Cheshire East bin wagon over a year ago, also needs hi viz tape on the racks for visually impaired.

Lamp post opposite wetherspoons has been snapped off, hi viz tape on for over 2 years, this was an insurance claim, the driver at the time took responsibility as I was present.

Sewage reported on Swan Bank by the block paving? Investigate.

Who owns what asset on the Cheshire East register? **ACTION DMCG**

10. Totally Locally

Driving this forward, official launch for the rest of the town is 1st April, meeting will be arranged with the businesses that have signed up before launch, at the town hall. **ACTION RM**

11. Toilets

David had a meeting regarding the Library ground floor toilets.

Market area toilets need improvements.

Macclesfield TC inputted 100k towards the toilets, these have already been completed. We would like a Changing Place toilet in our town (other than just in the Leisure Centre) **ACTION DMCG**

12. Cheshire East car parking charges

Other councils discussing taking over their own car parks. David has registered an interest with CEC and waiting for details. If appropriate would go to Council. **ACTION DMcG. Jackie to chase if comments on West Street Car Park were accepted.**

13. AOB

- Grants are available for hospitality that have invested in their space, cut off next week.
- Flourish fund E8, community volunteer sector only £106k used of £180k budget
- DMCG meeting in March with Cheshire East Charles Jarvis regarding regeneration and how to work closely
- Grant ideas for the next agenda.

Next meeting 3rd June 10am