

## **Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – Sustainable Development and Environment Group**

**Meeting Tuesday 17th March 2015 @ AMVC.**

**Attendees:** Matt Axford, Amanda Martin, Peter Minshull, Patti Pinto, Mike Taylor and Peter Aston (Chair and minutes).

**Apologies:** Barry Fox, Peter Hirst, David Roffe and Jack Swann,

The Chairman proposed that the meeting should be updated NP issues and then take one of the objectives and take it to another level of detail.

The Chairman explained that it looked likely that Housing would take the lead and be partially issued ahead of all other sections; confirmation of this approach was expected shortly.

The NP Workshop had met to brainstorm a vision for the town and from a mass of suggestions Andrew Thompson was going to produce some draft proposals.

A Constitution for the NP Group had been tabled including a communication protocol for all NP members to respect, copy attached to these minutes.

So, from our vision and objectives listed below the Chairman proposed exploring Trees and hedgerows. To inform this process the relevant words from the Local Plan were used within Chapter 13.

*Vision or strapline – Preserving our green spaces, enhancing our environment and implementing renewable energy.*

- *Sustainable housing with community facilities, shops, medical facilities incorporated*
- *A target of 10MW of community and renewable energy:*
  - *PV on new properties*
  - *Solar farms*
  - *Hydro and wind where appropriate*
- *Add to the current network of paths and cycleways to create a circuit of off-road links to the town centre, schools, business parks and sports facilities.*
- *Designate green spaces as community green space.*
- *Development should not increase the carbon footprint of the town, specifically new housing and business parks should reduce the town's reliance on fossil fuels.*
- *Enabling local food growing – allotments with each housing development.*
- *Redraw the current green belt boundaries up to the urban edge north of Lamberts Lane to the current settlement line.*
- *Actively conserve wildlife areas and nurture the natural corridors with in the plan area – River Dane, Canal, Biddulph Valley Way.*
- *Trees and hedgerows perform important roles supporting biodiversity, providing attractive shade/shelter. Congleton's objective should be to set out measures for new planting of both trees and hedgerows.*

Trees and hedgerows:

- Although out of our NP area, we would like distinctive trees alongside the Link Road instead of the mix that have been planted alongside the Alderley Edge bypass.

- Identify current tree cover outside urban areas, assess and target to increase by ??%.
- Survey TPO trees with regards to TPO guidelines, and suggest target increase.
- Survey wildlife corridor hedgerows and seek to ensure that they stay in place.
- Every tree and hedgerow removed through development is replaced like for like X2.
- Limitation on mowing grass verges to be proposed.
- Whilst running out of time, burial sites need to be considered.
- We still need to understand new green space categorisation.

It was suggested to look at Tame Oxford NP and Malpas to inform our thinking.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust have proposed 3 days help to our group – discuss with Jack Swann.

**Next meeting: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 3pm at AMVC.**