

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Town Centre and Heritage Group**

**21 May 2015 – 9.30 – 11.30am**

**Present :** Mike Warke, Dr David Roffe, Steve Foster (Chair), Jackie MacArthur, Nino Mancini

**Apologies** –David McGifford, Glyn Roberts

**Meeting Purpose** – to understand the evidence deficiencies which we have as a team when working towards our draft policies. To give a greater airing to the Heritage side of our group –as we ran out of time before discussing at the meeting on the 2 April.

#### **Initial discussions on previous studies that we need to refer and check how useful**

- Winsford Local Plan – town shares some similarities
- Congleton Health Check – carried out a long time ago, needs relooking at
- Whyte and Green survey – carried out in 2011 and being updated – CEC commissioned work for later this summer.
- MMU Survey work – 2011?
- High Street UK2020 – conclusions about the Town Centre
- Holland and Barratt – information on why they came to Congleton
- Atkins Report – Looking into options for Fairground

**ACTION JACKIE TO PULL TOGETHER A TABLE TO IDENTIFY EVIDENCE GAPS**

**Future of the Town** Discussion about road infrastructure and problems coping. Would there be an option to look at New Street as a link to Park Lane.

Group keen to preserve historical sites and green open spaces – such as Community Garden although aware some would like to divert Canal Street through the garden.

David referred to a roundabout scheme in the 1980s (David can you elaborate)

#### **Meeting with Housing**

Steve reported back on a meeting with the Housing Group. They haven't really concentrated on the Town Centre area – more looking at brownfield sites although developers prefer 'clean' sites. Potential area around back of Lawton Street – retirement village?

Need evidence about need for elderly and supported housing needs within Town

- Centre

- Need evidence for Starter homes/younger people within the Town Centre
- Need evidence for regeneration and need for office space in the Town Centre (ECONOMIC GROUP )

### **Links with transport groups**

Evidence of Car Parking usage – current and predicated changes, data, use

Look at traffic models by developers (although some concern about whether we can trust the figures) such as Scarborough

Information on current traffic flows through the town centre

### **Heritage**

Preserve and show off what we have

Need to map the listed buildings and building of special interest onto a map

180 entries on the list of historical interest – as a group agreed we need to look at everything in the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan, not just town centre.

Should also consider historic sites of interest - could be underground – that need to be protected.

Need to be aware of the constraints of the town – and how these are part of the fabric of the town – the typography, how the town has developed. Heritage is also about physical, social and mentality of the town.

Agreed a sub-meeting with David R, Nino and Mike would meet and work out what evidence and information they need – along with any requests for funds they think they might need to get the work completed.

Nino spoken to Andrew Ramshall –conservation officer at Cheshire East – suggested he needs to be informed about Public Realm and other matters – (ACTION JACKIE TO SEND ANDREW contact details for FAY PRICE

Green Corridors are an important part of the town’s heritage and need preserving – The Park, Rope Walk, Bath House, Community Garden, Cockshoots, Vale Walk, Astbury Mere to name some.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 23 June 9.30am**