

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

**Meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 @ AMVC.**

**Attendees:** Amanda Martin, Matt Axford, Barry Fox, Peter Hirst, Jack Swann, Mike Taylor and Peter Aston (Chair and minutes).

**Apologies:** Peter Minshull, Patti Pinto.

We discussed the agenda as – review the draft questions we'd submitted, the objectives below and the vision statement developed between the meetings. The Chairman sort of followed the agenda!

So, the questions as submitted previously were left untouched after much discussion about the merits of asking such closed questions, we were persuaded by Amanda's experience asking much more open questions to 200 people as an early part of the NP process.

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 the corridors linking to receive the appropriate designation.
- 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.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm at AMVC.**