

# Creating a Cleaner and Greener Congleton

2017



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## *David Brown Chairman of In Bloom:*

"The In Bloom competitions are a real force for good, generating a great deal of improvement and community pride in Congleton. Over the years there has been an amazing amount of support from local communities, businesses, schools, groups and individuals who all pull together to make our town look as good as it possibly can. There is so much more to In Bloom than the pretty flowers, Congleton In Bloom brings the community together!"



# Congleton In Bloom

Congleton In Bloom was formed by a small group of dedicated volunteers in 1998. They were determined to do something to brighten up Congleton. 19 years later a great deal has been achieved through cleaning and greening Congleton!

**The group has achieved national and regional recognition for its efforts:**

- Won North West in Bloom– 2000, 2006, 2013, 2015 & 2016
- North West in Bloom GOLD—2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016
  - Finalists in Britain in Bloom– 2001, 2007, 2014 & 2016
    - Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt– 2007
    - Britain in Bloom GOLD- 2014 & 2016
  - Six time winners of the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards
- Fifteen Green Flag sites for the town– Congleton Park awarded 10th Green Flag in 2017
- Congleton In Bloomer– Patti Pinto– Cheshire Community Champion 2015



## Blooming Together in Congleton

### Congleton In Bloomers

Amanda Martin

Anna Morrison

Bob Edwards

David Brown– Chairman of In Bloom

Glen Williams- Tidy Town Champion

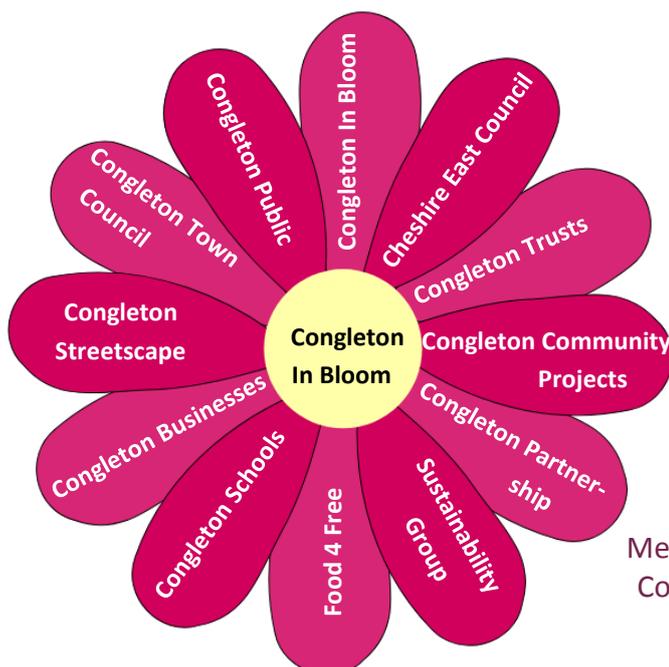
Jackie MacArthur- Town Centre Marketing Manager

Margaret Gartside

Martha Hayes

Patti Pinto- Eco Learning

Ruth Burgess- Streetscape Development Manager



Members of CIB team spoke at the East Midlands Spring 2017 Conference, sharing our knowledge and experiences in both regional and national competitions.

# Congleton In Bloom

The In Bloom Committee's core team of ten members have been meeting in the Town Hall since November 2016 on a monthly basis and fortnightly from mid-May to get all the plans into actions for the summer period. In between these meetings, the committee members meet with other community and voluntary groups to help bring the plans and ideas to life and to help enhance the work in and around the town, contributing to a cleaner, greener Congleton.

## 2017 In Bloom Questionnaire Results

- 99% had heard of Congleton in Bloom
- 1/3 would get involved—1/3 may get involved
- 89% thought it was worthwhile or very worthwhile



## Congleton In Bloom 2016-17 Aims and Objectives

- To make Congleton an attractive place to live, work, shop and visit
- To provide opportunities for volunteers in the community to become involved either individually or in groups
- To make Congleton a clean, green town through anti-litter campaigns, organising litter picks, removal of graffiti, removal of fly posting, improving local grot spots and recycling campaigns
- To promote tourism and support the retail sector by providing attractive floral displays and green spaces
- To raise standards and promote the town by entering competitions such as North West in Bloom and the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards
- To encourage Eco Schools to gain green flag awards, encourage bio-diversity, energy conservation and the growing of local food
- To involve young people in taking an active role in Congleton in Bloom
- To encourage people to take pride in the place they live



## How we are Funded/ Supported

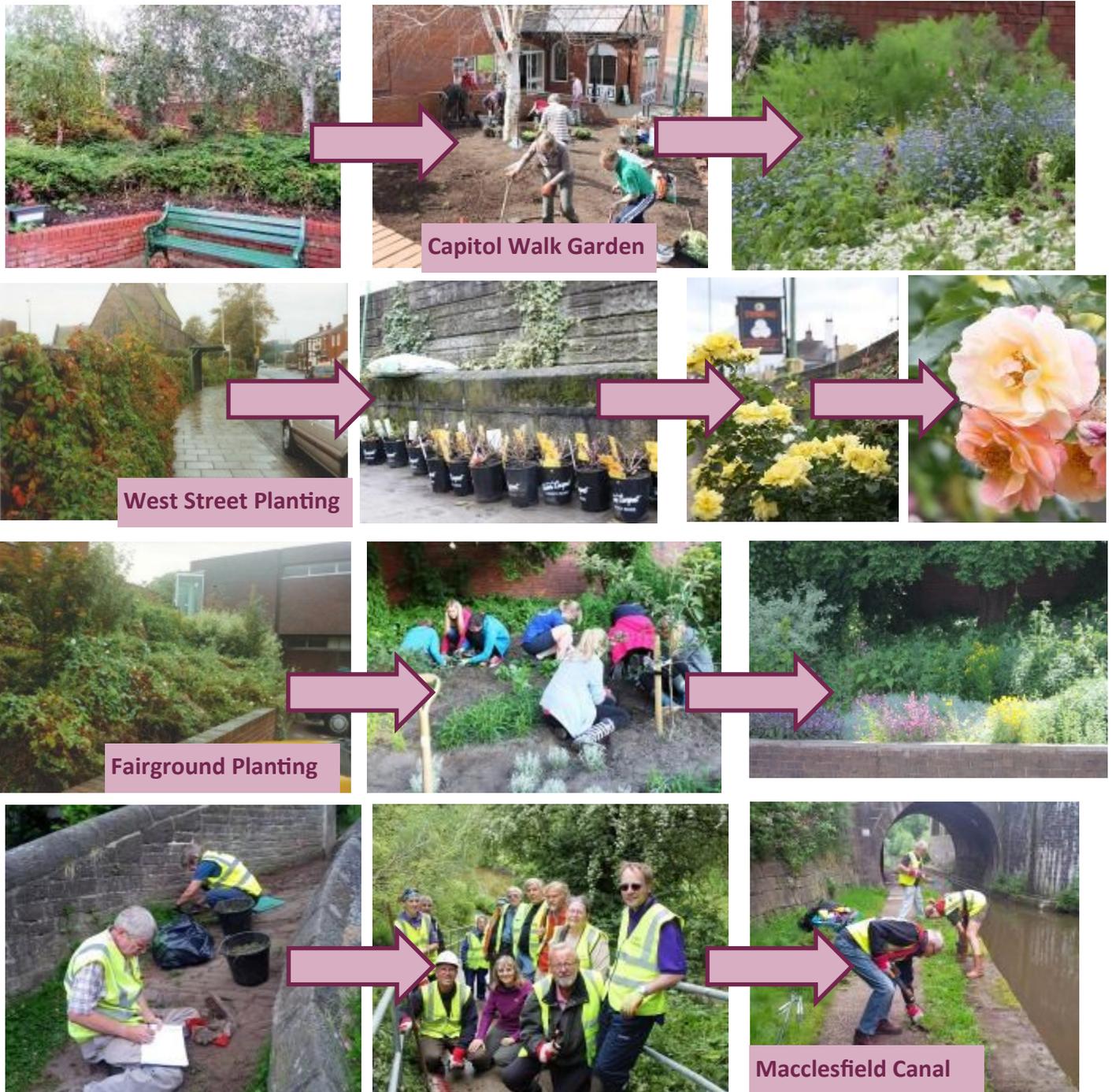
Name	Amount	Details
Congleton Town Council	£12,000	In Bloom Budgets
Congleton Partnership	£8250	Supporting In Bloom Projects
Congleton Businesses	£5220	Sponsoring Hanging Baskets
William Dean Trust Grant	£500	Towards Celebration Evening
Business Sponsorship	£230	£10 pledges for Sponsorship Board
Donations	£120	Local people and organisations
Congleton Young People's Trust Grant	£300	Towards Projects
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,620.00</b>	
Plus Volunteer Hours	£40,000	4,000 hours at £10 per hour

# Improving a Town

Over the past 19 years Congleton in Bloom and its partner organisations have physically transformed many parts of the town. This has had multiple benefits – increasing Community Pride, helping people make friends and feel part of the town, helping people to learn new skills and to gain confidence.

In 2000 Congleton won best large town in the North West : A huge motivating factor pushing the town to achieve more and do more.

Each year the In Bloom team looks to improve new areas and then maintain this improvement. In Bloom has been responsible for so much change that much of it has just become part of Congleton and can no longer have a place on the tour. Below are some of the transformations that you won't stop at on the tour:



# 2016-17 Calendar

In Bloom is an all year round commitment- the work and planning never stops!

Our calendar of events include:

## August

- Open weekends at the Back 2 Back Gardens
- Wildflower meadow in full bloom- Congleton Park
- Keep on top of watering, deadheading and weeding
- Apple collections at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre/ Old Saw Mill
- Taking pictures and notes for plant choice decision making for the following year



## September

- Annual Congleton & District Horticultural Show at the Town Hall
- Take down hanging baskets, troughs and planters– reusing where possible, some volunteer groups take plants to “over-winter” them for use in the following year, the rest are composted
- Winter bedding added to the park, roundabouts and other public planted areas



## October

- Congleton In Bloom received the results from the summer judging:  
**Best Large Town and Category Winner– Congleton**  
**Pride of Cheshire East– Congleton**  
**Britain in Bloom Gold Award**
- Reviewed the marking sheets to improve for the 2017 judging
- Seed Swap and Apple Day at Saint Mary’s school & Astbury Mere Country Park
- Bulb planting & hedge cutting
- Congleton planted Purple4Polio to join in the RHS/ Rotary scheme
- Agreed Park Plaque to celebrate Lions 100 year anniversary



## November & December

- Town Centre Winter Tubs planted up by the school children
- Community Clear-ups
- In Bloom Survey carried out for feedback and priorities
- Delivery of Christmas Trees
- In Bloom Celebration Evening– more than 120 attendants
- Community walk about to highlight areas for improvement and to work on designs for the upcoming year

## January & February

- Designs and plant orders were finalised and ready to be planted in the spring
- Ongoing campaign to reduce dog fouling– more posters and dog stencilling completed
- Winter maintenance– pruning trees, hedges and shrubs etc.
- Recycled over 120 Christmas Trees
- Encouraged more neighbourhoods and businesses to get involved with In Bloom



# 2016-17 Calendar

## March & April

- Working with the IYN entrants
- First Great British Spring Clean event
- More work and plants added to the Community Garden
- Members from the In Bloom group spoke at East Midlands in Bloom conference about how In Bloom has improved Congleton
- Orders received for 265 hanging baskets for the shops in the town centre
- Members of the In Bloom team gave a talk at Congleton's Annual Town Meeting
- Held a plant-up and recruitment session at the Easter Treats day in the Town Centre- over 90 little pots were planted
- Local charity- Visyon started works on their Sensory Garden using funds raised from Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme (£10,000)



## May

- Town Centre tubs planted up for the summer by local school children
- Hanging baskets, troughs and planters brighten up the town
- More community Great British Spring Cleans organised
- More volunteers signed up
- Beds rotovated and fertilised ready for bedding to be planted
- Streetscape team added 29,110 summer plants
- Rangers turned out for mammoth weeding session at Community Orchard

## June

- Roundabouts and public open spaces are planted up
- Bi-weekly litter picks and weeding volunteering sessions
- Many residents and visitors enjoy the local produce at Congleton's annual Food & Drink Festival
- Town Bears on the roundabout have their yearly hair cut!
- Intensive summer season of mowing, weed spraying, and strimming
- Schools and Youth Groups get organised for the Bug themed Back2Back gardens



## July

- Bug Gardens planted
- Grass and hedge cutting, deadheading, weeding, watering and litter picking works ongoing
- Many more events in the park, including Vol Fest- encouraging more volunteers to sign up and giving a 'Big Cheer for the Volunteer' to celebrate what volunteers add to the community

# Horticultural Achievement

## Introduction

In 2016-17 the emphasis is on “A Blooming Town” with colourful and attractive displays. The routes into town are lined with brightly coloured plants, this year with a pink and purple theme, complemented by a contrasting yellow flower. More sustainable bedding and height has been added following the advice of previous In Bloom judges.

## Colour, Design and Choice of Plants

This is the third full “In Bloom year” where the Streetscape services have been managed by Congleton Town Council. This has made it easier to co-ordinate work with the In Bloom team and Friends of Congleton Park, it has enabled the groups to introduce town-wide themes.

Congleton Town Council now has two full-time apprentices that have joined the Streetscape team of ten. They work in both the park and town centre, planting up the public open spaces and learning new horticultural skills to ensure these skills aren't lost.

From the judges feedback in 2016, both the North West and Britain in Bloom judges suggested that Congleton would benefit from more sustainable bedding. Congleton Streetscape, Congleton In Bloom and Friends of Congleton Park took this on board and have planted more sustainable bedding in the park as well as more grasses for height amongst the floral displays. The designs of roundabouts have also been improved to add a variation of height.

## Horticultural Practice

The team do a great job watering, deadheading and weeding public places, this along with litter picking is backed up by the support of local volunteers at the many organised Town Tidy events that the In Bloom team organise. These events are carried out in different locations across the town to cover as many areas as possible, at the same time as recruiting new volunteers in these locations.

The areas that are heavily managed by volunteers include Astbury Mere Country Park, Community Garden, Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden, Congleton Canal, Capitol Walk Garden, Dutch Wall, Fairground Car Park, Railway Station and the Secret Garden at the Old Saw Mill.

Public areas are planted twice a year- these areas only have four weeks in the year without plants. The sustainable planting adds all year round planting and colour and just needs pruning and weeding.

The Congleton In Bloom Committee works closely with the local garden nursery- Four Oaks and the Cheshire East Streetscape Services- Ansa. Plants are grown by the nursery and delivered to the Town Council poly tunnels for planting out.



# Horticultural Achievement

**Congleton Park-** The park is maintained by Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team with help from the Friends of Congleton Park. It was originally designed in 1871 by Edward Kemp. 2017 marks Kemp's bicentenary which the Friends of Congleton Park are celebrating with a walk in his name on 24th September. In recent years, the four small beds in the park have been replaced with two larger curved beds with a change in bedding to more perennial planting. The roses in the two large beds have been replaced with grasses. There is a fun children's bed planted up as a butterfly and an allotment has been added with an established herb garden. The formal plaque uses carpet bedding, planted to represent the 100th anniversary of the Congleton Lions group. As suggested by RHS Britain In Bloom Judges in 2016, we have installed a new sustainable area, planted with herbaceous perennials and grasses, designed by Ruth Morgan from Cheshire East Ansa. This has been funded by the William Dean Trust & Friends of Congleton Park. The bed was prepared by the Streetscape gardening team and planted by Friends of Congleton Park.

**Congleton Community Garden-** Planted and maintained by volunteers, the garden has won many awards. It is mainly planted with a huge variety of trees, shrubs, hardy perennials, bulbs and has over 20 species of roses in the "scented" garden.

**Capitol Walk-** The Food4Free garden is planted by volunteers who meet monthly to maintain the edible and bee-friendly plants. This adds all year round colour.

**Dutch Wall-** Adding colour and hardy plants, this area is looked after by volunteers.

**Fairground Car Park-** In 2014 the area was transformed with the removal of shrubbery and the introduction of more planting. The Congleton Rangers group look after this area keeping the weeds down and planting a wide range of wildflowers from Grow Wild.

**Margaret's Place-** This small public open space was renovated in 2015 adding perennials, shrubs, an apple core sculpture, soft fruit bushes and trees and bee-friendly bedding as well as outdoor gym equipment. New bulbs and signage were added in 2016.

**Moody Street Garden-** This area has had a make-over with new surfacing and furniture. A sensory garden has been planted by local nursery groups.

**Mountbatten Way-** Brightly coloured troughs line the centre and outer edges of the road. The Partnership project for greening Mountbatten Way was completed in Spring 2017, replacing 16 old planters with new containers and adding a total of 12 new Rowan trees in large wooden box planters.

**Roundabouts-** Three with seasonal bedding plants and two with sustainable planting, adding height to these beds. Sponsorship by local companies has boosted the In Bloom efforts.

**Cenotaph-** Streetscape continue to plant and maintain this area. The Cenotaph group is pushing for £375k transformation projects to improve the area.

**Congleton & District Horticultural Society-** Over 50 years old, the group has monthly meetings, open to the public with an annual show in September at the Town Hall, where local people display over 140 varieties of plants, flowers and veg.



# Environmental Responsibility

Congleton is a Transition and Fairtrade Town. We take our commitment to the environment seriously. Congleton has one of the biggest clusters of Eco Schools in the North West. All 16 schools are registered with the RHS campaign for school gardening, with awards at various levels. 13 of these schools have been awarded at least one green flag from KBT Eco-schools. Their eco topics include school grounds, biodiversity, healthy living, litter and waste. We have an active Sustainability Group which has won a National Award for its Apple Juice campaign and the Cheshire Life Food & Drink 2016 Award. The Apple Juice campaign is now in its 9th year.

## Conservation & Biodiversity

**Astbury Mere Country Park and Eco Centre**– Astbury Mere is a former silica sand quarry that has been transformed into a much loved Country Park, managed by a volunteer trust with paid Countryside Ranger Support. The land covers 14hs of open space– which includes a wildflower meadow, pond, all weather easy access path and Cheshire’s first and only Keep Britain Tidy Eco Centre. The majority of tree stock is less than 40 years old. The site has been awarded multiple green flags and is one of the most visited free attractions in the North West. The trust raises £30,000 a year for upkeep of the site. Schools from around the area use the educational facilities. There is a programme of activities including; weekly Parkrun, Nordic walking, Pram Fit and Nature walks. The Congleton Sustainability Group introduced a Community Orchard in 2012 within easy walking distance of the Mere, in Spring 2016, this was upgraded with new steps, sculpture and soft fruit under planting. A commemorative woodland and wildflower meadow for late Trustee Margaret Williamson was created at the Mere in 2016 by volunteers.

**Congleton Town Wood**– The Town Wood is an important biological resource in the heart of Congleton to the north of the park. It is an Ancient and Semi-Natural woodland, a 1000 year old remnant of riparian woodland, now a County SBI. Formal bound gravel paths ensure accessibility through the wood throughout the year and the park wardens along with volunteer teams ensure the paths are kept clear. During the Spring there is a superb display of native bluebells, local people can find out more through organised walks and talks about them. Numerous bird species can be observed in the wood and new bird boxes have been added, along with an interpretation board.

**Dane-In-Shaw Pastures**– This is an SSSI with grassland of national importance. It is managed by Cheshire East Countryside Rangers with support from local farmers. In 2014 it was designated a Coronation Meadow– an honour awarded to one meadow in every county. It is also a “donor” meadow, which provides seeds for the creation of new meadows at “recipient” sites in Cheshire, including nearby Swettenham Meadows.

**Wildflower Meadows**– Congleton Rotary has sponsored a wildflower meadow in the park at the site of the annual Rotary Bonfire for 6 years. There are also wildflower meadows at the Mere and at many of the schools.



# Environmental Responsibility

## Resource Management

**Eco Schools Project**– Out of the 16 Primary and Secondary Schools in Congleton, one of the schools became joint Winner of the Cheshire East JRO finals after two years as runner up. The major project was harvesting 225kg excess apples in their school orchard, making 118 bottles of Saint Mary’s Apple Juice. They were awarded best set of recycling materials in 2017 out of 60 schools in Cheshire East having made 368 bottles of their own apple juice.



**Re-Using Summer & Winter Bedding**– Over the past three years there has been a campaign to re-use bedding plants where possible. The winter bedding was bagged up and offered to local residents of Congleton to over-winter and use again in the Spring/ Summer. The plants not taken were used for composting.

**Sustainability Group**– Plant and seed swaps took place in the Spring and Autumn. The sustainability group collect the apples to make them into apple juice and cider, this prevents the apples from going to waste. 5 tonnes of apples were collected in 2016.

**Recycling**– All households have “silver” recycling bins collected every two weeks, 78% of waste taken to the household amenity centre is recycled.



## Local Heritage

**Bath House & Physic Garden**– Introducing plants used for medicinal and industry purposes in Congleton since the 18th Century and protecting the heritage.

**Congleton Cenotaph**– Renovation plans to add 220 missing names, make disability friendly, add new Portland Stone and protect the wall.

**Congleton Bears**– Congleton is nicknamed “Bear Town” from the 17th Century when according to legend Congleton Rare, Congleton Rare, Sold the Bible to Buy a Bear! You’ll see bear references all around the town—including the bears on the main roundabout.



## Anniversaries in 2017

- Congleton Community Fire Station celebrates 50 years - Congleton Cricket Club celebrates 50 years
- Congleton Lions celebrates 100 years - Congleton Masons and Masonic Hall celebrates 300 years

## Local Environment & Pride of Place

Congleton Town Entry Signs: small areas planted by the Streetscape Team

All roundabouts now have new CIB metal signs, banners, sponsorship acknowledged

New town maps at car parks were installed spring 2017

Congleton Park was awarded its 10th consecutive Green Flag in 2017



**Community Litter Picks**– In 2016 the theme was the royal “Clean for the Queen” and in 2017 it was “The Great British Clean Up” many residents joined the monthly organised litter picks. More businesses were involved this year, organising their own litter picks in areas near to them, this included: the Scouts & Guides, McDonalds and SAS Solicitors.



**Cycle Routes**– New path and route added from the Town Centre to the Railway Station.

# Community Participation

Congleton has over 150 local groups and organisations and a full programme of events throughout the year. Creating a sense of place and an atmosphere of inclusion is important for the town. The In Bloom group relies on the experience, expertise and manpower of a wide range of groups and individuals all working towards a common aim of making the town a great place to live, work and visit. The In Bloom team and partners have generated well over 4,000 hours of volunteer work on In Bloom related activities.

## Development & Continuity

Congleton In Bloom and Food4Free provide opportunities for the public to understand choosing, planting, growing and looking after plants and areas, to create greater community pride. The group regularly asks the public to report Grot Spots and areas for improvement and actively seeks more volunteers to turn plans into action. Recruitment is carried out through Community Newsletters, Town Centre activity days, Facebook, Twitter, workshops, school visits and word of mouth. Certificates are awarded at an Annual Thank-You event in the Town Hall. Friends of Congleton Park hold separate celebration events.

The number of local authority employees working on the public realm has decreased over the past three years making it even more important to plan wisely, invest in proper equipment and work with partners where possible. The town now has eight IYN all of which have their own volunteers determined to improve their areas each year.

**Bath House & Physic Garden-** A volunteer group was formed to renovate the old garden and Bath House. The team of 12 meet weekly for a two hour slot to improve the area. Lots of hard landscaping in Winter 2016 and Spring 2017 took place as well as new planting, funded by the £10,000 awarded through the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme. The IYN hosts open days and tours, as well as now being a venue for the annual Hidden Places arts performances.



**Congleton Park Allotments-** Previously an Avery, the park allotment was introduced in 2013 after a suggestion by the In Bloom judges. The allotment is planted by the Streetscape team, signposted and enjoyed by the public.

**Congleton Food4Free-** A dedicated group of volunteers began the Congleton Food4Free initiative back in 2012 with blueberry bushes, since then the garden at Capitol Walk has been transformed with edible and bee-friendly planting, autumnal perennials were planted to provide all year round colour.



**Old Saw Mill Secret Garden-** In April 2016 this was a derelict area and rescued for the Old Saw Mills open day in May 2016. A group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to renovate the area. The garden was designed based loosely on Jekka McVik's Apothecary garden at Chelsea.

**Visyon Sensory Garden-** Adjacent to the River Dane is an area that is currently being transformed into a sensory garden by a local charity Visyon, whose volunteers have built a retaining wall using sleepers, added new soil / compost and designed and planted a garden to delight the senses.

**Vale Allotments-** Bought by Congleton Sustainability Group, Green Trust for Congleton residents and in the process of being returned as the town allotments.



# Community Participation

Every November and May, children from the local primary schools are invited to the Town's Polytunnels to learn about plants and create the 30 school tubs used to decorate the Town Centre.

Seed and produce swaps organized by Congleton Sustainability Group give local people a chance to discuss plants and swap cuttings and plants each spring and autumn. The award winning Apple Juice Campaign has been a practical way to educate people about not letting produce go to waste. It is a community environment improvement that local people have related to and embraced. Cider was introduced in 2014 and is on sale at the Old Saw Mill and other outlets in Congleton.

## Congleton Youth In Bloom



**The Bug Gardens**— For the past 4 years, the polytunnel complex has housed Congleton's young people's garden exhibition. Pre-schools, Primary Schools, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and other youth groups design and create gardens and displays. This year Congleton's popular Back to Back Gardens is in the smaller community tunnel and based on a bugs theme.

**RHS Greening Grey Britain: Homes for Wildlife**— In early June, a group of young people built Bug Hotels. The first sited at the back of the park allotment and the second is in the Visyon Garden. At these workshops, the children also created bug artwork from recycled materials.

**RHS & Rotary Club "Purple for Polio" Project**— In Autumn 2016, purple crocus bulbs were donated by the Rotary Club, as part of polio awareness. 70,000 bulbs were planted by volunteer groups, assisted by Congleton West Rangers and Congleton Rotary Club. The colourful displays were created on the River Dane bank and West Heath verges.



**Community Orchard Phase Two**— A new sculpture in the shape of an apple core was added to this area to celebrate the orchard, as well as two beds planted with a variety of soft fruits and edible cherries. Cowslips were added for spring pollinators. These works were to enhance the biodiversity. Sponsored by Congleton Partnership.

**Congleton Fire Station**— Two raised planters at the front of the Fire Station are designed and planted to give all year round colour, these are planted in the spring and autumn.

**Clean up after your Dog**— Initiatives to get people to clean up after their dogs and not drop litter have been rolled out across the town and supported by local people including school children and the local media.



# New & Improved 2016-17

Where and What	Key Fact
Hanging Baskets in the Town Centre	265 hanging baskets have been planted up for the Town Centre shops and businesses. Shops hanging baskets were introduced in 2012 and 92 took up the offer. The number of hanging baskets and compliments have increased year on year. Properties close to the town centre pay for the baskets and watering services unless they have a built in watering system. Those on the outskirts of town water their own baskets.
Moody Street Garden—close to the Town Centre	The area has been completely refurbished; the base has been levelled, new beds, planting, fencing and a seating area have been added. The garden is full of sensory plants with wildlife mosaics produced at public workshops led by local artists at the Electric Picture House.
Visyon Garden - near the River Dane Walkway—close to Congleton Park	Work is ongoing to create a calm and fun space for the public that young people at Visyon can work on. The space will help the young people get outside, learn gardening skills, team work and benefit from the therapeutic effect of gardening. £10,000 worth of funding was obtained through Tesco Bags of Help campaign.
Crocus Planting	As part of the Greening Grey Britain, RHS partnered with the Rotary to plant crocuses and support the Purple4Polio scheme— Congleton planted swaves of purple crocuses along the River Dane bank in the park and also on the verges in West Heath.
Sustainable Planting in Congleton Park	Joint partnership with Friends of Congleton Park— new planting schemes have been added along the river bank, a new art sculpture was also added in memory of Margaret Williamson OBE—who founded Congleton in Bloom in 1998.
Old Saw Mill- Secret Garden	Designed and planted by volunteers, who continue to plant and maintain the Secret Garden, which is admired by many.
Margaret's Place- Antrobus Street Garden	Since opening this outdoor space in October 2015 the usage has increased greatly especially with the outdoor gym equipment—In Bloom added planting and have organised clean-ups in the area. Name change in November 2017.
Mountbatten Way	In 2016 phase 1 of greening Mountbatten Way was completed. January/ February 2017 saw the completion of works for phase 2— a total of 12 trees have now been added as well as seven new and 16 replaced planters on Mountbatten Way.
Community Orchard- Astbury Mere	New paths, sculpture, steps, signage and edible planting are the latest additions to the Community Orchard.
Canal & Railway Adoption Group	March 2017 saw the start of a new monthly working group to improve the canal and railway paths areas— they meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and have been making great progress and steady improvements.
Back to Back Gardens- Bug Gardens	Many youth groups created the global gardens in 2016— gardens that represented a different country from around the world. The 2017 theme is bug gardens.
Bath House and Physic Garden	Had a successful open day in May 2017 to show off the new works from 2016 and the continual works to improve the outdoor area—including the popular pond and composting bays.
Welcome Maps	Welcome maps have been added to Congleton car parks showing key attractions in the town—other locations are being added.
Favourite Front Gardens	Congleton residents are encouraged to submit their own or nominate a front garden that is blooming marvellous—looking to beat high standards of 2016.

# New & Improved 2016-17

Planting up Crocus Bulbs– Purple4Polio



Adding Sustainable Beds in the Park



Moody Street Gardens

Town Centre Maps



Tom Jackson Memorial Garden



Greening Mountbatten Way

# Congleton Blooms in the Spring

Town Centre Beds– Spring to life



Town Centre Children's Tubs

## Spring Bulbs

Cheshire East planted daffodils in the verges of the town in 2015. Children from a local primary school have planted additional daffodil bulbs near Tesco roundabout. In addition to this there are more daffodils planted at most of the Congleton Town entrance signs and verges and crocuses planted on the banks along Mountbatten Way.

Congleton Park– Daffodils



One of many Cherry Blossoms in Congleton



Congleton Park Blossoming by the Bandstand



WI Spring Bed at Mossley Village Hall



# Congleton Favourite Front Gardens



# Congleton Businesses Bloom

As well as the support from the businesses in and around Congleton, buying the Hanging Baskets and contributing to sponsoring In Bloom, there are also businesses that enter the competition with their own In Bloom efforts.

The businesses are: Alexandra Court Hotel, Astbury Mere Care Home and The Queens Head Public House. All were awarded Gold Standard last year and have been inspired to maintain and improve their In Bloom credentials.



Alexandra Court Hotel



Queens Head



Astbury Mere Care Home

23 shops and businesses in Congleton have pledged £10 to support the In Bloom efforts in the Town. Other funds have come from the Town Trusts and Congleton Community groups.

The In Bloom team would like to thank the following businesses for supporting Congleton In Bloom 2016/17:



- Congleton Town Council - Congleton Streetscape Team
- Congleton Partnership
- Cheshire East Council - CHS Print Room
- Congleton Inclosure Trust
- Congleton Young People's Trust - Eco Learning
- William Dean Trust

### Sponsorship Pledges

- Belvoir Lettings
- Congleton Chronicle
- Congleton Oatcakes
- Delia Metcalfe
- E-Cig Congleton
- Hammond & McNulty
- Leek United
- Malbon Townsend
- Mossley Salon
- NotWest
- Norris Associates
- Richardsons
- RJ & J Moore Greengrocers
- Rogers Barbers
- St. Mary's Parish Centre
- The Bulls Head
- The Cygnet Club
- The Gallery Hairdressers
- The Young Pretender
- Timothy A Brown
- Town Bathrooms
- Whittaker and Biggs
- Ye Olde Kings Arms

# It's Your Neighbourhoods

There are eight It's Your Neighbourhoods taking part this year; Congleton In Bloom's sister group- Buglawton in Bloom began in 2003 and has been part of the In Bloom judging for the past 14 years. Bromley Farm Community Centre set up in 2012 and continues to improve each year. Our NWIB Judges have encouraged other Neighbourhoods to join in, such as Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden, Heath View Care Home, Hilary Avenue Allotments, New Life Church- Jubilee Club. New in 2016 and continuing to enter is Astbury Mere Country Park Trust and new for 2017 is Congleton Park via Friends of Congleton Park.



Buglawton in Bloom



Bromley Farm



Astbury Mere



Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden



Heath View Care Home



Hilary Avenue Allotments



NLC- Jubilee Club



Congleton Park

# Thank You

Air Cadets- 230 Congleton Squadron  
Alexandra Court Hotel  
Ansa  
Astbury Mere Care Home  
Astbury Mere Country Park Trust  
Bromley Farm Community Trust  
Bromley Farm Neighbourhood  
Buglawton Community Group  
Buglawton In Bloom  
Canal & Riverside Trust  
Canal & Riverside Tidy Volunteers  
Cheshire East Council  
Cheshire East Highways  
Congleton Bath House &  
Physic Garden Trust  
Congleton Business Association  
Congleton Community Projects  
Congleton Food 4 Free  
Congleton Fire Station  
Congleton High School- Print Room  
Congleton Horticultural Society  
Congleton In Bloom Team  
Congleton Inclosure Trust  
Congleton Masons  
Congleton Partnership  
Congleton Young People's Trust  
Congleton Rotary Club  
Congleton Schools  
Congleton Scouts  
Congleton Streetscape Team  
Congleton Sustainability Group

Congleton Town Council  
Congleton Town Trust  
Congleton West Rangers  
Eco Learning  
Electric Picture House  
Four Oaks Nursery  
Friendly Faces Nursery  
Friends of Congleton Park  
Heath View Care Home  
Hilary Avenue Allotments  
McDonalds  
Mossley Beavers and Rainbows  
Mr and Mrs Copestick—60th Anniversary  
National Westminster Bank  
New Life Church Jubilee Club  
Old Saw Mill- Secret Garden  
Plus Dane Housing Group  
Readesmoor Doctors Surgery  
Shops and Businesses in Congleton  
Saint Mary's Catholic School Gardening Club  
The Queens Head Public House  
Tim & Albert- Community Garden Volunteers  
William Dean Trust

**Thank you to everyone who responded to the Congleton In Bloom online survey, it was great to see that 70% think the work of the In Bloom team is very worthwhile and 19% think it is worthwhile.**



# Appendix 2- Media Coverage



# Appendix 2- Media Coverage



# Appendix 3- Recycling Figures

## Congleton Household Waste & Recycling– Tonnage 16/17

<u>Category</u>	<u>16/17 Tonnage (t)</u>
Amenity Waste to Landfill	778.57
Green Waste	530.02
Card	119.89
Chipboard or Mixed Wood/ Chipboard	281.03
Glass	10.95
Paper	52.02
Plastic Bottles	3.87
Wood	209.41
Textiles	47.61
Small WEEE (SDA)	105.26
Large WEEE (LDA)	44.96
<b>Total Tonnage</b>	<b>3,145.37</b>
<b>Total Recycled</b>	<b>2,307.19</b>
	<b>73.4%</b>
<b>Total Reused</b>	<b>54.47</b>
	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Diverted from Landfill</b>	<b>75.2%</b>

# Appendix 4- Plant List

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alyssum Clear Crystal Mixed	600
Salvia Armistad	60
Begonia Rose Peticoat	1000
Begonia Tuberous Mocca Mixed	500
Nicotiana Cuba Deep Lime	200
Begonia Nonstop Mocca White	400
Begonia Nonstop Mocca Pink Shades	400
Geranium Bullseye Salmon	300
Impatiens Divine Blue Pearl	780
Impatiens Divine Violet	600
Salvia Patio Blue	500
Lobelia Fulgens Queen Victoria	50
Cordylines Australlis Torbay Dazzler	20
Cordylines Australlis Green	20
Kochia	20
Amarathus Love lies Bleeding	10
Chlorophytums	70
Begonia Coral Bi Colour	400
French Marigold Yellow	120
Begonia Heaven Red	700
French Marigold Bonaza Bee	60
African Marigolds Marvel Yellow	500
Cinnearias Cirrus	300
Ageratum Champion Blue	950
Salvia Victoria Blue	100
Ornamnetal Millet Purple Majesty	37
Begonia Non Stop Yellow	200
Begonia Semplerflorens Devil White chocolate leaf	200
Begonia Heaven Rose	200
impatiens buzzie lizzie divine blue pearl	800
African Marigolds Marvel Orange	800
Pyrethum golden moss	100
Begonia Non stop Mocca Pink Shades	400
Lobelia Crystal Palace	120
Salvia Vista Purple	300
Salvia Vista Red	300
Geraniums Horizon Deep Salmon	170
Impatiens buzzie lizzie divine White	460
Geraniums Horizon Lavender	170
Impatiens Divine Pink	680
Salvia Deep Blue	18
Salvia Blue fairy Queen	400

# Appendix 4- Plant List

<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cinearis Silver Dust	400
Begonia non stop Citrus mixed	400
Begonia Non Stop Deep Rose	800
Begonia Non Stop Rose petticoat	800
Verbena Santo	25
Impatiens Mystic Mixed	400
Lobelia Cambridge Blue	400
Zinnia Zahara Starlight Rose	800
Zinnia Zahara Sunburst	400
Impatiens Orange Bronze Leaf	600
Begonias Tuberous Trailing Illumination Mixed	500
Begonia Organdy Mixed	400
Geranium Palladium Candyfloss mixed	750
Begonia Semperfloren Coral Bicolour	180
Begonia Semperfloren Devil Pink	180
Begonia Semperfloren Devil White	180
Impatiens Divine White	180
Begonia Semperflorens Heaven Mixed	3200
Lobelia Rosamond	200
Lobelia White Lady	200
Salvia Vanguard Red	1000
Impatiens Divine Orange	200
Begonia Semperflorens Devil Delight	1100
Geranium Horizon Violet	200
Impatiens Divine Islander Mixed	350
Geranium Bullseye Mixed	200
Begonia Tuberous Mocca Mixed	300
Calbrachoa White Rose Vein	100
Geranium Apple Blossom	100
Begonia Apple Blossom	100
Lobelia Rosamond	100
Marigold Taishaw mixed	250
Begonia Tuberous Majestic Sunburst	100
Begonia Tuberous Nonstop Citrus Mixed	500

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