

# Congleton Neighbourhood Plan Update...



Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the second detailed questionnaire into the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan – We received almost 1,000 questionnaires and over 1,300 comments.

The responses to the questions, along with all the written comments are being considered by the various groups working on policy areas of the plan. A summary document of the results can be seen at: [www.mycongleton.org](http://www.mycongleton.org)

The second questionnaire revealed a strong endorsement for many of the policies being tested by the groups. In other areas policies needed to be worked on further to reflect concerns. All policy decisions need to be backed up with evidence and the group has felt the need to source further work on a transport study for Congleton which will be carried out in the next few weeks.

The Neighbourhood Plan Team is currently considering how changes put forward in the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan will impact on Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan. This is important as the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in line with policies in the larger Local Plan.

In April the main work will be around reviewing the draft policies to make sure that they make sense and adhere to National and Local Planning Frameworks.

In May we intend to hold a three week consultation on the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan draft policy document. Copies will be available online, at the Town Hall, Library and other key places for people to study.

In June the policies will be amended in light of comments received in the May consultation and then discussions will be held with Cheshire East about submitting the draft plan under Regulation 14 to Cheshire East. Once submitted there will be a 6 week consultation.



Three lucky winners, Steve Massey, Philip Roberts and John Butler, receive £100 each from Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, David McGifford (2nd left), when their names are drawn for completing the questionnaire.



In September the plan will need to be reviewed taking on board any comments received in response to the Regulation 14 consultation.

Early in October Congleton Neighbourhood Plan team plans to submit the plan under Regulation 15. We would anticipate that an Examiner will be appointed and an examination take place in mid-late November.

Local people would have a vote on whether or not to accept the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan at a referendum in January or February 2017.

## Town Centre Improvements - HAVE YOUR SAY!



pedestrian area. The vision is to create a more welcoming, attractive and interesting space where shoppers and visitors will want to spend time and businesses will want to invest.

Following the recent 'Holmes Report' into shared space, the scheme designers have ensured that kerbs are retained and that the scheme is fully accessible. Residents and businesses will now have a chance to have their say on the types and colours of materials to be used and the creative look of the area. By improving the heart of the town centre it is hoped this will stimulate further regeneration of the town.

The six week consultation period will begin on 25th April. You can view the plans...  
 • on line at <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/congletonpr>  
 • at the library exhibition until 4th June  
 • at the Town Hall, 4pm-8pm, on Wednesday, 4th May  
 • and at the Exhibition Trailer, 10am-4pm, in the Town Centre on Saturday, 7th and Tuesday, 10th May.

You will also be able to view the plans, at the Congleton Food and Drink Festival on 12th June. The stand is likely to be in The Bridgestone Centre, near Argos.

The improvements are for the pedestrian area and extending into the road spaces at both the High Street and Mill Street end of the



## Teddy Bears' Picnic

Teddy Bears, their pre-school owners, parents and guardians are invited to pack a picnic blanket, grab a picnic and join in the Annual Teddy Bears' Picnic in Congleton Park on Tuesday 14th June. The fun starts at 12.30pm and finishes at 2.30pm, in plenty of time to pick up older brothers and sisters from school! Children and their bears can look forward to plenty of activities from dancing and singing to Storytime and colouring, with a chance to meet some life-size bears.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more details.

## Cool Down at the Pool!

Congleton's Paddling Pool, Park Road, will open daily from 10am-6pm from Saturday 28th May until early September. The Paddling Pool is managed by Congleton Town Council and has been enjoyed by the younger generation for decades.

The Paddling Pool is designed for children aged 11 and under. A member of staff will be present, but all children must be

accompanied by a responsible adult. Car parking on the roads surrounding the Pool is time-limited and restrictive. Daneside Theatre car park is private, so users are advised to walk, cycle and travel on the bus or park in the Town Centre car parks when using Congleton Paddling Pool.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more information.

## BRASS On The Grass

Friends of Congleton Park is organising the 3rd annual 'Brass on the Grass' on Sunday, 19th June. It's a free concert that can be enjoyed by all, although there will be collection buckets for donations which will go towards future events in the Park. The afternoon of music starts at

2pm and continues until at least 5pm. Agreed so far are Macclesfield Silk and Rode Hall Silver Band, with more to be confirmed nearer to the date.

See [www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk) for more information.



## Talented Quilters Display Their Designs

Beartown Patchwork and Quilters presents a two-day free 'Exhibition of Quilts' from 10am - 4pm at Congleton Town Hall on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th June.



Judy Flinn who was the founder of the group, in recognition of her passion for quilting and long association to Beartown Patchwork and Quilters.

Showcasing an array of contemporary and traditional quilts and other items, demonstrating the enormous talent and experience within the group. A passion for fabric, colour, pattern and design, each having its own story to tell.

Traders will also be at the exhibition and refreshments will be available. There will be a quilt raffle in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Macclesfield Branch, main prizes being quilts, giving you the opportunity to win your own quilt made by the group members. There will also be a sales table to purchase small handmade gifts and a Tombola.

There will be a special display of quilts by

## Dates for your diary

### April

- 14th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th Cry Baby & the Hoochie Coochie Boys, Electric Picture House, 7pm
- 19th-23rd: Congleton Players Presents "Brassed Off", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 23rd Catwalk One Ladies Evening Fashion Show, New Life Church, 6.30pm
- 24th Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 28th Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28th-1st May: The Alternative- Arts Weekend

### May

- 1st Museum Walk- Pub Crawl through Time, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 11th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 12th CTC Annual Mayor Making, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th-14th: Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre Present "Wanted! Robin Hood", at Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 19th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 20th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall
- 21st Beartown Bikers Charity Ride-Out- in aid of Macmillan, The Church House, 10am
- 21st Cheeki Monkeys Big Baby & Children's Market, Eaton Bank Academy, 10am
- 22nd Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 27th Gin Jamboree, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 27th-25th June: Flux Art Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 28th Paddling Pool opens for the summer, Park, Road, 10am-6pm

### June

- 4th Music Night Fundraiser for Shelter, Electric Picture House
- 5th Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 5th Tea Dance, Town Hall, 5pm
- 10th-11th: Beartown Patchwork and Quilters Show, Town Hall, 9am
- 11th Congleton Players Presents "One Act Play Festival", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 12th Food and Drink Festival, Town Centre, 10.30am-4.30pm
- 12th Food Festival Fringe- Arts & Crafts Stalls, Electric Picture House
- 14th Teddy Bears Picnic, Congleton Park, 12.30pm-2.30pm
- 17th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 19th CTC Annual Mayor Civic Service, St. Peter's Church
- 19th Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park
- 19th Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend Congleton Town Council (CTC) meetings, and may ask a question at full council. To do this you are requested to advise the Chief Officer, in writing or by e-mail, at least 7 working days before the day of the meeting. Please note, there could be items towards the end of the meeting, which by law, require the press and public to be excluded.

For Daneside Theatre productions contact Congleton Tourist Information on 01260 271095.  
 For Congleton Town Council (CTC) contact 01260 270350. For more events see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
 Spring 2016



## Food & Drink Festival

On Sunday June 12th Congleton will enjoy its 8th Food and Drink Festival. This hugely popular event will see the town centre packed with over one hundred dedicated food and drink stalls offering award winning homemade pies, cheeses, chutneys, preserves, chocolates, cakes and savouries.

represented plus wines, cider and fresh fruit juices, homemade cordials and coconuts. Gluten free products, veggie and vegan all catered for and all set to a backdrop of live music, street entertainment and kids activities. The Festival Fringe hosted by the Electric Picture House will be bigger and better with entertainment and craft stalls.

As always there will be a fabulous range of global street food stalls - regulars and newcomers - to delight the taste buds. Local and regional microbreweries will be

High Street, Market Street, Swan Bank and Mill Street will be closed from 7.30am - 6.00pm so be prepared for traffic delays in the town centre. The event is from 10.30am - 4.30pm, [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)

## £8.8 Million Revamp for Leisure Centre!

Swimmers in Congleton can look forward to getting a brand new pool and pool hall at the recently re-named Peter Mason Leisure Centre, in Worrall Street. Cheshire East Council has agreed a plan to spend up to £8.8 million creating a new pool to replace the existing one and has given the green light for a development partner to explore options and deliver a newly refurbished facility.



## Get Ready to Welcome World's Top Cyclists

Congleton has been chosen to host the start of day three of the Tour of Britain Cycle ride - the UK's biggest free-to-attend sporting event - on Tuesday, 6th September.

The race is likely to start in the Town Centre with the cyclists taking a 5km processional ride ahead of the race starting in earnest. This will give local people and visitors to the town a fantastic opportunity to see these top athletes in action.

For the latest information and how you can join in the event see: [www.cheshiretourofbrtain.co.uk](http://www.cheshiretourofbrtain.co.uk)

## CARNIVAL 2016

What part will you play in Congleton Carnival 2016? There's still time to get together with friends, family, work or social groups to enter the parade, or you could have a stall in the park, or volunteer to help steward on the day - or simply line the streets to admire the handiwork of others and enjoy the Fun Day in the Park.



The big day is Saturday 16th July. There will be activities, food and drink, music, stalls and rides in the park from 10am through to 8pm - entry is free and the volunteer team is working hard to ensure that there is something for everyone. Be prepared to stay a while! Come in fancy dress and you could win a spot prize!

The procession has a 'Musicals' theme. It will leave Bromley Road at 11am and wind its way through the town centre before finishing on Hankinson's Field. The procession will be a mixture of vehicles, walking groups, marching bands, dance troupes and bikes. Groups have until the middle of June to confirm their place in the procession.

See [www.congletoncarnival.com](http://www.congletoncarnival.com) for the most up to date information or to contact someone from the volunteer Carnival Committee.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 27th June. All contributions should be sent by 3rd June to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN, Tel 01260 270350 or email [jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)





# Know Your Councillor

CONGLETON is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower Heath and Newcastle Road. Each ward is represented by 10 Councillors.

All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C) Charles Booth (C) Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C) Bob Edwards (C) George Hayes (C)



Sally Holland (C) Anna Morrison (C) Harvey Richards (C)



Glen Williams (C)



Suzanne Akers-Smith (C) Dawn Allen (UKIP) Andrea Armitt (C)



Geoff Baggott (C) Paul Bates (C) Robert Boston (L)



Amanda Martin (C) Jean Parry (C) Elizabeth Wardlaw (C), Mayor

C = Conservative; L = Labour; UKIP = UK Independence Party

## New Catering & Events Team at Town Hall



Meet the new team behind the catering and events at Congleton Town Hall. Led by Joe Kanauros, Becky Lawton, Ed Snook, and Annette Kanauros, the team offers a fresh approach to events as well as fresh food! Bookings have already increased, with some

interesting new events, including tea dances and a gin jamboree.

The Town Hall has three rooms available to hire: The Grand Hall – which is perfect for weddings, parties, concerts for up to 220. The Bridestones Suite – for large meetings, training courses and wedding ceremonies. The Spencer Suite – which is great for meetings, interviews and training courses for 12 or less people. There are special half day and full day rates, as well as concessions for charities and residents. Find out more at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or call 01260 270350, ext 6.

## Celebrating 150 Years of the Town Hall



On 11 July 1866 there was great excitement as the new impressive Congleton Town Hall opened its doors for the first time. 150 years on, a group of volunteers is planning to rekindle some of the excitement by taking a trip back in time with a Living History exhibition. Children from local schools will have a chance to see what life would have been like for them had they lived in Congleton in 1866. There will also be a Civic Reception on Sunday, 10th July and a Victorian evening of song, with the Choral Society, on the 23rd July. Discussions are on-going with English Heritage about plaques for the front of the Town Hall. There will also be a giant human card stunt involving the Town Hall taking place in Congleton Park on Wednesday, 15th June.

## Forming Congleton Community Co-Op

Congleton Sustainability Group is looking to take over the Old Saw Mill in Back River Street, off Antrobus Street, and turn it into a new Community Space. The group plans to use the space to make and store Congleton Apple Juice and Ciders, create a shop to sell the juices along with other local produce and crafts, introduce a community café and create community space for workshops and meetings.

The vision is that the former Saw Mill will become a space that can celebrate all that's best in and around Congleton. A venue where local talent can come and exhibit its skills and a place that offers something for everyone!

Congleton Sustainability Group is forming Congleton Community Co-Op to manage the Old Saw Mill. Everyone is welcome to join this new - very local - co-operative for an annual subscription and become a member receiving a "divi" of 3%. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the Community Co-op and opportunities at the 'Old Saw Mill' during the Open Days on Saturday, 16th and Sunday, 17th April from 10-3pm.

For further information, contact, Stewart Halliday on 07710 946 053 or Peter Aston on 07971 805 372.

## Important Coin Collections

A detachment of roman soldiers, the Deva Victrix, will be bringing the **Cheshire Hoards** to Congleton on Saturday, 2nd July. A day of roman activities and re-enactments will celebrate the arrival of the much publicised Knutsford and Malpas hoards at Congleton museum, which will be the permanent home for these regionally important collections.

The addition of these two new hoards, comprising 7 Iron Age gold coins, 121 Roman silver coins, 3 silver gilt trumpet brooches and 2 silver finger rings will, with the Moody Street and Priesty hoards, double the number of significant coin collections held by the museum.

See [www.congletonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.congletonmuseum.co.uk)



## THE ALTERNATIVE 28TH APRIL - 1ST MAY Congleton Contemporary Arts Weekend

The Electric Picture House is pleased to announce another fantastic arts and culture weekend for the people of Congleton and surrounding areas. The Alternative, Congleton Contemporary Arts Weekend is a weekend celebrating the Arts from April 28th to May 1st, showcasing local, national and international talent in venues in and around the town. The broad based programme will include theatre, poetry and visual arts.

Alternative begins with an Experimental Music evening on Thursday, followed by a

three week long international Art Exhibition called Alternative Nature, starting on the Friday. Saturday is a whole afternoon and evening of theatre, culminating with a performance of Dracula. There is an Outdoor Art Fair on Sunday with visual arts, contemporary crafts, street food and street entertainment on Mill Street and Swan Bank.

For further information and to book tickets contact The Electric Picture House on 01260 270908, email [electricpicturehouse.com](mailto:electricpicturehouse.com) or [www.electricpicturehouse.com](http://www.electricpicturehouse.com)

## A Fantastic New Centre for Buglawton

St John's Church Hall and School Master's house in Buglawton is undergoing a major £400,000 renovation project, which will result in a much improved community facility for local people. The team working on the plans assessed the needs and aspirations of residents in the Buglawton area and have reflected these in the plans. The new centre, which should be ready by the end of the year, will include a modern kitchen, toilets, mezzanine, plenty of open space for meetings and a modern link between the former School Masters House and the Community Hall. The project is not yet fully funded and so further grant applications will be submitted. Personal contributions are also very welcome.

Programmes are available from the church, the Tourist Information Centre and the Library. Contact the Parish Office on 01260 273212.

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH SUMMER PROGRAMME

St. Peter's Church in Chapel Street is an outstanding Georgian church with both local and national significance. Built and financed by leading townspeople in 1742, the church contains many links and memorials to the town's past as well as being part of the present.

The church will be open for visitors every Saturday 10am - 2pm until the end of October. On Tuesdays from April until the end of July the church will be open from 10am - 2pm with a programme of free events and refreshments. Parish registers can be accessed on the first Tuesday of every month. On the fourth Tuesday there will be a short informal service at 11am. Other events will include a recital by students from Chetham's School of Music on May 10th, and an organ recital by Chris Cromar, Musical Director of Congleton Choral Society, on July 12th. Talks on being a Christian in the pharmaceutical industry, the art of bell ringing, and a guided tour will also be offered.

Contact [stjccb@gmail.com](mailto:stjccb@gmail.com) for more information, or you can go to [facebook.com/stjccb](https://www.facebook.com/stjccb)



## Congleton's BIG BEER Weekend

Congleton's craft beer fanatics are coming together this July for the first ever Big Beer Weekend!

From Friday 1st July to Sunday 3rd July, more than 10 pubs, bars and artisan beer shops are coming together from across Congleton to provide and show support for local businesses! Excitement is growing as the trail for the pub stops take shape, ideas for bonus cards are being thrown about and plans of a bonus beer for just the occasion are brewing. All donations made

from the event will go to a local Congleton charity. Establishments already involved include BarleyHops, The Young Pretender, Prince of Wales, Kings Arms, The Railway, The White Lion and more are joining!

For more information see facebook page: Congleton's Big Beer Weekend or follow us on [twitter@CongBeer](https://twitter.com/CongBeer)

## News In Brief...

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Residents are invited to the Annual Town Meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday 28th April at 7pm. This is an opportunity to hear about events affecting Congleton and to pick up a copy of the Council's Annual Report. It is not a Council Meeting. If councillors choose to attend they do so as a resident.

### MAYOR MAKING

Will take place in the Town Hall at a public meeting on Thursday 12th May in the Town Hall. The Town Councillors will elect a councillor to serve as Mayor for 2016-17. The Mayor's Civic Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 19th June.

### NEW RESPONSIVE WEB SITE

The new look Town Council's website is now mobile and tablet friendly and far more responsive. TMC Creative from Congleton designed the site. If you have ideas to further improve the site please contact [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

### DEMOLITION OF FORMER BOROUGH OFFICES

The demolition of the former Borough Council Offices behind the Town Hall will take place during April and May. The site will be grassed over for the foreseeable future. As Bear Necessities went to press a home was still being sought for Congleton Shop Mobility.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

As part of the Horticultural Society's 50th Anniversary celebrations there is an open invitation to attend a fund-raising evening with Christine Walkden - presenter of 'Glorious Gardens from Above' - at New Life Church on September 14th. Tickets cost £10 and include a glass of wine. To reserve tickets contact Sheila on 01260 273230

### NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

Get growing with Congleton in Bloom and SAS Daniels in the Town Centre on Saturday 16th April, from 10am-1pm, as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign. Come and find out more about the team and how you can help the town as it goes for gold.

### 'GIRLS & BOYS COME OUT TO PLAY'

Mums and dads, what happened to your childhood collections of coins, stamps, and cigarette cards? Visit Congleton museum's current exhibition of childhood games, toys and collections and introduce your children and grandchildren to the way we used to play before the advent of the computer and play station. Check out the museum website for extended holiday opening times: [www.congletonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.congletonmuseum.co.uk)

# Congleton back in the Britain in Bloom Finals!



Congleton, once again, has the honour of representing the North West in the RHS Britain in Bloom Finals later this summer. We earned this by winning the North West in Bloom competition, last summer. We have been told that we can expect the national judges to visit us on Monday, 8th August.

During their visit they will be looking at community participation, environmental responsibility and horticultural achievements. Congleton will be judged alongside some major towns across the UK including Colwyn Bay, Perth, Farnham, Coleraine and Ryde in the Isle of Wight.

During the visit the judges will consider everything they see at the key attractions and on route. The Congleton in Bloom team is looking for as much support as possible for this competition and to make the town look its very best for our residents, workers and visitors this summer. The route is still being planned but is likely to include Astbury Mere, the Community Orchard, Congleton

Park, Antrobus Street Gardens, the Community Garden in Lawton Street, the Bath House and Physic Gardens, the Town Centre, Bromley Farm Allotments, the Railway Station and some of the 'It's Your Neighbourhood and Business' entries.

Congleton in Bloom has achieved the top GOLD standard for the past five years. The In Bloom campaign is about continuous improvement - as well as sustaining that improvement!

### Improvements over the past couple of years include:

- New designed gardens Antrobus Street Gardens
- Improved river footpath from Town Bridge to Clayton Bypass
- Improved paths and planting at the Community Orchard
- Town Centre street furniture painted
- Allotment added in Congleton Park
- New flower beds in Congleton Park
- Increase in hanging basket orders from shops – up from a 100 to 250
- Monthly Railway and Canal Working Parties greatly improved area
- Improved canal towpath from Thames Close to the Railway Station

### Further Improvements planned for 2016

- Planting around the Welcome to Congleton signs
- Winners signs on roundabouts
- Improved planting at the Waggon and Horses Roundabout
- Destination maps to be added



## MORE HELP NEEDED, PLEASE...

**Railway and Canal Working Parties** are looking to welcome more helpers! They meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 10am for a couple of hours and have been working wonders on the area around the Railway Station and Canal.

**National Gardening Week** - Come and plant-up with us and SAS Daniels in the Town Centre on Saturday 16th April between 10am - 1pm.

**Area Litter Picks:** The Town Council has invested in new litter pickers and hoops and these are available for local groups and organisations to borrow free of charge. Look out for dates of co-ordinated 'Clean for the Queen' litter picks.

**Nominate your Favourite Garden** - Let the In Bloom team know about your favourite front gardens in Congleton. Email [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) with the address of your favourite front garden, if the In Bloom team agrees then we'll sort a picture and add them to our Favourite Gardens of Congleton display!

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact the In Bloom group on 01260 270350 or email: [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) or via our Facebook page, Congleton in Bloom.