

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Winter 2013



Between the 15th January and 26th February you have an opportunity to comment on a new Local Plan for the Cheshire East area. This will be the development plan for Cheshire East and form the basis of planning decisions until 2030. The plan contains planning strategy, policies and site allocations. It is accompanied by an infrastructure plan that sets out transport, social and other infrastructure required to support development.

The emerging local plan is about promoting economic growth, improving connectivity and protecting the countryside from unplanned development. The Council has a duty to provide land for new housing and needs land for employment and the supporting infrastructure. Without a current

Local Plan, developers are choosing sites knowing that the Government is minded to accept development.

In Congleton a number of strategic sites for development have been put forward, which would need to be supported by a new link road, schools, open space and transport links.

The proposed strategic sites for Congleton are:

- **Back Lane and Radnor Park** (off the Holmes Chapel Road)
- **Congleton Business Park extension** (far end of Barn Road)
- **Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road**
- **Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road**

Full details can be seen at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan

Comments should be sent to Cheshire East Council Spatial Planning, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ or email to: planningpolicy@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Council Tax 2013-14

The Town Council receives much of its funding through a 'precept' which is added to your annual Council Tax bill and is used to provide services for the town. When setting the level there are a number of costs over which we have little control - such as energy costs (assumed a 9% increase) and general inflation (2.5%). Costs have also been included to take on devolved services such as street cleaning and grounds maintenance operations from Cheshire East - with an assumed start date of 1st April 2013.

However, due to careful management and some technical reasons associated with the tax base, there will be no increase in the local precept this year. The government's action to replace the National Council Tax Support Scheme with a local scheme has led to a reduction in the tax base in Congleton - a factor which is used to calculate council tax. This will be supported by Cheshire East Council in 2013-14. If the reduction was not supported by Cheshire East Borough Council the precept would have needed to increase by around 10p per week (9.16%) to stand still. The concern is whether Cheshire East will continue to provide the same level of support in future years.

Town Hall Wedding and Bridal Fayre

The Town Hall Wedding and Bridal Fayre is a must attend occasion for anyone thinking about getting married in the next few years! On Sunday 3 March the Town Hall will be filled with ideas and people who can help make your wedding dreams come true! There's free entrance and complimentary bucks fizz!. The

event is open from 11am - 4pm with catwalk shows at noon and 2pm. For further information about the Wedding and Bridal Fayre or about holding your wedding ceremony or celebrations in the Town Hall please contact Liz from the Town Hall Events and Catering team on 07813 772469.



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 4 April. All contributions should be sent by 8 March to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN, Tel 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk


QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL


Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

SEE INSIDE FOR 2013 EVENTS!

Know Your Councillor

Congleton is divided into two wards, east and west. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm, Mossley and Lower Heath. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West 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 Your Councillors elected or co-opted to serve until May 2015 are:



Dawn Allen,
C



Gordon Baxendale,
C



John Saville Crowther,
IVC



Robbie Brightwell,
C



Vacancy



Amanda Martin,
C



Denis Murphy,
LD



Jean Parry,
C



Neville Price,
I



Elizabeth Wardlaw,
C

West Ward
Councillors

East Ward
Councillors



Larry Barker,
C



David Brown,
C (Deputy Leader)



Paul Bates,
C



Bob Edwards,
C (Council Leader)



Guy Brittain,
C



George Hayes,
C (Deputy Mayor)



Sally Ann Holland,
C (Mayor)



Douglas Parker,
C



Glen Williams,
C



Rebecca Williams,
C

C= Conservative; LD = Liberal Democrat; I = Independent;
IVC = Independent Voice of Congleton;
UKIP = UK Independence Party

Events To Look Forward To

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2013. We know that there are more events in the pipeline, but the organising committees have yet to confirm dates. For an up-to-date list of events please check www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

JANUARY

- 12-19 Sleeping Beauty Pantomime – Daneside Theatre
- 18 National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
- 20 Film – Daneside Theatre
- 20 Great Garden Bird Watch – Astbury Mere, 10 -12 noon. Children 6-12 years
- 22 Young Musician competition– Eaton Bank Academy

FEBRUARY

- 5 – 9 The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Daneside Theatre
- 13 National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
- 14 Rural Touring Theatre, Kew, Electric Picture House, 7pm - £7
- 17 Film – Daneside Theatre
- 23 ELO Again – Daneside Theatre
- 24 Congleton Wildlife Watch (activity tbc) – Astbury Mere, 10 -12 noon
- 25 until 10 March. Fairtrade Fortnight
- 26 Close of Consultation – Emerging Local Plan

MARCH

- 1-2 Rotary Swimathon
- 2 Mavis Sparkle Children's Theatre, Electric Picture House, 3pm
- 3 Museum Walk - Surprising Trades, 2.00pm
- 3 Wedding Fayre - Town Hall, 11am - 4pm
- 3 Cloud 9 Run – 11am start – Congleton Harriers
- 6-10 Spring Beer Festival – Congleton Leisure Centre
- 10 MOTHERING SUNDAY
- 12 National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
- 15 Mayors Ball - Town Hall
- 16 Congleton Youth in Action Anniversary Celebration, Congleton Town Hall
- 18-23 The Little Shop of Horrors -Trinity Operatic, Daneside Theatre
- 23 Congleton Choral Society – Congleton Town Hall
- 24 Congleton Wildlife Watch (activity tbc) – Astbury Mere, 10 -12 noon
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY – Churches Together Service in Town Centre, 12 noon
- 31 EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL

- 2 National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
- 7 Museum Walk - Ancient Places
- 13 History Society 50th Anniversary - Town Hall
- 23-27 Dad's Army - Congleton Players – Daneside Theatre
- 25 National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
- 27 Youth Orchestra Concert – Congleton Town Hall
- 28 Seedling Swap Sunday - Astbury Mere

The **Town Council** is located in the Town Hall. The office is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm. To speak to the Town Clerk contact Brian Hogan on 01260 270350, ext 1, or email bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

In 2013

REGULAR EVENTS...

Park Run: Astbury Mere – every Saturday, 9am – 10am
Story-time: Congleton Library, every Tuesday, 10 – 11am
Sunday Social Run: 9.30 – 11am, Congleton Harriers

MAY

1	A Feast of Flowers - Biddulph Valley Way, 10.00 to 1.00pm
2	Annual Town Meeting
4	Cabaret in Aid of British Heart Foundation - Town Hall
5	Museum Walk - tbc
9	Mayor Making - Town Hall
18	Astbury May Day, Astbury School
18	Choral Workshops, United Reform Church, 10-4pm
23	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
25	Paddling Pool Opens, Park Road, Congleton, daily 10am – 6pm

JUNE

2	Museum Walk - A Pub Crawl through Time
2	RSPCA Walk and Fun Day – Astbury Mere
12	Young Chef / Designer – Eaton Bank Academy
13	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
14	Mercian 'Welcome Home' March (am)
16	FATHERS DAY
16	Food and Drink Festival, Town Centre, 10.30- 4.30pm
17–22	Tasty Town Week - Various locations
18–19	Cheshire Show - Tabley
20	Teddy Bears Picnic - Congleton Park, 12.30 – 2.30pm
26	Flowers in the Grass - Biddulph Valley Way, 10.00 to 1.00pm
30	Lions Youth Brass Band Concert - Congleton Park, 3.00pm

JULY

3	Annual Town Sports, Congleton Football Club
4–6	Beartown Patchwork Guild Exhibition - Congleton Town Hall
7	Museum Walk - Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns
9	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
13	Congleton Youth Orchestra, Congleton Town Hall
12–14	Parklive festival - Congleton Park
24	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm

AUGUST

4	Museum Walk - The importance of Water
7	National Oatcake Day – Town Centre fun
20	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
24–25	Jazz and Blues Festival - Various locations in town

SEPTEMBER

1	Museum Walk - Tbc
7	Congleton Horticultural Society Show - Town Hall
7	Oscar Charity Dog Show - Astbury Mere
10	Congleton Partnership AGM - Town Hall
13	Canal Ways and Edges - Macclesfield Canal
15	Annual Duck Race - Congleton Park, 2.00pm
19	Paddling Pool Closes
24	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
25	East Cheshire Chamber Open Day - Town Hall
27-29	'Open Space, Congleton Creates' Arts Festival

OCTOBER

6	Congleton Harriers Half Marathon
6	Museum Walk - At the Chalk Face
11	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
20	Apple Day and Fruit & Veg Swap - Astbury Mere
21–26	The Sound of Music - Daneside, Congleton Musical Theatre

NOVEMBER

2	Rotary Bonfire Event, Congleton Park
3	Museum Walks - Shadows in the Town
5	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm
10	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE
15	Timbersbrook Explorer - 6 mile circular walk
16	Choral Society Concert- Town Hall
20–23	Scouts and Guides 'Our Gang', Daneside Theatre
22	Christmas Light Switch On
28	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm

DECEMBER

7	Congleton Youth Orchestra - Town Hall
7	Congleton Christmas Market - TBC
21	Choral Society - Town Hall
27	National Blood Service – Congleton Town Hall, 2- 4pm & 5.30- 7.30pm

Celebrating 2012...

The Oatcake Olympics was a lot of fun in the Town Centre – with Team Congleton Medals



The sun shone on Congleton Carnival procession in July



It's a Knockout was a lot of fun in June!

Bearmania celebrated Jubilee – and even commissioned an Elizabear



The Food and Drink Festival was more popular than ever!



Loverlee Jubilee in the Park

An Award Winning Town

When we work together we can achieve amazing results. Below are some of the awards given to Congleton in 2012. Congratulations to the many individuals, businesses and organisations who gained individual awards this year.

- **BEST KEPT TOWN 2012**
Cheshire Community Pride Awards
- **LITTLE GEM AWARD**
Jubilee Fountain, Congleton Park
- **BEST COMMUNITY WEB SITE –**
www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
Cheshire Community Pride Awards
- **RHS GOLD**
North West in Bloom
- **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION –**
LONDON 2012 – TO TEAM CONGLETON
Cheshire East Council Sports Award
- **ACTION FOR MARKET TOWN REGIONAL COMMENDATION**
Congleton Means Business and Bearmania
- **EAST CHESHIRE CHAMBER – TOURISM & LEISURE AWARD**
Bearmania
- **GOLDEN HEDGEHOG AWARD (PR AWARDS)**
Community Engagement Campaign of the Year – Bearmania
- **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AWARDS 2012**
Community Aware Care in the Community – Bearmania
- **GREEN FLAG AWARD FOR CONGLETON PARK**



Congleton has the first 2012 Olympic Event – Much Wenlock to Congleton Relay, January 3rd.



The Olympic Torch Relay came through Congleton in May 2012. Black Firs school followed the torch!



Thousands turned out to see the lights switched on!