

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
Winter 2015

## £1 MILLION BOOST for Revitalisation of Congleton Town Centre

Plans to improve Congleton's pedestrian area have been talked about for years, but thanks to a £1 million boost from Cheshire East Council they are set to become a reality this year. A project team is being put in place to pull together all the practicalities of such a major improvement project and the public will have a chance to view and comment on the plans in the next couple of months.

The scheme is designed to improve the pedestrianised areas of High Street, Bridge Street, Duke Street and Little Street as well as the creation of a community square at the junction of High Street and Market Street. The improvements between High Street and the pedestrianised zone will become a high-quality, multi-use space for occasional markets, festivals and other street activities

The scheme is part of a plan to re-establish Congleton as an attractive location to live, work, shop, visit and do business.

Cllr Bob Edwards, Leader of the Town Council added, "together with Steve Foster of the Congleton Partnership and other key members of the Town Council we have been working with the Leader of Cheshire East Council for the past 12 months to achieve this result. This is fantastic news for Congleton. We look forward to working with Cheshire East on revitalising the town centre and will be sharing information with residents and businesses."



## Neighbourhood Plan

The Congleton Neighbourhood Planning Team is now taking shape and is ready to start work in earnest.

But what is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Essentially it is a community led plan that sets out the vision and policies for the future development of the area. Once completed and it passes the statutory tests, which includes a local referendum, it then forms part of the statutory development plan and must be used by Cheshire East Borough Council when making decisions on planning applications.

A comprehensive communication and consultation strategy will be put in place to ensure that the public and others are kept fully informed of progress and when consultation is to take place.

## Every Step Counts ...Every Vote Counts

Team Congleton is working with others across Congleton on a fun health campaign - Every Step Counts. The campaign is aimed at all age groups and will be encouraging and rewarding people for finding their feet during the Active month of July. Right now the team need you to find your fingers and vote! The organisers have a chance to win £5000 of Active Cheshire Funding to make the Every Step Counts campaign even more exciting - but need votes. The campaign with the most votes on the 31st January will win the cash! Vote for Every Step Counts at <http://www.activecheshire.org/active-anywhere/latest5k>

## Wedding & 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 22 February the Town Hall will be filled with ideas and people who can help make your wedding dreams come true! Entrance is FREE and there's a complimentary drink on arrival! The event is open from 11am



until 4pm with bridal shows by Sharon Bowen, Cherry Blossom Brides and a Mock Ceremony at 12 noon by Cheshire East registrars.

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 a Neighbourhood Plan special. For input, please contact 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)



## News In Brief...

### ROTARY SWIMATHON

Swimmers are being asked to take the plunge for charity by entering the annual Rotary swimathon on Friday 27 and Saturday 28th February at Congleton Leisure Centre. The event aims to raise funds for worthy local charities. As an added incentive this year teams can nominate a charity to receive 50% of the funds raised by their group. Relay teams see how many lengths they can complete in 45 minutes. For more details contact Robin Platt on 01260 273358 or email: [robin@talkechem.co.uk](mailto:robin@talkechem.co.uk)

### NEW LOOK TOWN GUIDE

Congleton has a new Town Guide for 2015-16. Copies will be delivered through CW12 doors and will also be available from the Library, Tourist Information Centre, Estate Agents and information points throughout the town. Thank you to everyone who advertised in the guide to make it possible.

### MUSEUM NEWS

Plans for Congleton Museum's proposed new home at Bradshaw House can be viewed at the museum, located on Market Square. This exciting opportunity will provide much needed display space and ensure public access to one of Congleton's most historic buildings. For more information, please visit the museum's website: [www.congletonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.congletonmuseum.co.uk)

### PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

Congleton Partnership has launched a new website [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk) which is packed full of information about what the Partnership and its subgroups are up to. The Partnership has been given funding to improve the Antrobus Street Garden and the final leg of the River Dane Walkway in 2015.

### LIFESTYLE & LEISURE CENTRE

Look out for further announcements about an enhanced Leisure Centre /Lifestyle centre for Congleton in the next couple of months. Cheshire East has been going through all the consultation feedback and working out the best way to achieve the improvements that Congleton would like to see.

### WINTER GRITTING

As the cold weather bites, Cheshire East Council is ready with their fleet of gritting vehicles. An Interactive map showing gritting routes can be viewed online by going to: [www.cheshireeasthighways.org](http://www.cheshireeasthighways.org)

In general, priority one is given to A class roads and designated routes to A&E hospitals and priority two to other commuter B class routes and major commuter/distributor routes carrying four service buses or more an hour between 6am - 10am.

# HAVE YOUR SAY...

## on the biggest road improvement scheme Congleton has seen for decades!

Cheshire East Council will be consulting with Congleton residents and businesses throughout March on proposals for a major road project. The three-mile Congleton Link Road is designed to massively reduce congestion and air pollution in the town, open up new employment opportunities and make life better for the town's residents and motorists.

From March 2-30, Cheshire East Council will present the 'preferred route' to residents, which was selected following feedback from a large-scale consultation in early 2014. People will be given the opportunity to make their views known at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk) and also through a leaflet and questionnaire which will be posted to all Congleton residents.

Additionally, exhibitions are planned as follows in the next column:

- **Thursday 5 March** – 2pm to 7pm  
Congleton Library
- **Friday 6 March** – 10am to 4pm  
Congleton Library
- **Saturday 7 March** – 10am to 3pm  
Congleton Leisure Centre

At these events, Cheshire East Council officers will explain the development of the route since it was announced in May 2014. The Council will also explain the benefits of providing a link road and information on how traffic and environmental impacts of the road will be minimised.

Visitors will also find out more detail on proposals for the process of construction itself. The Council will be asking the public for their views on the proposals and any ways that they think could lead to improvements, and also explain why it is not practicable to improve the existing roads through Congleton.

## Zero Increase in Town Council Precept

When the Council tax bills arrive later in the year, there won't be any increase from Congleton Town Council - despite the Town Council receiving £15,000 less from Cheshire East due to the way council tax support grant is applied. The Town Council has agreed to manage that cost without adding to the bills of local people.

Congleton Town Council spends around £1.2 million a year, the majority of which is funded by residents in their Council tax.

Other funding comes from grants and income from the Town Hall. Services provided by the Town Council include managing the Streetscape services - litter picking, emptying public bins, cleaning the public toilets, planting and maintaining the roundabouts, park and other public spaces, managing the Town Hall, running the Paddling Pool, handyman service, Town Centre Management, supporting local organisations via a grant scheme and lobbying for improvements for the town.

Congleton  
Unplugged

Look out for Congleton Unplugged; an acoustic music festival, designed to blow away the winter blues! From 6th-8th March many pubs and bars across Congleton will be hosts to a number of talented musicians. This festival provides something for everyone; from country to pop or jazz and blues to plain good old fashioned music.

Unplugged is a great weekend to be out in Congleton! The town is full of fantastic music and a great atmosphere. The Unplugged festival is FREE! – It gathers large crowds to come and see new talent, as well as listening to some classics!

For more details see:  
[www.congletonunplugged.co.uk](http://www.congletonunplugged.co.uk)



# 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](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected or co-opted to serve until May 2015 are:



Dawn Allen, UKIP



Gordon Baxendale, C



John Saville Crowther, IVC



Robbie Brightwell, C



Louise Bours, UKIP



Amanda Martin, C



Denis Murphy, LD (Mayor)



Jean Parry, C



Neville Price, I



Elizabeth Wardlaw, C (Deputy Mayor)

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



Sally Ann Holland, C



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

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2015. 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 out our website: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## JANUARY

- 10-17 Aladdin, Daneside Theatre
- 15 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 17 Congleton ATC Presentation Evening, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 20 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 22 CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 31 VOTING CLOSSES FOR ACTIVE CONGLETON**
- 31 Coffee Morning, 230 (Congleton) Squadron Air Training Corps Library, 9.30-11.30

## FEBRUARY

- 3-7 Bouncers, Daneside Theatre
- 3-6 Cheshire East Planning Public Enquiry, Town Hall, 9am
- 5 Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8 Zumba Event, Town Hall (PROVISIONAL BOOKING)
- 10-12 Cheshire East Planning Public Enquiry, Town Hall, 9am
- 11 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4 and 5.30-7.30pm
- 19 CTC Planning Committee/ Finance & Policy Meeting, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 21 Coffee Morning, 230 (Congleton) Squadron Air Training Corps Library, 9.30-11.30
- 22 WEDDING FAYRE, TOWN HALL, 11-4pm**
- 25 Siemens - Roller Coaster Challenge, Town Hall, 12 noon
- 26 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 27 Northern Soul Night, Town Hall (PROVISIONAL BOOKING)
- 27-28 Rotary Swimathon, Congleton Leisure Centre

## MARCH

**THIS MONTH: Congleton Beer Festival, Leisure Centre**

- 1 Museum Walk: Religion in Congleton - Peter Ason
- 5 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 5 Link Road Exhibition, 2-7pm, Congleton Library
- 6 Link Road Exhibition, 10-4pm, Congleton Library
- 6 TOWN MAYOR'S BALL**
- 6-8 UNPLUGGED MUSIC FESTIVAL - LOCAL PUBS**
- 7 Link Road Exhibition, 10-3pm, Congleton Leisure Centre
- 12 Planning Committee and Town Hall Committee
- 12 The Last Supper, Rural Touring Network, Electric Picture House, £8

< 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](mailto:bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



# to in **2015**

## MARCH continued...

- 19 Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21 Hush Hush Cinema, Electric Picture House
- 21 Choral Society, Town Hall
- 24 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 26 CTC Finance & Policy Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall, 6pm
- 28 Rotary - Know Your Blood Pressure, 10-1pm, at Boots, Barn Road

## APRIL

### THIS MONTH: Jean Clarke Dance Show

- 2 CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE IN THE TOWN CENTRE**
- 5 Museum Walk: Ancient Places - Ian Doughty
- 16 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21-28 Congleton Players, The Birthday Party, Daneside
- 22 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 24 Fundraising Event, Town Hall (PROVISIONAL BOOKING)
- 30 CTC ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, TOWN HALL, 7PM**

## MAY

### \*\* Hidden Places: an innovative performance day in Congleton (date tbc)

- 3 Museum Walk: Age of Enlightenment - Ian Doughty
- 6 Congleton Team Parish Tea Dance, Town Hall, 1.30pm
- 7 NATIONAL, CHESHIRE EAST AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS**
- 8 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 9 ATC Plant Sale collection at Squadron - Orders from 9 April
- 15-16 Vale Juniors Presentation Evening, Town Hall, 7pm
- 17 Rode Hall Silver Band FREE Concert, Congleton Park
- 21 CTC ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, TOWN HALL, 7PM: MAYOR MAKING**
- 23 Paddling Pool opens for the Summer

## JUNE

- 4 Foden's Band, Town Hall, 6pm (tbc)
- 7 BRASS ON THE GRASS, CONGLETON PARK**
- 7 Museum Walk: A Pub Crawl Through Time - Lyndon Murgatroyd
- 14 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL, 10.30-4.30PM**
- 17 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4, 5.30-7.30pm
- 18 TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC, CONGLETON PARK, 12.30-2.30PM**
- 28 Lions Junior Brass, Congleton Park, 2pm

## JULY

### ACTIVE JULY MONTH! - Every Steps Count

- 5 Museum Walk: Mill Walks & Industrial Yarns - Lyndon Murgatroyd
- 9 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 11 YOUTH CELEBRATION DAY, CONGLETON PARK**
- 11 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall
- 18 Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall
- 19 Audley Brass Band concert, Congleton Park

## AUGUST

- 9 Salt City Jazz Men
- 9 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 28-30 CONGLETON JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL**

## SEPTEMBER

- 5 Horticultural Society Show, Town Hall
- 10 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 13 Lions Duck Race - 2pm, Congleton Park
- 13 Paddling Pool closes for the season
- 19 Taking orders for Air Cadets Plant Sale
- 18-26 Open Space Art Trail
- 25-27 OPEN SPACE, CONGLETON ARTS FESTIVAL**
- 29 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)

## OCTOBER

- 1 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 10 ATC Plant Sale (tbc)
- 22 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)

## NOVEMBER

- 7 ROTARY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS, CONGLETON PARK**
- 8 Remembrance Sunday Parade
- 12 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 14 Choral Society, Town Hall (PROVISIONAL BOOKING)
- 27 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON, Town Centre, 4-7PM**
- 28 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall

## DECEMBER

- 8 Congleton Partnership Executive Meeting, Town Hall, 5pm
- 12 Rotary Christmas Concert, with Macc Silk Brass and Can't Sing Choir, Daneside Theatre
- 9 National Blood, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm (tbc)
- 19 Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall

**Artisan Market - 2nd Sunday of every month, 10-3pm**

Dates and times are correct at the time of going to print.