

# Congleton Neighbourhood Plan

Your help and views are needed to help develop the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Creating a Neighbourhood Plan to take us to 2030, is a challenge and, through the emerging Local Plan, the area is set to grow by around 4,000 homes – which could mean an additional 9,000 people.

Much of the land that is expected to be developed is outside of the town boundary and so outside of our Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the impact and opportunities of more people needs to be planned for in our Neighbourhood Plan. We need to plan for employment, schools, medical provision, transport, places to shop, leisure facilities, green spaces and infrastructure to meet the town's growing population.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives us as a Community the chance to say how our

town should evolve. What is important about Congleton that we need to retain and enhance. What policies and plans are needed to make the town work for its current and future residents.

Congleton Neighbourhood Plan Team would like to thank everyone who has already inputted into the Neighbourhood Plan process, and to encourage others to get involved and make their thoughts known. Look out for the next round of questionnaires this autumn. This questionnaire will be looking in more detail at what is important for Congleton. Where ever possible we ask that people fill in the form online.

Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision for the town until 2030. It needs to reflect the views of local people. Currently Congleton is building up evidence and capturing local opinion so that the draft plan is a robust one that can be defended. The draft plan is being formed using a wide range of evidence - including that gained through the questionnaires. It will set objectives and policies on key issues such as housing, employment land, green space, transport and infrastructure, health and education needs, town centre development and heritage issues.

## Results of the First Survey

1406 people responded to the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire - which represents the biggest response that the town has received to a survey in a long time. The questionnaire was delivered to households in Congleton in May with a deadline of June 20th to respond. One lucky entry, Leo Allan from CW12 4, received £250 for being the first entry drawn on the 22 June.

Some key findings from this survey were:

- ❑ 49% of those answering were not planning to move house. Of those that were planning to move the most popular location was to the outskirts of Congleton.
- ❑ 90% said new development land should be allocated near the Link Road with easy access to the M6
- ❑ 91% wanted to see the Link Road extended to Newcastle Road (54% to Buxton Road)
- ❑ 42% said they would cycle or walk much more if the footpaths/cycleways were improved
- ❑ All the green spaces listed were ranked as important with Astbury Mere and Hankinson's Field/Park receiving the highest number of number 1 rankings.
- ❑ A broader retail offer (60%) and an improved market (40%) were seen as the most important ways to improve the Town Centre
- ❑ Introducing Town Centre Heritage and Green Town Centre Trail was seen as most important for Heritage although all ideas were received favourably

The Demographics of those answering the questionnaire:

- ❑ 49% male, 51% female
- ❑ 31% were 65+ years, 37% 45-65, 24% 25-44, 8% 15-24
- ❑ 54% owned their house outright, 30% owned their house with a mortgage
- ❑ 48% of people lived in two people households, 19% in four people households
- ❑ Almost 60% had lived in Congleton for more than 20 years, 21% less than 10 years
- ❑ More people from CW12 4 answered than any other postcode (41% CW12 4, 25% CW12 3, 13% CW12 2, 11% CW12 1)

The full results can be seen by visiting: [www.mycongleton.org](http://www.mycongleton.org)



## What Young People Want

A drawing competition for schools based on 'MyCongleton 2030' resulted in almost 200 entries with some interesting ideas. Some of the most common themes coming through from the primary schools were open spaces, entertainment, education, wider range of shops and eco-friendly ideas. This included schemes such as:

- ❑ Introducing trams
- ❑ Better and wider sports facilities
- ❑ Water Parks and themed parks
- ❑ More restaurants, cinema, bowling complex
- ❑ More shops - sports, toys,
- ❑ Roof over the town centre
- ❑ Wind power
- ❑ Big statues and artwork

## Pants and Gems

At an interesting drop-in session at the Town Hall we asked you to tell us What's Pants, What's Missing and What's a Gem in Congleton.

Gems – The most common answers:

- ❑ Congleton Park
- ❑ Countryside surrounding the town
- ❑ The Museum - and make it bigger
- ❑ Daneside Theatre
- ❑ Astbury Mere Country Park
- ❑ The Bandstand in the Park
- ❑ Open spaces, but improve and link them
- ❑ Children's play areas and Paddling Pool
- ❑ Town Hall
- ❑ War Memorial Hospital
- ❑ Lamberts Lane
- ❑ Priests Fields

## Pants were:

- ❑ Morrisons Building
- ❑ Poor use of Car Parks
- ❑ Lack of local buses in evenings
- ❑ Bosson's Mill building
- ❑ Noisy bikes
- ❑ Road works
- ❑ Litter
- ❑ Dog fouling
- ❑ Traffic queues
- ❑ The Boat!
- ❑ State of footpaths and verges

## Missing:

- ❑ Lack of use of the Howty Brook
- ❑ A Town Square or focal point for activities
- ❑ 'Joined up' cycle ways
- ❑ Toy shops
- ❑ Volunteers
- ❑ Cinema/ Bowling
- ❑ Local evening buses
- ❑ Family restaurants
- ❑ High quality town centre supermarket
- ❑ Water World
- ❑ Better Shops
- ❑ Heritage Trail
- ❑ An Arts Centre in Kinsey Street Chapel
- ❑ A Sports Hub- a facility like Sandbach- football, cricket, rugby and hockey
- ❑ A trendy youth facility run by the children 16+
- ❑ Central Health Centre

- ❑ More public transport linking Congleton to Biddulph and Holmes Chapel via the stations to encourage more people to leave cars at home.

Do you agree with these? You can have your say at [#mycongleton.org](https://twitter.com/mycongleton)



## Next Steps...

Look out for and make time to answer the second questionnaire - due out this autumn. The Neighbourhood Plan team is encouraging people to answer online, if at all possible - There will be some paper copies available.

The team already has over 400 requests from people that want to be sent a copy of the Questionnaire by email. If you would like to add your name to this list (which won't be used for any other purposes) all you need to do is email us at [talk@mycongleton.org](mailto:talk@mycongleton.org) or get in touch via the website, [www.mycongleton.org](http://www.mycongleton.org)



# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Autumn 2015

## Have Happy Feet at This Year's Christmas Lights Switch-on!



There are some great surprises at this year's Christmas Lights switch on, taking place on Friday 27th November.

With a traditional Christmas festival feel - there will be lots of firm favourites to enjoy including the grand lantern parade, brass band, carols and snow as well as the quality craft and gifts stalls, charity stalls, hot food and drink, fair rides and street entertainment. The switch-on will take place on Friday 27th November from 4-7pm. The Lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 5pm in plenty of time to be near the tree for the Big Switch on at 5.30pm. This will be followed by a short

firework display. Public lantern making workshops will be held at the Electric Picture House, Cross Street on Saturdays 14th and 21st November from 10-4pm. Why not make a lantern and join in the parade!

Stalls for the craft fayre and charities are booked via Congleton Town Council - tel 01260 270350 ext 6 to check availability. More volunteers are needed to help on the day - Please email [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



## Beartown Bus Half Term Free-Fur-All!

For one week only from 26th-31st October 2015, everyone is invited to unlimited FREE travel on the 90, 91 and 92 Beartown Buses, the green, greener way to get around Congleton!

The easy access buses run half hourly throughout the day - and leather seats and free wifi mean you can travel in comfort. Just hop on board at your nearest stop and enjoy the ride!

Don't forget to enter the competition to name the two Beartown Buses while

you're on board and you could win a further 6 months free travel! Beartown Bus routes are: 90 to Bromley Estate, 91 to Mossley and 92 to Buglawton. On Monday 2 November fares will return to normal: Adult £1.80 single, £3 Day, £11



Week; Children £1 single, £1.50 Day or £6 Week. For timetables and route details visit [www.beartownbus.co.uk](http://www.beartownbus.co.uk) The Beartown Buses are being promoted by GHA Coaches in partnership with Transport Service Solutions, who deliver transport services for Cheshire East Council.

## CONGLETON CARNIVAL 2016

-Save the Date!

All the fun and games of Carnival will be returning to Congleton on Saturday the 16th July 2016. An enthusiastic group of volunteers is busy putting plans in place with a 'Musicals' theme.



Carnival day will include a parade through the town, followed by a fun day in the park and free music event in the evening. Details of how to book a charity, trade or food stall at this fabulous event can be found on the Congleton Carnival facebook page. As soon as the parade route is confirmed applications to join in the parade will also be published on the facebook site. If you cannot access the facebook page, you can write to the Carnival team via Congleton Town Hall.

Save the date and be part of this great Congleton tradition which is enjoyed by thousands. Whether you join in as a spectator, in the parade, as a stall-holder, or volunteer as a much needed helper, the part you play will add to the success of Carnival 2016.

<https://www.facebook.com/CongletonCarnival>

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 6 January. All contributions should be sent by 6 December 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)





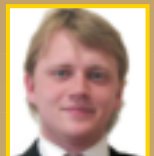
## Know Your Councillor

**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.

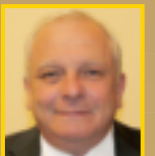
All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected or co-opted to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C)



Peter Broom (C)

David Brown (C)  
Dep.Mayor/LeaderBob Edwards (C)  
Council Leader

George Hayes (C)



Sally Holland (C)



Anna Morrison (C)



Harvey Richards (C)



Glen Williams (C)



Nicholas Adams (C)



Suzanne Akers-Smith (C)



Dawn Allen (UKIP)



Andrea Armit (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



## Congleton Town Hall - 150 Years Old!

In July 1866 a banquet of delicacies such as Pates de Pigeons, Tongues and Roast Fowls was prepared by Mr Peter Ullivero of the Bulls Head for 300 guests attending the opening of Congleton Town Hall. 150 years on a group of interested people are putting together a plan to celebrate 150 years of Congleton Town Hall. Plans are still being finalised, but the group is keen to make contact with local people and businesses who believe that their relatives may have been involved in financing, building or attending the opening of the Town Hall. The group is also looking for interesting photos of events that have happened in the Town Hall over the years that can be borrowed or copied for a display. If you are able to help please contact Cllr Suzi Akers Smith on [suzie@akersmith.co.uk](mailto:suzie@akersmith.co.uk) or tel the Town Council on 01260 270350, ext 2.

## No Such Thing As THE DOG-POO FAIRY!

One of the most common complaints to the Town Council is dog fouling on the pavements, parks and other communal areas. The Town Council has a great team of 12 staff who work incredibly hard to keep the dog bins and public bins emptied, streets clear of litter, roundabouts, park and other communal areas planted and maintained and sorting out fly-tipping and fly-posting. Picking up dog mess is the responsibility of

dog owners. Taking Council staff off their schedule to go out to an area where irresponsible people have not cleared up after their dog means other key tasks get put back. We have tried extra signs, posters and stencilling of hotspot areas. We now intend to work more closely with the Dog Warden and witnesses to fine those who fail to clear up after their pets in public areas. Call 0300 123 5021 for the Dog Warden.

## Another Green Oasis for Congleton

The green space between Reads Moor Medical Centre and Antrobus Street car park has been transformed thanks to Congleton Partnership, Cheshire East Council, ANSA, Congleton Town Council, Reads Moor Practice and Congleton in Bloom. The garden now includes gym equipment, an Apple Sculpture, new paths, access from the car park, new arches and new planting. Although not officially opened until later in October the garden is already open and a welcome addition to the town. It is hoped that Antrobus Street Gardens will become as loved and well used as the Community Garden in Lawton Street on the other side of town.



## Vale Allotments

The recent news that Vale Allotments with its 20 plots will be preserved for future generations following a successful bid for the land by the newly-formed Congleton Green Space Trust (CGST) has been welcomed by plot holders, local residents and the wider community. The allotment site, between Moody Street and Waggs Road, was bought for £50,000, thanks to loans from three anonymous donors. A new allotment association will be formed to manage the site which will have two plots set aside for community use, for example for the benefit of those with learning difficulties and other special needs. Further fund-raising activities will take place to repay the donors. Donation forms are available from Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

## New Home Needed for Congleton Shop Mobility and Congleton Disability Information Bureau

Congleton's Shop Mobility Group and Congleton Disability Information Bureau (DIB) are looking for a new home. The two well-respected organisations are currently located



in the former Borough Council offices behind the Town Hall. Planning permission has been granted to demolish the building and Cheshire East Council is trying to help relocate the groups, but is struggling to come up with a suitable, affordable option. Shop Mobility and the DIB are looking for an accessible town centre location, ideally near to public transport, where they can continue to serve the local community. The groups are appealing to members of the public for help and ideas!

Do you have any ideas? If so, please contact [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

## Congleton Library



Congleton Library has a very busy autumn ahead. As well as its regular sessions for pre-schoolers at 10.30am, the library is also starting a Lego Club and will be putting on extra story and craft events to keep school children entertained over the half-term break!

StoryTime and Thursday RhymeTime sessions for pre-schoolers at 10.30am, the library is also starting a Lego Club and will be putting on extra story and craft events to keep school children entertained over the half-term break!

The library is holding a Local History Day, all day on Friday 23rd October, with Lyndon Murgatroyd, from 2pm onwards.

Starting from 4th November the library will be holding weekly Wednesday 10.30am coffee mornings - a chance to have a coffee and catch up from 10.30am-12noon. Some will have a theme; the first is inspired by Congleton's Disability Together where they will be conducting one of their "Knit and Knatter, Craft and Chatter" sessions. For the future coffee mornings there will be visitors from Dementia Support, Ancestry and Family History and others to look forward to.

For more information about any of the upcoming events at Congleton Library, call them on 01260 375550, visit their website: [www.congleton.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.congleton.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or follow them on their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CongletonLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/CongletonLibrary)

Disability Together are busy making 'lots of love from Beartown' crafts ready to sell at the Christmas Lights Switch on and other places. The Knit and Natter, Craft and Chatter group meet every Wednesday - the first Wednesday of the month in the library and venues are being arranged for the other Wednesdays. To find out more ring group Chairman Karen on 07412 633564.

## Follow 'Bob The Bear'

Meet Bob the Older Bear! This character has been created by the Senior Forum group and will have a regular column in the Chronicle letting people know about events, services and useful tips. From drop-in sessions and feedback from questionnaires, the group was conscious that many of the town's more senior residents said that they didn't know about events and services and didn't go on-line to find the information. Many said they found out what was going on via the local paper. The group are grateful to the Chronicle for giving it a regular space and hope that local people find Bob the Bear's 'Bearing-up' column useful, informative and amusing!



## Life Links Cheshire East

Life Links is a brand new free service, delivered by Peaks & Plains Housing Trust and Age UK Cheshire East. The service helps people of all ages to make the most out of services in their community.

The Life Links Wellbeing Co-ordinators work with people on a one to one basis to support and give them advice that is specifically tailored to their needs, such as; meeting new people, building confidence, helping with technology, or general help and advice.

Whether it's you, or someone you know, that needs support and guidance, Life Links is here to help people in the Cheshire East community to make the most of life. For more details, visit [www.lifelinksce.org](http://www.lifelinksce.org) or email: [info@lifelinksce.org](mailto:info@lifelinksce.org) or call: 0808 281 1052

## News In Brief...

### NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK

...takes place from 19th to 25th October and the theme this year is 'Too old at 4?' Cheshire East Council's Adoption Team is particularly keen to hear from families and single people from all walks of life who can provide caring and loving homes for the children currently cared for by the local authority. At the moment, adopters are urgently needed for groups of brothers and sisters as well as children with additional needs.

For more information, call the adoption hotline on 0300 123 3223 (option 2) or visit [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/adoption)

### ACCESSIBLE STORAGE SPACE

Storage space is needed to house community arts materials, staging, signage and other equipment used for community events. Items from the Congleton Community Projects, the museum, choral society and vision are currently stored in the former borough council offices that need to be vacated. If anyone has an unused garage or lock-up or if a local business has some space they could donate, please contact Jo Money on email [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org) or call 01260 270908.

### REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Congleton's Remembrance Parade will take place on Sunday 8th November. The Parade will meet at Booth Street at 10.15am ready to move off at 10.30am. The route will be via West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, High Street, Market Square, Bank Street and onto Lawton Street to the Cenotaph. The Artisan Market will be on the Fairground Car Park.

### EXCESS APPLES

Donations of apples can be taken to Astbury Mere Visitors Centre until the 1st November. The Apples will be turned into Congleton Apple Juice and Congleton Cider. There will be an opportunity to try Congleton Apple Juice at the Autumn produce and plant swap at Astbury Mere on October 18th from 2-4pm.

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

You are invited to share something that you know with the world! Quarantine, in partnership with the Electric Picture House, will bring a video bus into Congleton's pedestrian area on Saturday 24th October to capture useful and useless information as part of a project to create a huge on-line map of knowledge. For more info, visit: [www.betweenuswknoweverything.com](http://www.betweenuswknoweverything.com)

## Charity Fireworks in the Park

**Congleton Rotary** will be brightening the sky on Saturday 7th November with Congleton's annual bonfire and firework display in Congleton Park. Gates open at 5pm, and the torch-lit parade to light the bonfire takes place at 6pm. The firework display for the children will begin at 6.30pm with the main firework display commencing at 7.30pm.

Stalls, refreshments, food and children's rides add to the party atmosphere. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre and members of Rotary will be in town selling tickets on Saturday 31st October and Saturday 7th November. Tickets cost £6 for adults & £4 for children in advance, or £8 adults & £6 children, on the day. All proceeds go to charity.



What better way to cheer up those dark January evenings (and the occasional afternoon) than being enthralled and having

a laugh at the all-time favourite pantomime - Cinderella. Congleton Pantomime will be bringing well known characters to life at Daneside Theatre from the 9th-16th January.

For more information or to book tickets contact Congleton Tourist Information Centre on 01260 271095 or visit Congleton Pantomimes Facebook page.

## Gang Show Volunteers Clock Up 75 Years' Service



Youngsters from Congleton's scouting and guiding community will be treading the boards at the Daneside Theatre from Monday 30th November until Saturday 5th December in this year's Gang Show. Started in 1972 as part of the Charter year celebrations, the Gang Show is produced every two years and is an amateur theatrical performance with a cast made up of brownies, cubs, guides, scouts, ranger guides and explorers with a little help from adult leaders.

At this year's auditions three members of the show's team were given long service awards. Marie Elkin from the costume team and Kathy Walton, the show's pianist both received 30 year service awards. Jean Clarke, show choreographer, was recognised for 15 years' service.

Tickets are available from Congleton Tourist Information Centre on 01260 271095 or visit [www.congletongangshow.co.uk](http://www.congletongangshow.co.uk)

## Whistle Down The Wind



Eyes firmly fixed on Assistant Musical Director Beckie Morley, children from Congleton Musical Theatre are enthusiastically rehearsing, "Long Overdue For A Miracle" from the show "Whistle Down The Wind", a task not made easier for them because some children are learning to sing in harmony for the very first time, rather than simply the melody! It's important that they are confident with the music, as soon they will be learning the moves which accompany their songs and no crib sheets will be allowed.

The show will be staged at Daneside Theatre from October 26th-31st. The Director and Choreographer is Nicky Evans and the Musical Director is Richard Tadman. Tickets from 01260 276371 or from the Tourist Information Centre on 01260 271095.

## Dates for your diary

### October

- 3-17 Current "Art Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 15 Favourite Book Club, Congleton Library, 6pm
- 17 Children's Winter Plant Up, Polytunnel, Congleton Park, 10.00am
- 17 Congleton Choral Society- Singing Day, Congleton United Reformed Church, 10am
- 18 Apple Day, Astbury Mere, 2pm
- 22 Finance & Policy Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 22 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 24 Between Us We Know Everything- Film Company, Congleton Town Centre, 10am
- 24-14 Nov- Street Art and Graffiti, Electric Picture House
- 26-31 "Whistle Down the Wind", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 27 National "Tell a Story" Day, Congleton Library
- 29 Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 29 Lego Club, Congleton Library, 4pm
- 29 Monster Story & Craft Events, Congleton Library

### November

- 1 Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 1 Museum Walk: Co-operative Movement in Congleton, 2pm
- 4 Start of Autumns, weekly Coffee Mornings, Congleton Library, 10.30am
- 5 Planning Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 5 Town Hall Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park
- 7 Ga Ga Tribute, Daneside Theatre, 8pm
- 7 Beartown Boxing Evening, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 12 Community, Environment and Services Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 13 Northern Soul Night, Congleton Town Hall- 7.30pm
- 14 Christmas Lantern Making Workshops, Electric Picture House, 10am-4pm
- 14 Congleton Choral Society, Congleton Town Hall
- 14-21 Disney's The Little Mermaid, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 19 Planning Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 19 Favourite Book Club, Congleton Library, 6pm
- 21 Christmas Lantern Making Workshops, Electric Picture House, 10am-4pm
- 21-9 Jan Christmas Affordable Art Fair, Electric Picture House
- 26 Finance and Policy Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 26 Lego Club, Congleton Library, 4pm
- 27 CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
- 28 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Congleton Town Hall
- 30-5 Dec Our Gang 2015, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm

### December

- 3 Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 5 Rotary Young Artist Competition, Congleton Town Hall, 9.30am
- 6 Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 9 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 12 Silk Brass Band & Can't Sing Choir, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 19 Congleton Choral Society, Congleton Town Hall

### January

- 9-10 East Cheshire Hospice Christmas Tree Collection
- 9-16 Congleton Pantomime present "Cinderella", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 11 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm

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 Town Clerk in writing or by e-mail at least 7 working days before the day of 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 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)