

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Winter 2019



Protect Local Health Services

Local people have become increasingly concerned about the downgrading of health services for Congleton. So much so that there have already been two protests outside of the Congleton War Memorial Hospital, one in October and one in November.

In January members of the main political parties will be getting together to form a joint campaign plan to galvanise support and to try and protect local services for Congleton and the surrounding parishes. An announcement

was made in the Autumn that the Minor Injuries Unit in Congleton would be closed at weekends and bank holidays so that staff could be redeployed to the Accident and Emergency Unit in Macclesfield. The fear is that the service is being chopped away until it is hardly used. The Town Council sees the health services provided at the War Memorial hospital as vital for our growing community. Local people are encouraged to opt to use the War Memorial Hospital whenever possible and to contact the Town Council to become part of the movement to maintain the health services for Congleton at:

info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk



TRIATHLON - Get Fit For The Challenge!

Congleton will host its **THIRD annual fun Triathlon** on Sunday 28th April in Congleton Park. With just over three months to prepare, the Town Mayor is

throwing out the challenge to people of all ages and abilities to get involved! The Congleton Triathlon is designed as a challenge for groups and individuals who may not usually participate in sport. There's a chance to join in pre-event training with other participants. People can enter as an individual or as a team of up to three people with each tackling an element of the triathlon: Adults 500m swim at Congleton Leisure Centre (20 lengths), 10km cycle ride

around the park and 5km run in the park. Over the past two years more than £10,000 has been raised for local charities via this event. The entry fee is £20 per participating adult. Entrants are encouraged to raise sponsorship to support the Town Mayor's Charities.

A free Go-Tri event for 8-15 year olds will be held immediately before the adult event. This is limited to 90 spaces for either individuals or teams and distances will be dictated by age group. The event is made possible by the wonderful support of Congleton's trusts and the local swimming, cycling and running clubs, who help out on the day. For an application form and further information contact info@congletontriathlon.co.uk Be quick, spaces are expected to fill up quickly!



CONGLETON 2019 UNPLUGGED

...Blow Away Those Winter Blues!

Congleton Unplugged is back and is bigger and better for 2019! The organisers are working with others to put on four fabulous ticketed events ahead of the main free-entry music weekend on the 1st to 3rd March.

The ticketed events include - 'A Celtic Journey' on Saturday 23rd February with leading Irish Roots band Murphys Marbles and International Harpist Harriet Earis. (Town Hall); 700 years of Mayoralty celebration with King Edward's Music Society Orchestra in the Town Hall on Sunday 24th February; Biddulph-Up-In-Arms presents Megan Dixon Hood Band and John Dhali's new band Headlight in the Town Hall on Wednesday 27th February and finally 'Dylan Forever' a journey through his songbook performed with passion and articulation by John Lindley and Phil Maddocks. Tickets are available from Congleton Tourist Information Centre and from A&A Music.

The Unplugged free weekend will see more than 40 gigs played across 14 venues around the town.

The music varies from classical, jazz, blues, indie and pop with lots of new bands as well as local favourites.

For the full programme, see: congletonjazzandblues.co.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 12th March, due to elections.

All contributions should be sent by 22nd February to:

Jackie MacArthur, Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN.

Tel 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Should We Buy BRADSHAW HOUSE? YOUR VIEWS PAGE 5.

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 Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C),



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C),
Deputy Leader



Bob Edwards (C),
Council Leader



George Hayes (C)



Sally-Ann Holland (C),
Deputy Mayor



Anna Morrison (C)



To be filled following
elections in May 2019



Glen Williams (C)



Suzie Akers Smith (C),
Town Mayor



Dawn Allen (Ind)



Andrea Armitt (C)



Geoff Baggott (C)



Paul Bates (C)



Robert Boston (L)



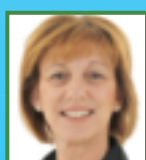
Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)



Maurice Walker (C)



Elizabeth Wardlaw (C)

C = Conservative; L = Labour;
Ind = Independent

Could **YOU** be a Town Councillor?

On Thursday 2nd May 2019 elections will be held for all 20 seats on Congleton Town Council as well as for the six Congleton ward councillor positions on Cheshire East Council. To be eligible to stand as a councillor you need to be aged at least 18, a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen, registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned a property in the area for at least 12 months before the election. You cannot stand if you work for the council or another council in a politically restrictive post, are subject to bankruptcy, sentenced to a prison sentence of at least three months within five years of the election or convicted of corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.

If you decide to stand, you need to determine if you wish to represent a political party – in which case it is a good idea to contact the



relevant party as soon as possible – or if you intend to stand as an independent. All candidates need to be officially nominated by 10 people registered to vote in the ward in which they choose to represent. Nominations close very early in April.

There are 20,000 local councillors in England, all with their own reasons for standing. The role offers a chance to make a difference to the quality of life of people in your area and to represent their views. Town Councillors are not paid. The amount of time committed to the role varies from councillor to councillor.

Congleton Youth Council

In addition to the 20 elected Councillors, the Town Council also runs a Youth Committee made up of young people aged 11-18 who either live in Congleton or attend a Congleton School and are interested in getting young people's voices heard on the Council. The Youth Committee has been in existence for almost 10 years. It currently has seven members, with room for a further five. The group meets every 6-8 weeks and is supported by Town Councillors and staff. The Youth Committee is also invited to attend Council meetings.

The Youth Committee works on initiatives that it sees as most needed by young people in the town. The most recent project

is a film afternoon in the Daneside Theatre on Sunday 24th February as there is a concern that many young people miss out on the cinema due to lack of transport or funds. The film will be announced soon and tickets will be available from the Tourist Information Centre priced £3 in advance or, if available, £5 on the door.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Committee, please contact Linda Minshull at the Town Council on **01260 270350, ext 4**. You will be invited to a future meeting and a decision can be taken from there about membership. Usually, committee members have been co-opted without a need for an election.

MAYOR'S CHARITY FASHION SHOW

Tickets are available now for a Spring and Summer Fashion Show in aid of the Town Mayor's Charities, **Ruby's Fund** & the **LoL Foundation**. The event takes place on

Wednesday 27th February from 7pm at Stock at the Pavilion in Congleton Park. Tickets available from the Town Hall or Stock, priced £11, including a drink & nibbles!

Town Council Share of Your Community Tax

Congleton Town Council is largely funded through a 'precept', which is a tax added to the community tax collected by Cheshire East Council. Approximately 5% of your annual community tax comes to the Town Council. Additional income is raised through hiring the Town Hall, sponsorship and specific grants. From April 2019 the Town Council will increase its precept by 2.52%, which makes the Town Council precept £1.65 per week on an average

band D property. The Town Council is responsible for running the town's Streetscape services, the Town Hall, the Paddling Pool, funds an additional Police Community Support Officer, pays for the town's CCTV to be monitored, supports the Congleton Partnership, Congleton Community Projects, Citizen's Advice Bureau and numerous other projects and campaigns focusing on enhancing the quality of life in Congleton.

Going **GREEN** for 2019 ...and Beyond!

Congleton Town Council is supporting the Cheshire East's **Life with Less Plastic** campaign and is urging local residents to do the same. The idea is that if everyone made small changes to the way they consume goods, and made a positive decision to create less waste, the end result will benefit us all both now and in the future.

Currently the UK produces around 5 million tonnes of plastic waste every year! It costs around £78 million to dispose of the plastic not collected for recycling from the UK. Less than half of the plastic bottles used in the UK are recycled and as a country we use over 8.5 billion straws a year. There is plenty of room for improvement!

If the thought of going plastic free seems too overwhelming why not try changing your habits around a few single-use plastic items. Making small changes can have a huge positive impact on our environment.



Things to try...

- Take your own coffee cup to the coffee shop - some even offer a discount
- Invest in a stainless steel drink bottle and refill with tap water
- Consider having your milk delivered to your doorstep in re-useable glass bottles
- Use razors with replaceable blades instead of disposable razors
- Invest in canvas or cotton shopping bags and keep them handy
- Buy loose fruit and vegetables to reduce plastic packaging and food waste
- Store left over food in glass jars rather than plastic tubs or using cling film
- Use matches or a refillable metal lighter rather than disposable lighters
- Invest in reusable steel or glass straws and refuse plastic straws (McDonalds has stopped using plastic straws – it was using 1.8 million a day)
- Keep a travel set of cutlery in your bag, avoid using plastic disposable cutlery.

You can find out more by downloading the community toolbox at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/recycling You can also join in the conversation online at #lifewithlessplastic

News In Brief...

FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

Scores of stalls have already booked in for the 2019 Food and Drink Festival on Sunday 9th June! If you are interested in having a stall at the Festival, or are prepared to help as a steward, please contact Jo Money at Congleton Community Projects on 07833 742200 or take a look at their website:

www.foodanddrinkfestival.net

NEW LOCATION FOR EPH

After 7 years, Congleton's Electric Picture House has moved from its original base in Cross Street and has a new home on the first floor of Spindle Mill, Spindle Street CW12 1QN (near the Beartown Brewery) The new space offers the group of artists more space. It is also the home of Congleton Community Projects. The group will continue to run community workshops, solo and group exhibitions and be a venue for high quality touring theatre performances.

You can find out more about the EPH at www.electricpicturehouse.com

TOWN GRANTS

Congleton Town Council gives out more than £65,000 of grants each year to local groups and organisations looking to or already providing services to the community of Congleton. Applications are discussed at the Council's Finance & Policy Committee which is held every 6-8 weeks.

To enquire about a grant application pack, email: info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk or see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Congleton has over 500 Dementia Friends and the quarterly activity leaflet now has many more activities, events and venues listed which cater for the needs of people with dementia. The big push for 2019 is to work with more businesses to improve their understanding of the needs of people with dementia and create a network of places where people with dementia can feel more secure.

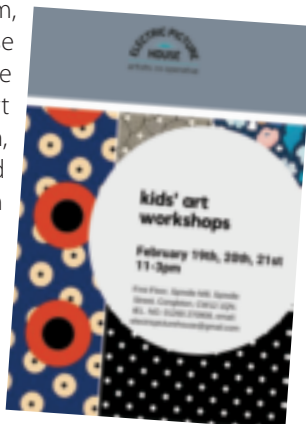
MAYOR'S BALL

The Annual Town Mayor's Ball will take place on Friday 8th March in Congleton Town Hall. Tickets are £45 and are selling fast! All proceeds will go to this year's Town Mayor's Charities - the LOL foundation and Ruby's Fund.

See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more information or tel 01260 270350, ext 4.

February Half Term Kids Art Workshops

During the February half term, The Electric Picture House Artists Cooperative will be running free kids' art workshops on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st February 11am to 3pm at their new premises at Spindle Mill, Spindle Street, Congleton, CW12 1QN. Taught by two professional artists, it is an opportunity for children to learn new skills and have some fun.



To reserve a space for your child/children please contact 01260 270908 or email: electricpicturehouse@gmail.com

Great Places to Play

Congleton currently has six larger play areas and six smaller play parks. During 2019 it is hoped that three of the play areas can be improved using developer money. Plans are being developed through Cheshire East Council to refurbish and improve the West Street play area, possibly add some adult gym equipment to Quinta Play area and add new seats, play equipment, small trim trail and upgrade the play area at Townsend Road. For more details about Congleton's play areas pick up the Places to Play leaflet from the Tourist Information Centre.



WINNERS
Local Business of the Year
2018



Bear Grills Café on Market Street - Winners at the Silk FM Local Business Awards!

Major Projects in 2019 - Actions & Plans

Congleton Link Road

Meet the Contractors

After many years in the planning, work is finally starting on the 5.5km Congleton Link Road. The link road will join the A534 Sandbach Road (to the west of Congleton) with the A536 Macclesfield Road (to the north of the town). The new road is expected to be open late in 2020.

In July 2018, Cheshire East Council appointed the large engineering company Graham to deliver the scheme. Local people will have a chance to meet the contractors at a drop in session at Black Firs Primary School, Longdown Road, CW12 4QJ on Tuesday 29th January between 5pm and 7.30pm. At the meeting the team will explain the construction aspects of the project and how disruption will be minimised by the project team throughout the programme.

For those unable to attend, a scheme-specific website is in the process of being developed by GRAHAM which will be regularly updated with programme and traffic management arrangements. Details can be found at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/congletonlinkroad

Alastair Lewis, Contract Manager for Graham said: "We are always keen to work with stakeholders to drive community engagement and educate people on the work we do. This 'Meet the Contractor' event will provide an opportunity for ourselves and other stakeholders to speak directly with road users and the communities to help reduce disruption where possible during our works"

Expected timeline:

- Utility diversions start - January 2019
- Ecological management work starts - January 2019
- Work starts on Back Lane East - late January 2019
- Site compounds established - March 2019
- Earthworks commence - March 2019
- Back Lane East complete - June 2019
- Full scheme open to traffic - late 2020.



Restriction on Giantswood Lane

As part of the Link Road works, road orders will be in place allowing a 10 mile per hour speed restriction to be imposed 24 hours a day along the stretch of Giantswood Lane from Westlow Mere to Smithy Lane from the 8th February 2019 until the 22 July 2019.

The speed limit is to enable the construction of a new bridge over the Link Road and remodelling of the existing road and accesses. The contractors will use this order as and when it is required.



Congleton Neighbourhood Plan

The Regulation 15 consultation into Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan raised a number of queries from house builders, developers and members of the public. These questions, along with evidence surrounding the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, were passed to an Independent Planning Inspector in December as part of the Regulation 16 stage of the plan.

The inspector has come back with a number of questions relating to the proposed housing policies, open spaces and town centre development. The Neighbourhood Plan team and Cheshire East Council are considering the responses to these questions. The Inspector will then consider the responses and may propose changes to the draft Neighbourhood Plan or come back with additional questions. The Inspector can accept, amend or remove proposed policies in the document. The purpose is to make sure that the plan is robust, clear and unambiguous, legal and in-line with national and local policies.

If the Inspector passes the plan, Cheshire East Council will organise

a referendum where Congleton residents who are registered to vote will have the opportunity to either support or reject the plan. If 50% or more of those who turn out to vote accept the report, it will be passed and will become part of the planning process for Congleton. Due to Town and Cheshire East Elections the referendum needs to be held before the 24th March, or else wait until after the elections. Timescales are tight, but the aim is, if possible, to hold the referendum ahead of the elections.

Details of the plan and the inspectors report can be seen at www.mycongleton.org

Should Congleton Town Council Purchase & Renovate Bradshaw House? **YOUR VIEWS NEEDED!**



Bradshaw House is a grade two listed building located in Lawton Street, Congleton. It is a fine example of a Georgian merchant's house and was built in 1820 on the site of the home of the notorious Regicide John Bradshaw. It is currently owned by Cheshire East Council, but the site has not been in use for a number of years. Cheshire East is keen to sell the site to release funds and Congleton Town Council has been approached by a number of parties asking it to 'save' this prize building and the land that comes with it and enable it to be used for community or suitable commercial purposes rather than potentially being developed for housing.

A working group has been investigating the feasibility for the Town Council to take out a loan for the purchase, renovation and ongoing maintenance of the building and associated land. While the asking price of £250,000 appears to be relatively low, initial estimates provided for the renovation are significantly more if they are to be to a standard that retains the true character of the building. It is estimated that a further £500,000 to £750,000 is required to deliver this project.

This project is not dissimilar to the Town Hall which was acquired by the Town Council in 2008, when it took out two loans totalling £750,000 to renovate and carry out the backlog of work needed on the building. The first loan will be paid off by October 2019. Other assets owned or managed by the Town Council include the Cenotaph, the Paddling Pool and the Community Gardens

Whether or not to try and purchase Bradshaw House is a major decision for Congleton Town Council. The timescale is tight as a bid for the property needs to be submitted by the end of January 2019. The positives are that the building would stay in public ownership, protecting its heritage and the valuable green space around it.

The repayments of loans required to purchase Bradshaw House and what is perceived to be the maximum cost or the worst case scenario of renovating, maintaining and managing the building and associated land would need to be funded through the Congleton Town Council Precept. The Precept is the Town or Parish Council share of the Community Tax. If the Town Council were to purchase Bradshaw House the precept in Congleton could increase by a **maximum of £13.00 per year for a band D property, which equates to £1.08 per month for the period of the loan which is 15 years.** We are seeking to source loans from Cheshire East Council on the same terms as the loans used to refurbish the Town Hall which were interest free. Depending on the future use there maybe grants that are available that could reduce the level of funding commitment required.



Ultimately, your elected town councillors will decide on this matter. As a Town Council, we want to be as open and as transparent as possible. We are keen to hear your views, before the **27th January**, on whether you would believe it is right to increase the precept in order to purchase this building.

You can give you views in the following ways:

1. Answering a quick Survey Monkey which can be downloaded from the front of www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
2. Filling in a paper questionnaire that can be picked up from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall or from the Library or Museum.
3. Emailing your views to info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk
4. Write to Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN.

Congleton Leisure Centre Project

A planning application has now been submitted for the new look Congleton Leisure Centre (18/6319C). Following a comprehensive procurement process, a local company, Pulse Design & Build, was appointed to carry out the works and subject to planning approval the works should be able to start in April/May 2019 and are expected to take 74 weeks to complete.

The project will see the construction of a new pool hall incorporating a 6-lane 25m pool and a larger learner pool as well as plenty of pool viewing. The plan is to keep the current pool open throughout the redevelopment, only closing it once the new pool is tested and available for use. When the new pool is open, the old pool hall will be demolished. Safe access by centre users will be paramount at this time and the team is committed to engaging with key stakeholders to ensure this. The fitness offer will be significantly improved with a modern state of the art gym over two floors with dedicated accessible equipment.

There are a number of exciting elements still being refined ahead of formal consultation. Below are a couple of images of how the some of the facility may look.



These visuals are artists representations and may be subject to amends during the planning process.

Initially, the project anticipated that the rugby pitch on Hankinson's Field may not have been available during the construction phase. However, working with Pulse, pitch availability has been secured throughout the project. This will be subject to further input from the rugby club and RFU approval. Cheshire East will be providing greater detail of the proposed scheme at the Leisure Centre and the public will be encouraged to attend drop in sessions in order to get a better understanding of the project.



Congleton Partnership

- Celebrating 10 years of Achievements!

Congleton Partnership has been behind many of the improvements that you see in Congleton, from the town entry signs, to the River Dane Walkway, thousands of gallons of apple juice to improved pocket gardens around the town and so much more. It is estimated that the Partnership has brought in more than £500,000 in grants and improvements to the town over the past 10 years.



“The vision of the Partnership is to make Congleton a vibrant, happy, healthy, sustainable town where people want to live, visit, work, rest and play.”

The Partnership was formed in August 2008 and took up the helm from the Market Town Initiative Group that was set up to apply for Rural Recovery funds following the devastation caused by Mad Cow disease. It is a non-political community-based volunteer organisation, drawing on the skills, expertise and enthusiasm of local residents and businesses.

The Partnership has a number of sub-groups and is governed by an Executive Team made up of mainly residents as well as representatives of Cheshire East Council, Congleton Town Council and a paid administrator. 20 members of the team have voting rights.

The Partnership comprises of a broad range of groups including:

- ❑ **Congleton Sustainability Group** - led by Peter Aston
- ❑ **Congleton Youth Forum** - led by Glen Williams
- ❑ **Senior Forum** - led by Suzie Akers Smith
- ❑ **Dementia Friendly Group** - led by Susan Munro
- ❑ **Congleton Projects & Finance** - led by Steve Foster

- ❑ **Creative Arts Team** - led by Vincent Cutcliffe
- ❑ **Cenotaph Renovation Group** - led by John Lilley
- ❑ **Elizabeth's Group (new addition)** - led by Susan Munro
- ❑ **Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund** - led by John Doe.

The Partnership is supported by Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East Borough Council and many of the town's local groups/organisations.

Since its inception, The Partnership has had an outstanding record of delivery. Two of the partnership led projects, Bearmania and Congleton Apple Juice, gained national recognition and prestigious awards.

Opposite is a taste of what the Congleton Partnership has achieved. The partnership is always after more volunteers and more projects and ideas. If you are passionate about your town and want to get involved with one of the groups, contact Mike Smith, Congleton's Partnership Administrator, on 01260 270350, ext 7.



ACHIEVEMENTS...

A More Active & Healthy Town

Cycling

The Partnership has introduced more cycleway signage around the town, joined with the neighbouring towns of Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Alsager to produce a 'Five Towns Cycle Route Map' and were instrumental in getting infrastructure improvements at Solly Crescent, Townsend Road and along the Canal Tow Path from Thames Drive to Congleton Railway Station.

Walking

The Partnership developed three sections of the River Dane walkway – creating a path from Eaton Bank Industrial Estate, through the Park to Town Bridge and then from Town Bridge to Dane Street near Clayton Bypass. The Partnership is also working with the Five Towns on a South Cheshire Towns Trail creating an ambitious 42 mile loop around the towns manageable in smaller sections.

Play Areas

Congleton benefits from 13 play areas around the town. The Partnership has worked on better signage and promotion of these areas, supported a play day in the Town Centre and are working with Ansa and Town Council to improve Townsend Road, West Street and Quinta Play Areas.

Health & Wellbeing

The Partnership is behind the annual Health and Wellbeing Fayre in the Town Hall and has a separate group who is working hard to make Congleton a more dementia friendly town. This is through awareness sessions and creating events that are suitable for all including those living with dementia.



A More Sustainable Town

Congleton Sustainability Group

A very active part of the partnership. The Sustainability Group is behind The Old Saw Mill Community Hub in Back River Street. The team is responsible for saving tonnes of apples from going to waste and turning it into Congleton Apple Juice, Congleton Cider and Cider Vinegar. Members run the Eco-Schools project, comment on most large planning applications that affect the town and run sustainable living courses in Congleton. The group is a keen supporter of the Congleton Hydro Scheme which is hoped will become a reality in the next couple of years.



Green Spaces

The Partnership has been instrumental in improving the Antrobus Street Gardens, now known as Margaret's Place and the Moody Street Gardens. The Partnership has also worked with In Bloom greening Mountbatten Way with the addition of 17 trees and planters, adding trees to Back Park St Car Park and adding an Orchard near Astbury Mere.



A More Welcoming Town

Signage

Projects run through the Partnership have enabled Congleton to have Welcome Signs, Finger Posts, Town Centre Maps and Town Noticeboards. The Noticeboards are updated by the Town Council first thing on a Monday. Posters for community events are needed by noon on Friday.

Helping Business & Town Plans

Congleton Partnership led on a two-day Business Expo in 2011 aimed at celebrating Congleton's businesses and alerting developers to the potential of Congleton. It has also been instrumental in helping develop key plans for the town such as the Public Realm Strategy, Congleton Neighbourhood Plan, Congleton Regeneration Strategy and commenting on Planning Applications.

Mini Buses

The Partnership help administer two mini buses for Congleton, which can be used by groups and organisations linked to the Partnership. There are over 20 regular users and more than 160 trips made this year. The mini buses are stored at New Life Church and the group is grateful to New Life for their support with the popular project.

Protecting Heritage & Culture

The Cenotaph group is a project group within the partnership and is working hard to get the funds and necessary work to improve access around the Cenotaph and add the 250 missing names. As part of this work the group oversaw the rebuilding of Cole Hill Bank wall and the removal of diseased trees.



If you are passionate about your town and want to get involved with one of the groups, you will be made very welcome.

In the first instance, please contact **Congleton's Partnership Administrator, Mike Smith, on 01260 270350, ext. 7, or ms@congletontowncouncil.co.uk**

Mike works on a Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from around 8am - 3pm.

If you want to learn more about The Partnership and its plans, check out www.congletonpartnership.co.uk or follow on twitter @congopar

Events to Look Forward To in 2019

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2019. We know that there are more events being worked on by various organising committees.

For the most up-to-date list of events, please check our website... www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

JANUARY

- 12th-19th Congleton Pantomime "Snow White", Daneside Theatre
- 17th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 20th Film at Daneside "Bohemian Rhapsody", Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 21st NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 24th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 26th "Lost Buildings of Congleton" new temporary exhibition, Congleton Museum
- 31st CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm

FEBRUARY

- 5th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 5th-9th "One Man, Two Governors" by Congleton Players, Daneside Theatre
- 6th Diabetic Friends Group Meeting, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 7th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th-9th Rotary Swimathon, Congleton Leisure Centre
- 8th Northern Soul Evening, Town Hall
- 12th-14th "Chicago" by Eaton Bank Academy, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 14th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th Pinked Floyd, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 20th Cartoon Circus Live Children's Show, Town Hall
- 21st CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 23rd Celtic Journey, Unplugged, Town Hall
- 24th Congleton Mayor Fundraiser-KEMs Orchestral Concert, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 27th Fashion Show- in aid of the Town Mayor's charities, Stock Pavilion, Congleton Park, 7.30pm

MARCH

- 1st-3rd Congleton Unplugged**
- 1st Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 2nd New Roman Finds Exhibition, Congleton Museum
- 2nd Ghosts at Midnight, Town Hall
- 3rd Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 7th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th Congleton Town Mayor's Charity Purple Ball, Town Hall, 7pm**
- 14th CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 18th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 21st CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 30th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm

APRIL

- 4th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm- Followed by Town Hall & Assets Committee
- 6th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 9th Easter Treats Day, Town Centre, 10am**
- 9th-22nd Hop Around the Shops Easter Egg Hunt, Town Centre
- 11th Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm**
- 19th Rotary & CYO Concert **TBC**
- 23rd NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 28th Congleton Sprint Triathlon & Go-Tri, Congleton Park from 12pm**
- 30th Museum Talk, Congleton Museum, 2pm

MAY

- 2nd Congleton Town Council & Cheshire East Election Day**
- 10th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 23rd Mayor Making**
- 25th Congleton Paddling Pool Opens**

JUNE

- 2nd Congleton Mayor Civic Parade & Service**
- 5th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 7th Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 7th-8th Beartown Patchwork & Quilters Exhibition, Town Hall
- 9th Congleton Food and Drink Festival, Congleton Town Centre**
- 9th Cry Baby & the Hootchi Cootchi Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 16th Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park, 1.30pm**
- 18th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 23rd Audley Silver Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 26th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm

Congleton In Bloom taking part in North West In Bloom Judging

JULY

- 7th Lions Youth Brass Band Concert, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 13th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 20th Congleton Pride Event, Town Centre**
- 20th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28th Rode Hall Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 29th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm

AUGUST

- 4th U3A The Encores (50s & 60s Band), Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 4th Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 11th Pastry Shoes, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 18th Rode Hall Silver Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm

23rd-25th Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival

August/September weekends - Congleton Youth in Bloom Back2Back Gardens, Community Polytunnel, Congleton Park, 2 - 4pm.

SEPTEMBER

- 6th Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 6th-7th Congleton Horticultural Society Exhibition, Town Hall
- 8th Congleton Lions Annual Duck Race, Congleton Park, 2pm
- 8th Congleton Paddling Pool Closes**
- 13th-22nd National Heritage Open Days

OCTOBER

- 1st Health & Wellbeing Fayre, Town Hall, 10am

NOVEMBER

- 2nd Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park, 5pm**
- 8th Remembrance Concert, Town Hall
- 10th Remembrance Parade & Service
- 12th South Cheshire Floral Society Demonstration, Town Hall, 4pm
- 16th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
PROVISIONAL
- 23rd Congleton Christmas Lights Switch On**
- 30th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall 7pm

DECEMBER

- 6th Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 21st Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm

Look out for **Museum Talks** on the last Tuesday of every month starting at 2pm and **Museum Walks** on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. Talks cost £2.50 or free to Friends of Congleton Museum. Museum Walks cost £6 including a cream tea (£3.50 for Friends of the Museum). More details at www.congletonmuseum.co.uk

Congleton's Makers Market is held on the last Saturday of every month from 10am - 4pm although a review will be held early in 2019 to check that this is still the best day for Congleton.