

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community, Environment and Services Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31 January 2019	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	The Chief Officer / Cllr S H Holland		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Congleton Railway Station update		
Background	<p>There have been many concerns raised by resident about different issues relating to Congleton railway station which include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Use and cost of the car park➤ Having to queue to pay for car parking tickets➤ Facilities➤ Overflow onto off street parking➤ Current issues on the train service➤ Connectivity to the station, primarily buses.		
Meeting	<p>Cllr Holland arranged a meeting with Raj Chandarana, Stakeholder Manager of Northern Rail, on the 21st January to discuss the above issues, this meeting was attended by the Chief Officer. During the meeting we were advised that there were a range of cost related issue that Northern Rail would be looking at between now and Easter which would include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The cost of parking➤ The methods of payment – looking to introduce payments via mobile phones which can be done in transit➤ Integrating costs into train tickets or season tickets <p>Mr Chandarana stated that they were also looking into expanding the current car park capacity as it is normally 75% occupied. With regards to the current lack of service on a Saturday this was being dealt with through the unions and was hopeful that the situation would be resolved soon. Raj felt there may be a commercial opportunity for a tea and coffee type service at peak hours based on usage, he was asked to forward details of train users at these times so we could potentially promote the opportunity locally</p> <p>In terms of connectivity it was explained that we are already working with CEC (Cheshire East Council) public rights of way and highways teams to better connect the town to the station but felt that improved synchronisation of bus services could help as well.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would look to arrange a meeting by late February to discuss this with Raj and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>We advised Raj of the growth in housing for Congleton over the next few years and where most of the development would be located and also the impending link road. Raj was not aware of this and this prompted talks about a potential rail led hopper bus operating across Congleton.</p> <p>With regards to off street parking he expressed sympathy as this is a continual issue around stations, their focus is to provide adequate parking if that is achievable and ensure that it is utilised, he understood that we have already been engaging with highways with regards to these issues</p>		
Decision Requested	To receive the update		