



# Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford** CiLCA

29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Councillor,

## **Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.00pm**. This will be a virtual meeting which needs to be accessed via Zoom.

The Zoom Meeting ID: **895 4804 1508**

**The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting.** To access the meeting please contact the Chief Officer – [David.mcgifford@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:David.mcgifford@congleton-tc.gov.uk) for the relevant details.

There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press.

Yours sincerely,

David McGifford  
**CHIEF OFFICER**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

(Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in Advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence).

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting** (Enclosed)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved by the COVID-19 Emergency Powers Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and are attached for reference only.

Congleton  
**beartown**  
*where friends are made*

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**3. Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

**4. Outstanding Actions**

See agenda item 7 – Updates Paper from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**5. Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive any questions from Members of the Public including those received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

a) Question submitted by Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE about 5G

**6. Cheshire Police (Verbal Update)**

To receive and consider a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

**7. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Enclosed)**

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**8. Updates Paper from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 C&E Committee (Enclosed)**

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the previous Community & Environment Committee meeting.

**9. Congleton in Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)**

To receive an update on Congleton in Bloom 2020 and the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**10. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)**

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

**11. Health and Well Being Working Group (Enclosed )**

To receive an update from the group and the notes of the Health and Well-Being Group held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

**12. Integrated Transport Working Group (Enclosed)**

To receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

**13. White Ribbon Working Group Update** (Enclosed)

To consider an update and next steps from the White Ribbon Working Group

**14. COVID-19 Leads Group** (Enclosed)

To note an update report from the Congleton COVID-19 Leads group on activities carried out.

**15. Moody Hall** (Enclosed)

To consider a request for help to ensure that this historical building is protected.

**16. Traffic Free Cycle Routes in and out of Congleton** (Enclosed)

To consider a recommendation for traffic-free cycle lanes in and around Congleton.

**17. Childcare in Congleton**

To consider a report on Childcare in Congleton and its recommendations.

**To:** Members of the Community & Environment Committee

**Cllrs:** Kay Wesley (Chair), Dawn Allen (Vice Chair)

Martin Amies, Paul Duffy, Suzy Firkin, Margaret Gartside, Amanda Martin,  
Denis Murphy, Jean Parry and Mark Rogan

**Ex Officio:** Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)

**Ccs:** Appointed Members - Mr G Baxendale (Honorary Burgess)  
Mr E Clarke (Honorary Burgess)

Other members of the Council for Information; Police, Honorary Burgess (1), Press (2),  
Congleton Library, Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### **PRESENT:**

Committee members:

Kay Wesley (Chair)  
Dawn Allen (Vice Chair)  
Martin Amies  
Paul Duffy  
Suzy Firkin  
Amanda Martin  
Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)  
Jean Parry  
Mark Rogan

Non-Committee members

Robert Douglas  
Rob Moreton  
James Smith

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received Cllr Margaret Gartside and from non-committee members Councillors Russell Chadwick and Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor).

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January as a correct record.

**CE/48/1920** Resolved to receive the minutes from the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as a correct record with the amendment to note that Cllr Paul Duffy was in attendance.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Cheshire East Councillors Denis Murphy and Rob Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.



#### **4. Outstanding Actions**

Note that these actions are covered in Agenda Item 8 - Updates paper from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Community & Environment Committee.

#### **5. Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive any questions from Members of the Public including those received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the public.

#### **6. Cheshire Police**

To receive and consider a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

Sergeant Paul Brunton from Cheshire Police provided updates on:

Congleton Beat Team current Priorities:

1. Theft from Motor Vehicles (All Congleton)
2. Child Sexual Exploitation (East)
3. Vulnerability (Gawsworth)

A Positive Drugs warrant was executed in Gawsworth and male juvenile arrested for possession with intent to supply. Large quantity of Class B drugs seized (Investigation ongoing).

Street a week conducted at all 9 Brunswick St Flats (around 40 addresses). Intel and reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) obtained.

ASB – Down on this time last year (39 Reports since new year), still no hotspots, emerging issue at Bromley Woods (off Road Bikes and Dealing). Overall really good.

Question from Councillor Murphy regarding diversion opportunities for youths over the summer:

Police refer to Safe Project for vulnerable or those involved in criminality  
More widely, Police have a deployable football cage that we can site almost anywhere

#### **7. Hydro Scheme**

To receive a short presentation from Peter Aston from Dane Valley Community Energy Volunteers on the Hydro Scheme and an update on the community shares option. Planning to raise £730k. Offer closes end of March 2020. Asked the Town Council to act as ambassadors for the scheme and to help spread the word. £345k already raised, although only 30% of the shares purchased from the Congleton area.

**CE/49/1920** Resolved to note the presentation.

**8. Updates Paper from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 C&E Committee**

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the previous Community & Environment Committee meeting.

**CE/50/1920** Resolved to accept the report

**9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group**

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**CE/51/1920** Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting

**10. Health and Wellbeing Working Group**

To receive the notes of the Health and Well-Being Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**CE/52/1920** Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting

**11. Congleton Green Working Group**

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group from the 6<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**CE/53/1920** Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting

**12. Integrated Transport Working Group**

To receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group from the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

**CE/54/1920 Resolved** to receive the notes of the meeting

**13. Update on the War Memorial Hospital**

To receive a verbal update from Cllr Suzy Firkin on Congleton's War Memorial Hospital and in particular the Minor Injuries Unit. Cllr Firkin reported back on a Scrutiny Committee attended at Cheshire East Council which considered the 'NHS Fragility and Sustainability'. This meeting was not specifically about the War Memorial Hospital and Minor Injuries Unit. Chief Executive and Clinical Leads agreed to meet with Congleton Town Council

**CE/55/1920** Resolved to note the report and for officers to organise a meeting with Councillors and the NHS Health Trust.

#### **14. Street Naming in Congleton**

To receive a report on street names chosen, submitted and a call for more potential names for streets in Congleton. A action was requested for Town Hall staff to write to Cheshire East and Grahams to suggest that 'Veterans Way' would be an appropriate name for the link road.

**CE/56/1920 Resolved to** note the report.

#### **15. Childcare**

To receive a verbal update from Councillor Kay Wesley on actions taken following a survey in 2019 considering childcare issues in Congleton, including information about a childcare workshop taking place in the Town Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**CE/57/1920 Resolved to** note the verbal presentation.

#### **16. Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

To receive a verbal update on actions or latest advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Members reported on a Health and Wellbeing special meeting held earlier that day with partners from community groups to consider ways that the group could work together to promote messages around staying safe and actions that may be required.

**CE/58/1920 Resolved to** note the report.

Meeting finished at 8pm

**Cllr Kay Wesley  
(Chair)**



## **\_Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group**

### **Zoom Call - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Denis Murphy, Cllr Sally Holland, Glen Williams

Jackie MacArthur (CTC). Ruth Burgess (CTC)

**Apologies:** Julia Pestell Hassell, Cheshire East

Note Sergeant Paul Brunton kept trying but was not able to get into the meeting, however sent some information to the meeting

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Issue</b>                                   | <b>Action</b>   | <b>By Whom</b>  | <b>When</b>   |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|
| 2           | To receive notes of 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 | These were agreed via email and presented to the 12 <sup>th</sup> March Community and Environment Committee   | Jackie Mac  | March   |
| 3           | <b>Outstanding Items</b>                       | <p><b>CCTV for West Street</b> – Stuart from CEC has not been able to have the meeting with Cllr Murphy - On Hold Recommending to CTC to ear-mark funding from Crime reduction fund 2019/20 to cover a permanent CCTV for Congleton for 20/21</p> <p>Bamboogie Youth Event – due to happen April 9<sup>th</sup>. Not able to happen due to COVID-19. To rearrange</p> <p>Table Tennis centre</p> <p>Non Alcoholic beer on tap – to mention to PubWatch</p> <p>Moody Hall – vandalism and damage – CEC has visited. On CE committee agenda for next week Last report to Police was 26/05 – young male taking</p> | <p>Stuart Hobson to meet Denis Murphy</p> <p>Cllr Moreton</p> <p>Cllr Wesley</p> <p>Cllr Murphy/JMacA</p> | <p>When possible</p> <p>When appropriate</p> <p>When appropriate</p> <p>When pubwatch meets</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> June 2020</p> |



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|   |   | <p>photos. No reports prior since mid 2019. Still receiving general attention from PCSO patrols. Power is supply still on?</p> <p>Trains and abusive passengers on the late train home</p>  | <p>Cllr Wesley/J MacA</p> <p>JMacA</p> | <p>Before next meeting</p> |
| 5 | Update on Public Space Protection Order | <p>The Order for the Town Centre will run out in April 2021. CEC will need to extend, delete or amend the order. Would like the views of the group. Add to the next agenda.</p> <p>Of note, current homelessness issues within the PSPO still don't include any breaches.</p>   | <p>JMacA to add to next agenda</p>     | <p>Discuss in July</p>     |
| 6 | Drug and Alcohol Abuse Hot Spot         | <p>Police congratulated on closing three cannabis factories, (Cross Street, Dane Street and Millford House, West Street) but concern raised that these have been set up in Congleton. Police investigation underway. Local intelligence vital to finding and stopping such activities. Agreed to carry out further research on understanding the auction market.</p> <p>Thank you for your support.</p> <p>Auctioneers/estate agents are not obliged to share data with the Police. We may apply for it as part of investigation. There are simpler routes though providing the owner/occupier is paying council tax or has submitted planning ect. Documented ownership is a frustration of current investigations into 3 Cannabis farms.</p> <p>3 Cannabis Farms since Jan:</p> <p>Old Picturehouse Cross Street – new grow undergoing construction with around 100 small plants. Property likely used due to large roller shutter proving van access. Locating following direct intel.</p> <p>Dane Street (next to MOT Garage) – sophisticated set up. Around 1000 plants at various stages of growth. Vietnamese 'gardener' found within.</p> | <p>JMacA</p>                           | <p>Before next meeting</p> |

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|   |  | <p>Modern Day Slavery Investigation begun. Located following local intel/beat team recy.</p> <p>Millford House on West Street – Abandoned or in the process of being moved. Messy set up with around 300 plants. Located due to proactive PCSOing.</p> <p>Its standard to practise to make all farms safe (electrics/boarding up ect) prior to closure.</p> <p>All are still live Investigations, including a subsequent arson at Millford House. There are some links between the sites. All located quickly due to community Intel.</p> <p>Some increase in Cannabis cultivation sites across the country since lockdown.</p>                            |         |                        |
| 7 | <p><b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b></p> <p><b>Hotspot Areas</b></p> <p>Complaints about motorbike and quad bike use in public open spaces such as Bromley wood</p> | <p>Massive drop in reported Crime/ASB during lockdown. All except Domestic Violence and COVID related incidents. Macclesfield Police division receiving around 50% less reports. Expect it to return to pre lockdown levels.</p> <p>Pro Active work started in anticipation at several locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetton Court – 1 eviction, 1 eviction notice, 2 Covid 19 Advisory notices.</li> <li>• Meadow Mill court – 2 Arrests (1 custodial), 3 Covid 19 Advisory notices.</li> <li>• Bromley Woods/Dane-In-shaw Pastures/BVW</li> <li>• Priestly fields/St Peters Church – 1 Arrest Possession with Intent</li> </ul> | Ongoing | Report to next meeting |

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| 8 | AOB | <p>Numerous plain clothes and uniformed patrols in and around. No bikes seized to date. Op Scrambler requested (Traffic patrols with off road bikes). Intel gap re storage locations. Beat Team Priority for ASB.</p> <p>Domestic Violence – understand that calls to Domestic Abuse National helplines has increased 10-fold during lock down. However locally Police call outs for Domestic Violence less than last year</p> <p>Lockdown Period 23/03-23/05 2020 <b>61 confirmed DV incidents.</b> Same period 2019 <b>88 Confirmed DV incidents.</b></p> <p>Group wished to find out more about the figures and how this changes with the relaxation of lock down</p> <p>Add Violence and Sexual Offences as a regular item to this agenda</p> <p>COVID – MOVING FORWARD</p> <p>188 COVID related Incidents reported for the period 23/03-23/05.</p> <p>Top 2 locations are private dwellings and 1 has been evicted.</p> <p>Top 3 – Astbury Mere – Daily Patrols there</p> <p>Patrol plan continues for all green spaces/supermarkets/petrol stations and other vulnerable premises.</p> <p>Force stance remains incremental Engage, Explain, Enforce</p> <p>To explore with the police the idea of using some of the localised community neighbourhood support for neighbours to carry on supporting each other and possibly creating networks of Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>We will collate any groups that we are aware of</p> | <p>Cllr Wesley to speak to Police.</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>Paul Brunton/JMacA</p> <p>Paul Brunton/JMacA</p> | <p>For next meeting</p> <p>June 2020</p> <p>June 2020</p> |
|---|-----|---|---|---|

|                        |   |   |                     |
|------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
|                        | <p>Work with Police and others to push Summer messages of Stay Alert to Crime – particularly opportunistic crime through open windows and doors.</p> <p>Check with Police about support to help enforce 20mph speed limits – need for more community speedwatch teams or is it possible to change locations for existing teams</p> <p>Op Automotive begun. Response/Beat Teams TRUCAM sites and stops at least twice a day for 2 weeks.</p> <p>Rough Sleepers – watching brief. Aware that one is sometimes back at Argos and was reports of another Male in the doorway of British Heart Foundation on 24/25/26 May but this now seems to be resolved.</p> | <p>Cllr Murphy /JMacA</p> <p>Watching brief</p> | June 2020           |
| Dates of Next Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 3.30 – 5pm</li> <li>• Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 3.30pm – 5pm</li> <li>• Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm – 5pm</li> <li>• Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm – 5pm</li> </ul>   | JMac to send out calendar invite and book rooms | Once minutes agreed |



## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

|                                 |   |                 |      |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>               | Community and Environment Committee   |                 |      |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>    | 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020   | <b>LOCATION</b> | Zoom |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>              | Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer   |                 |      |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>8<br/>Updates Paper from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 C&amp;E Committee</b>  |                 |      |
| <b>Background</b>               | <p>This paper is provided to give Members an update on actions from reports discussed at Community and Environment Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, which are not included on the agenda. These items do not need a full paper and are on-going rather than discharged.</p> <p>The paper is for noting and will not be discussed unless a member has a question.</p>   |                 |      |
| <b>Updates</b>                  | <p><b>CE/49/1920 – Hydro Scheme.</b> Update – since presenting at CE on the 12<sup>th</sup> March the Dane Valley Community Energy Volunteers were delighted to announce that they raised their target figure for the Hydro Scheme. With the funds in place the group has let the contract for the works and commissioned the Archimedes screw. This should be delivered late October/early November. The aim is to be operational for early 2021. All share holders have been issued with their certificate. The website is being refreshed and there are plans for regular newsletter updates.</p> <p><b>CE/55/1920 – NHS Health Trust</b> - the meeting with the Chief Executive of the East Cheshire NHS Trust has been put on hold. The Town Council issued a press release welcoming the trust's planning application for a new generator store house at the site as a sign of some investment on the site.</p> <p><b>CE/56/1920 Street Naming</b> – Following the committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> March the Town Council put forward the following names for the development at Tall Ash, Buglawton based on the original field names with a mix of Avenue, Close, Drive or Lane depending on the geography.: Cxley , Big Meadow, Cockpitt, Nanacre, Little Meadow, Tendays, Twelvedays.</p> <p>Street Naming at Cheshire East has informed us that three of the names were accepted and the that Seven roads would be named. We will try and establish the significance of the Lewis, George, Armett and Allen.</p> <p>Lewis Way<br/><b>Oxley</b> Drive<br/><b>Cockpit</b> Place<br/>George Avenue<br/>Armett Close<br/><b>Nanacre</b> Drive<br/>Allen Place</p> |                 |      |
| <b>Proposal</b>                 | To note this report.  |                 |      |

## IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP MINUTES- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Spencer Suite, 9.00am

**Attendees:** David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Margaret Gartside, Martha Hayes, Jackie MacArthur, Amanda Martin, Anna Morrison, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
  - None
- 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
  - Approved
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
  - GW- Bromley Farm In Bloom
- 4. Proposed Route-** PP has put together a proposed route, for NW & BIB and also a separate route for the IYN- there might be some new additions this year (Congleton Football Club, Vale Allotments, Mossley In Bloom- including the WI work, Friends of Quinta Park, Friends of the Community Garden)- if all join, this would make it 15 IYN in total. PP has proposed a route for 14 IYN's and will save FoCP for the main route.
  - Astbury Mere adjusted to 20 minutes, this is without the Orchard as this feature has been removed. PP has suggested to speak to Jack Swan at AMCP to see which areas will look best around judging time. Would also like to have a trustee there on the day, as well as Mark from Streetscape, as he is a keen bird watcher.
  - Presentation to include an introductory slide on AMCP to show biodiversity and what they do etc. Need to get a list from Matt Axford (Ranger) of the different groups that use AMCP.
  - PP to send a copy of the AMCP booklet to IB group.
  - Judging for Britain In Bloom is scheduled between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August.
  - JMac suggested to look back through feedback from 2014, 16, 18 BIB results and make sure that we've acted on their suggestions. DB suggests that we need longer at Asbury Mere as this was pointed out by a judge to him, as noted above- times will be arranged to visit AMCP and assess the area.
  - ACTION JMac- to email to Cllr Martin Amies to ask if AMCP going to enter as an IYN? Also to ask the trustees to suggest ideas of how we can present their asset best.
  - Need to compile a list of ideas for AMCP and pass this by a previous judge to see which would be the best to do. Thinking of working with schools, care homes, charity groups etc. Suggestions of; willow project, school art project to be displayed, wildlife boxes. PP reported that St. Mary's Primary School are working on a project called “The Lost Words” and creating a display for it- could this be used? ACTION ALL- to send suggestions to JMac.
- 5. IYN Support-** RB sent an email to the nine current IYN's in November 2019 offering Streetscape help for 2 days and opportunity to buy plants from us. Currently had four replies; Bromley Farm, Buglawton In Bloom, Heathview and Friends of Congleton Park.
  - Buglawton are asking for more funding (£500- used for 59 resident hanging baskets), as historically have received this. Group discussed that it's only Buglawton residents that receive hanging baskets from “In Bloom” and these are now not seen by the judges on the route- the funds should be put towards projects that are for and seen by all. RB & DB to arrange a meeting with Chair of BIB to discuss.
  - PP suggested to apply for grants from William Dean Trust for all IYN- x15 groups at £100/150 each. JMac has suggested they can also apply to the Cheshire East “Bright Idea” grant scheme.
  - DB suggested to have a group meeting with the existing and new neighbourhoods late February in the Town Hall to discuss this year's entry, marking categories, judging, finance etc.
- 6. AOB**
  - Portfolio- 16 pages for NWIB & 30 pages BIB. Also to include a promotional map with what goes on in Congleton (relating to IB) and has the route pin pointed on this.
  - Cenotaph Garden- this needs to be added as a new feature for 2020 and pointed out to the judges. PP is suggesting that if the Cenotaph will be covered up whilst works are underway, there could be more attractive ways to cover, other than heras fencing- speak the Cenotaph Working Group.



- Send hanging basket letters to Stone House Green houses to see if they would like to purchase- ACTION MH.
- Suggested that the Wharf pub might be interested in entering as a business.
- PP suggested to have two articles a month in the Chronicle to make people aware of what In Bloom does, as at the November celebration evening a lot of people were shocked how much goes on. JMac & PP to take a lead on this.
- In Bloom Merchandise- AMorrison suggested to sell seed boxes with In Bloom stickers on, PP suggested In Bloom printed canvas bags- ACTION JMac, AMorrison & MH to meet.
- JMac commented the need for new bin stickers- possible competition, open to schools, groups, youth forum etc.- ACTION JMac & AMorrison to meet.
- Trees, hedgerows and orchards- new hedgerow planted along Clayton Bypass. Plans for new Orchards on Lamberts Lane, Marshall Grove play area and Padgbury Lane. ACTION RB to budget for the maintenance of the new planting projects.
- In Bloom Finalist Seminar, 21<sup>st</sup> February in Birmingham- each group to send two representatives- agreed on DB & PP to attend.
- BE commented that new gold rosettes need adding on signs to update the latest winnings- ACTION MH.
- Penny-farthing Structure- £1,700 quoted from Belmont- DMcG to take this forward with the family. JMac waiting to hear back from Highways regarding permissions.
- Bear Bin- GW to follow up on this- to contact the artist of the Rhino recycling bin as seen in Wales.
- Spring Cleans- Starting in March, first Saturday of each month, plus additional clean on 21<sup>st</sup> March as national Keep Britain Tidy Campaign weekend. All tidies from 10am-12noon. Locations tbc.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 9.00am

## IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP MINUTES- 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Spencer Suite, 9.00am

**Attendees:** David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Margaret Gartside, Martha Hayes, Amanda Martin, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
  - None
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
  - Approved
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
  - None
4. **IYN Update:** The groups have replied to Ruth’s original email on what help they would like. ACTION RB: to arrange a meeting for all IYN, at the end of March. ACTION: DB & PP- to find out how many neighbourhoods would work in one day- to ask judges opinions at Birmingham seminar (21<sup>st</sup> February).
  - Buglawton In Bloom (BiB)- at the meeting agreed that there will be no hanging baskets. CIB agreed to have a clean-up at Buglawton on one of the monthly town tidies to clear a section by the railings so that these are exposed. PP has been through the marking sheet with Buglawton to explain the scoring and where it can be improved. BiB would like help painting a fence and installing a bench, they are also getting a bird bath. BiB are looking to have more community involvement with the scouts and WI. Concerns raised over the bee hive in the wildflower strip at the grass edge of the Church House- RB/ CTC is sorting a risk assessment for this.
  - New Life Church- will be entering as a neighbourhood again this year. Albie is back working in the garden, there is also a volunteer coordinator at NLC that has a group that goes out to work on people’s garden. The volunteer coordinator is looking for funding for equipment, suggested to apply via; Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund, Congleton Town Council, My Bright Idea at Cheshire East.
  - Astbury Mere (AMCP)- PP has the portfolio, but will be updating it to include the biodiversity. PP questioned whether to keep AMCP in the In Bloom entry and not a separate neighbourhood- agreed to keep as In Bloom. MG has spoken to Jo Money (Community Projects) who would be interested in coordinating activities, such as willow weaving, but would need funding for this. Check with Matt Axford- Ranger, about activities that are already put on here and the different groups that use it, such as information on the park runs and to show how far they have run etc. Suggested to have interpretation boards- create a design and put this to the trust, then look for funding if approved. (Biodiversity, history, species, community use/ groups etc.) MA has been making flower boxes for the edges of the car park. It would be good for the trust to apply for a Green Flag.
  - Community Garden- PP has suggested to have this area as a separate neighbourhood- decided at the moment that the site isn’t strong enough on its own, but should be included in main tour. PP to update on progress at next meeting.

\*\* There are many areas that have started as neighbourhoods and then not maintained afterwards, agreed that the core projects should come first and looking best before starting new groups.

\*\* RB- will be having a meeting with Congleton Football Club to see how they can get involved with In Bloom.

\*\* Margaret’s Place- x2 cherry trees to be removed and replaced with likewise trees. ACTION RB to price up the cost of a new path across the grassed area- path has gone through to Partnership for possible funding. Can we do something in the corner where the car is, suggested fencing with climbing clematis?
5. **AOB:**
  - Penny-farthing Sculpture- JMac had an email back from Highways, they need to go through legal and planning and get a safety audit, this could take a while to get signed off. Jackie has indicated timelines for June for In Bloom- Highways are on board with this, it will just take time. Suggested to get the CE Cllrs to help lobby for this. Need to send timescales to Belmont Engineering to make sure they can fit the works in.
  - Rhino Sculpture- GW has been sent information on this, but needs to get in contact to discuss cost etc. Ongoing action. Where would this be situated if we had a bear made? GW to update at the next meeting.



- IB Stickers have been created to hand out at In Bloom events, for volunteers to wear. Organic cotton bags with the in Bloom logo are in the making and JMac has started the campaign on the new bin sticker posters, letters have been sent and posters are up to advertise this.
- Trees for Congleton- ACTION RB to cost up the maintenance for this. Three major planting areas; Quinta Park, Marshall Grove and Padbury Lane.
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March- first clean-up starting at Congleton Park to include some tree planting, 10am-12 noon- GW to confirm this.
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March- Keep Britain Tidy clean-up- proposed start from Community Garden
- April clean-up at Buglawton In Bloom
- Gold Rosettes- MH ordered from JAF Graphics- will be added to the sign once received.
- PP has spoken to JMon who has a lot of information on the community garden- possibility to have an information board on the history of this.
- PP will be researching the nine other entries for BIB- a lot have already planted trees, wildflower meadows, put up sculptures- working with the young, elderly and everyone in between. Need to look at the discretionary awards and see which ones we should go for.
- RB email- finding grot spots- send out to schools to get them active. Street signs- PP, a lot of these need cleaning- let RB know to add to the list to be actioned.
- Street signs- could these be planted at the bases? Adopt your street sign to look after and plant around it. ACTION PP- to put a post out on Facebook- keep RB in the loop to any responses as needs to be noted for future maintenance of the area.
- Flower Festival at St. Peter's Church, they are keen to do this again- to be included in the national competition, as unable for it to stretch over both weeks to cover the regional North West competition. Congleton Choral Society are also putting on a garden trail.
- Hydro Scheme Weir to be included in the portfolio and tree planting. Also have a section in the portfolio for planting trees and volunteer section.
- BE suggested for a bore hole somewhere in Congleton to extract water- ACTION RB to speak to Graham Construction on the practicalities of this.
- AMCP- St. Mary's are doing a "Lost Words" project with the wildlife trust- this will be enlarged and laminated to decorate the visitors centre area.

**6. Date of next meeting:** after Birmingham- same time as IYN.

Congleton In Bloom Working Group  
11th March 2020, Spencer Suite, 9.00am  
DRAFT MINUTES

(To be approved at meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> June)

**Attendees:** David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Martha Hayes, Amanda Martin, Anna Morrison, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
  - Margaret Gartside, Jackie MacArthur
- 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
  - Approved.
  - Change to climbing clematis at Antrobus Street car park, not trailing.
  - Trees at the bottom of the fire station, will be planted along the fencing on Clayton Bypass- to be added to the portfolio- PP suggested on having a tree page.
  - ACTION MH- circulate plan of where trees will be planted/ have already been planted.
  - ACTION MH- to speak to JMac re: penny farthing sculpture and who DB needs to contact at Cheshire East to get a decision. Ask Belmont to create this design as the structure could always be positioned somewhere different.
  - Gold rosettes- just need sticking onto the signs.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
  - None.
- 4. The Britain In Bloom Route Update:**
  - Route for Britain In Bloom, judges’ comments from 2019- they liked New Life Church allotment, St. Peters Church flower festival, they thought the street cleansing was at a high standard and loved the story of bears and Treo. Felt that they needed more information on Astbury Mere. Proposed extension for Cenotaph. They thought the number of hours for community involvement was amazing. Add name of who the judge is meeting on the tour guide, against each area.
  - Presentation needs to be different to the portfolio. Visit the “Hub”- email from Emily Reeves for access to the finalist hub- RB emailed to all.
  - PP focussed on the Britain In Bloom route. NWIB route is same time (3hr) as BIB, but we won't have the flower festival at St Peters for NWIB, so we have a little spare time for other stuff if we need it. To be agreed closer to the judging date.
- 5. IYN Support Update:**
  - £600 in grants from William Dean Trust for the x4 new IYNs (£150 each) the new IYN’s still need to apply to WDT for this. IYNs: Community Garden, Margaret’s Place, Vale Allotments, Congleton Town Football Club. WDT grant for the 4 new IYN has been sent to CSG already. They will need to provide receipts for expenditure to receive the grant via CSG treasurer. Other IYN can apply themselves to WDT for a grant
  - £200 Streetscape budget used for new plants at the back of the Town Hall/ library area
  - £75 Streetscape budget used for the Food4Free Garden
- 6. Town Tidies:**
  - **Review 7<sup>th</sup> March-** Started at Congleton Park, 56 people attended, x2 beavers and x1 cub group- also children from Saint Mary’s and All Hallows schools.
  - **Upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> March-** In line with the National Spring Clean weekend- starting at the Community Garden, Lawton Street. Congleton Mayor and x2 presenters from Silk Radio and a representative from Co-op Funeral Care, bringing bottles of water and bananas- all confirmed. PP will lead some gardening work here on that day. RB has ordered more litter pickers and equipment. PP suggested to create a compost bin in the community garden out of pallets.
  - **Upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> April-** starting at the Church House, Buglawton. Potentially lots of planting to do here.



- The group would like to encourage more Town Councillors to attend future town tidy events.

## 7. AOB:

- **PP- BIB Seminar-** BIB theme for Wildlife is butterflies. PP would like to do an art project with children to create their own butterfly which will then be displayed around the town. Suggested to also have a project with schools to breed butterflies. ACTION- can we have two beds in the park to be planted as butterflies- currently have one, but would be nice to have two.
- **AMorrison- Art Project** (Artists: Nils Udo, Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Long)- project that uses natural form either at Astbury Mere or Congleton Park. Items collected on a walk to create a structure/ art piece. Looking at the artist's work and creating this on patterns of growth, uses numeracy and art skills. Also shows recycling art.
- **In Bloom Stickers-** MH has these and they will be used at the Town Tidy and other In Bloom events where they will be given out for people to wear.
- **Bin Sticker Competition-** Thanks for GW and Bromley Farm Youth Group for submitting some posters. JMac is going to email and chase for more entries and extend the deadline.
- **Canvas Bags-** 250 in total, all agreed to sell at £3.00. Having a stall at the April Makers Market (25<sup>th</sup>).
- **Community Garden-** Open Day/ work session with Patti on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Hi-Viz Vests-** Ordered x20 new Hi-Viz from DP Sportswear, with the In Bloom logo on the back- to be worn at litter picks. ACTION MH- get a quote to order more.
- **Easter Treats Day-** 7<sup>th</sup> April, from 10.30am-1.30pm in the Town Centre- In Bloom will be having a stall to plant some little pots- gazebo will be set up and everything provided- PP and U3A ladies confirmed.
- **Ivy on the Bears-** BE noticed this on the bears on the roundabout- this needs pulling out. Suggested for bears to be decorated for VE Day, St. Georges, St. Patricks and other Congleton events etc. To have litter pickers for the clean-up on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- **Portfolio-** 15 pages double sided (total), needed by 30<sup>th</sup> June for Britain In Bloom- don't give the judges any agenda of where they're going, as the route will be subject to change. A map can be included with this to highlight In Bloom areas over Congleton, but not to show the route. Likely to be the Monday/ Tuesday of the second week of August for Britain In Bloom judging date- we will know for definite in April. Print off terms of reference for In Bloom for next meeting.
- **Results for Britain In Bloom-** 16<sup>th</sup> October in Manchester.
- **Blue Heart Campaign-** To have a blue heart made from anything to be placed in a bed to show rewilding. AMorrison suggested to have this information out in BN and on social media. Create a blue heart poster that can be used at sites that will be kept wild. ACTION- speak to Chris Shields re: new children wildlife poster.
- **Entry form details-** MH sent- for Large Town and Authority Park Award.
- **Video of Congleton-** ACTION DB- to try and get a drone to film this- this only needs to be a very short video as people will lose interest.
- **Question from Member of Public to Community & Environment Committee-** to ask why CE Committee has only received one set of minutes since spring 2019 and can CE Committee press the In Bloom team to post these minutes.
- *All minutes that should have gone to CE committee have done after approved at In Bloom meeting. All IB minutes will shortly be available on the CTC website, on a working group page.*
- **B2B Gardens-** Theme of Euro 2020- PP currently has 8 confirmed. Opening this up to other uniformed groups such as cubs/ beavers etc.
- **Wheelbarrow Challenge-** 19 children wheelbarrows and 6 confirmed care homes- 25 total.
- **Website-** PP suggested for a separate Congleton In Bloom website, which her son can create. Hosting fees £120.
- **Plastic Free Congleton-** lead by Heather Seddon, very good work by this group.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting: TBC.

## Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

### NOTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 2 April 2020

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Time:** 3pm

**Present:** Councillor Suzy Firkin, Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Sally Holland, Councillor Kay Wesley, Barry Speed, Peter Aston, Jackie MacArthur, David McGifford

| Item | What was discussed / description  | Actions  | By who                  | By when                          |
|------|---|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies</b>  | Councillor Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Martin Amies, Cllr Jean Parry  |                         |                                  |
| 2.   | Chair welcomed the group  |  |                         |                                  |
| 3.   | Toolkits – from previous meeting (13 <sup>th</sup> Feb) agreed to look into developing an E-learning version of SLIC course (Green Learning for Congleton). Discussion held around the Middlesbrough toolkit and creating something bespoke and relevant for Congleton using the presentation by Barry Fox and the basis for the course development.      | Agreed to put together a brief to go out to potential e-learning creative designers. KW to develop a brief and send to relevant freelancers. JM to send the brief to local companies and Chamber of Commerce. Copy of brief <u>here</u><br>Deadline for responses 17 <sup>th</sup> April. Report back to meeting on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – asking companies to be prepared to deliver project by late June. Need both a light-weight dip into subject approach and a more detailed learning materials. | Kay Wesley<br><br>JMacA | Sent 6/04/20<br><br>Sent 6/04/20 |
| 4.   | Carbon Footprint – Barry Speed reported back on the work being carried out by himself and Cllr Mark Rogan on creating a baseline understanding of the Carbon Footprint of Congleton Town Council (2018-19). BS warned that there was lots of uncertainty and difficulty comparing like with like, and has explained his methodology in a separate report. | Urged team to review the methodology document. Methodology and Initial findings document both attached   | All                     | By 23/04/20                      |



|    |  |  |  |   |
|----|--|--|--|---|
|    | <p>Two biggest elements by far – Town Hall gas/ electricity and Vehicle Usage. To find out more about vehicle use contracts and to seek any opportunities for trials of greener vehicles.</p> <p>Ultimate aim to reduce carbon usage, not spread it. Suggested seeking advice from Hero Renewable Technologies who attended the first green fayre for suggestions.</p> <p>Green Procurement – big area – Dan Frith has offered to share his knowledge with the group</p> | <p>Add energy use and reduction as a regular item on the Town Hall and Assets Committee agenda. Also vehicle usage and contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Aston to look into Bio Fuel options</li> <li>• Kay/Suzy to look into electricity use at the museum</li> <li>• Suzy to consult Heritage groups on updates for environmental measures for listed buildings.</li> <li>• Jackie M to contact Hero renewables</li> </ul> <p>Jackie M to invite to the next meeting</p> | <p>PA<br/>KW/SF<br/><br/>SF<br/><br/>JMacA<br/>JMacA</p> | <p>23/04/20<br/>23/04/20<br/><br/>23/04/20<br/><br/>23/04/20<br/>23/04/20</p> |
| 5. | <p>Off Setting – on hold for a future meeting</p> <p>Cllr Suzy Firkin recommended that group should look at the toolkit from the IEMA</p>  | <p>Cllr Suzy Firkin to send a link for the group to review</p>   | <p>SF<br/>ALL</p>  | <p>23/04/20</p>   |
| 6. | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Transport Group needs to meet to discuss improvements to bus services in Congleton and ideas to put forward for potential grant funding.</p>  | <p>Integrated Sustainable Transport Group to meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.</p>  |  |   |
| 3  | <p>Dates of Next Meeting</p>   | <p>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 5pm – 6.30pm</p>   | <p>All</p>   |   |

## Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

### NOTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 23 April 2020

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Time:** 5pm

**Present:** Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Sally Holland, Councillor Kay Wesley, Barry Speed, Peter Aston, Jackie MacArthur, David McGifford

**Guests:** Cllr Robert Douglas, Dan Firth, Jackie Potts, Barry Fox

| Item | What was discussed / description  | Actions  | By who | By when |
|------|---|--|--------|---------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies</b>  | Councillor Suzy Firkin, Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Martin Amies, Cllr Jean Parry  |        |         |
| 2.   | Chair welcomed the group and introductions  |  |        |         |
| 3.   | Green Procurement: The group welcomed Dan Firth, Head of Procurement for Ground Control. Dan has had many years of experience in sustainable procurement and kindly offered to share some of his experience and lessons on sustainable procurement. The group was interested in this to see how we could reduce the carbon and environmental impact of the Town Council through more sustainable purchasing.<br><br>A copy of the presentation is attached. | Reconsider the Town Council's procurement strategy – where appropriate build in higher standards for responsible procurement such as using materials from sustainable sources, consider local purchases (less mileage), ethics of company – avoid modern slavery.<br><br>Check purchases to look for improvements such as Buy concentrated.<br><br>Develop a plan with steps over time and make it public – see slide 13.<br><br>Share findings of Sustainable procurement with local businesses – possible role in educating/leading<br><br>View free on-line training courses @ <a href="http://www.supplychainschool.co.uk">www.supplychainschool.co.uk</a> |        |         |

|    |  | Town Council Officers to meet to consider the opportunities for more sustainable procurement and report back to the group.  |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|
| 4. | <p>Carbon Footprint – Barry Speed updated the group on progress over the past three weeks.</p> <p>Reminded the group that the Carbon Footprint of electricity will come down over time, but gas will not reduce. Question raised about just how green the electric supplier to the Town Hall is.</p> <p>More work needed to understand the waste processes – when working out the carbon footprint it was assumed that all waste went to landfill, the group believed it was largely incinerated.</p> <p>Also noted the public bins are waste collected by CTC, but the waste is not created by CTC – so although a good indicator for the carbon footprint of the town, it is questionable whether it should be included in the Town Council footprint.</p> <p>Barry asked that everyone should look closely at the methodology.</p> <p>Bio-fuel – Peter Aston – not been able to track the Crewe based company – this was about using catering and cooking oil for fuel</p> <p>Museum energy usage – report back from Cllr Kay Wesley – same energy supplier as the Town Hall. All electric. Temperature needs to be regulated for the artefacts so on 24/7. As had been expecting to move had not prioritised changing the system</p> | <p>Jackie to contact Hero Renewables to look at ways to reduce energy consumption in the Town Hall – company to meet Mark Worthington TH Manager.</p> <p>Jackie Potts to supply details of the electric company and their green credentials. This was checked recently.</p> <p>Send email to Ralph Kemp to clarify how the public waste bins waste is disposed of.</p> <p>Need to agree the way forward on this – agree at next meeting. Suggest useful indicator but not to be in the tally of the Town Council generated carbon footprint.</p> <p>All to read methodology and send questions or comments to Barry</p> <p>Will continue to see if the company still exists.</p> <p>Museum indicated it may need help with looking at this – see if possible to get Hero Renewables to view the museum when viewing the Town Hall.</p> <p>A proposal was sent out for companies to quote against. Two companies have come back with</p> | <p>JMacA – MW</p> <p>JMacA- RB</p> <p>All</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>All</p> <p>Peter Aston</p> <p>JMacA and MW</p> <p>KW/ SF/ JMacA</p> | <p>April 2020</p> <p>April 2020</p> <p>Next meeting</p> <p>23/04/20</p> <p>May 2020</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Invited and sorting a date</p> <p>To agree late April early</p> |
| 5. | E-Learning – creating an e-learning package to give greater exposure to the Congleton Sustainable Living Course as   |   |   |   |



|    |  |   |                           |  |
|----|--|---|---------------------------|--|
|    | discussed at the meeting on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> April. | proposals. These are now being considered in more depth and investigated to understand exactly what the offer will be. The group will be kept informed. |                           | May. Looking for delivery this summer. |
| 6. | Off Setting – on hold for a future meeting             | Add to next agenda  | JMacA                     |  |
| 7. | Dates of Next Meeting                                  | TBA – Town Council officers to meet first to look at the implications of the sustainable procurement  | JMacA to send out details |  |



## Minutes Health and Wellbeing Working Group

### Zoom Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 - 3pm

Present: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jackie MacArthur

Guests: Clare Foster (SWaNS) and Laura Whittaker (Visyon)

Apologies – Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Mark Rogan

Note: Nick from Mentell and Gaz Lewis from Nailed it were also invited but were unable to make this meeting.

| Issue  | Action   | By Whom           | When         |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| To receive notes of meeting of 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020                           | Noted at Community and Environment – 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020   |                   |              |
| <b>Matters Arising</b><br>Update on funding for Visyon to extend upper age limit to 25 | Offering Open Access up to the age of 25 – can access by contacting Visyon. On-going search for funding to open up sessions to 18-25 year olds | All to make aware | ASAP         |
| Update from Doctor Ian Hulme   | On hold  | SF/KW             | Post crisis  |
| Update on visit to Crisis Café in Chester  | Successful 1 <sup>st</sup> visit on the 27 <sup>th</sup> February. Follow up visit will be arranged when possible                              | JM                | When allowed |
| Update on Level 7 Mental health practitioner in Congleton                              | Awaiting details   | JM                | Keep chasing |
| Julie Walker Connected Communities   | Initial work on table completed – but will need revisiting post COVID-19 crisis as priorities may have changed                                 | JM and Mike Smith | June 2020    |

|   |  |                             |                          |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Page for Town Council Website   | Completed and under review   | JM/KW                       | Ongoing                  |
| Living Well leaflet   | On hold until social distancing is relaxed   | JM/KW                       | When society open        |
| Calendar of Mental Health Events  | Agree messages to go out on appropriate dates  | JM- Working group           | Ongoing                  |
| <b>COVID – Mental Health Needs and actions</b>  |  |                             |                          |
| Well reported that increased mental health issues during COVID-19. How can the Town Council help?   | Do we need a virtual mental health hub to help people access services online/via phone as part of COVID-19 emergency offer<br><b>Establish the need – speak to.</b>                                      |                             |                          |
| Invited Visyon, Mentell, Gaz Lewis and SWANS to the meeting. Mentell – continuing circle meeting on-line (zoom)   | a) Knutsford - Julie W to get a contact for JMac<br>b) NHS Cheshire and Wirral Mental Health Urgency Mental Health Line.   | JW/ JMacA<br>JMacA          | April 2020<br>April 2020 |
| Gaz Lewis – continuing contacts via social media  | c) Dr Ian Hulme<br><b>Establish Processes</b><br>Who would be able to refer? GPs, Mental Health line, COVID-19 Call line - self referral? Criteria?  | JMacA                       | April 2020               |
| Visyon – more online and phone services. Open Access up to 25 years. Feel provision in place but people not accessing – referrals dropped. Expecting a peak to come.                                | <b>Establish the offer</b><br>Considering SWaNS CIC or similar organisation being able to offer telephone or video conferencing support for families or individuals. 6 x 30-minute session. Pay as used. | For group to approve<br>All | Proposal paper<br>7/5/20 |
| SWaNS CIC <a href="https://swanscic.org/">https://swanscic.org/</a> – offering 30-minute sessions via video link - blocks of 6 one per week/fortnight. Can start within a week or so of a referral. | <b>Funding Opportunities</b><br>One of top priorities in gap in care community services in Congleton to highlight to Cheshire East   | KW/JMacA                    | for 27/4/20 (done)       |
|   | Paper to Mayors and Chairs in absence of CE Committee  | KW/JMacA                    | 7/5/20                   |

|  |   |                        |                                 |
|--|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p><b>Gaps in Care Community Provision</b><br/>CEC has asked for local intelligence on the gaps in the Care Community. Recognised that in addition to Mental Health, Domestic Abuse is a growing national problem during the COVID-19 lock-down and this should also be prioritised as a gap in the care community</p> | <p>Send information on need for additional mental health support</p> <p>Investigate further what the need is and the best way that this working group/Town Council could support. Domestic Abuse support to be added to the list of needs to send to CEC – with additional follow-up information as appropriate</p> | <p>KW/JM</p> <p>KW</p> | <p>27/4/20</p> <p>April/May</p> |
| <p><b>Date of next scheduled meeting</b></p>   | <p>25 June 2020 – 3.30pm – 5pm</p>  |                        |                                 |

## Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group

### NOTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Time:** 4pm – 5pm

**Location:** Via Zoom

**In Attendance** – Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Ant Bolding (Active Transport Congleton) and Jackie MacArthur

| Item | Discussion   | Action   | By Who |
|------|--|--|--------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies:</b>  | None.  |        |
| 3    | <p>The meeting called to discuss Public Transport and to form an informal response to Cheshire East Council's request for information on priorities for improving bus services in Congleton. At this stage CEC stressed it did not want Town and Parish Councils to consult with the public or service providers, simply to get ideas that CEC would research. Initial deadline was end of April – but due to the COVID-19 crisis this has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Considering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CEC has £300k to invest in buses across the area</li> <li>2. Could Congleton enter bid for Electric Bus Scheme</li> </ol> <p>Discussion held around current services, opportunities for improvement, what would make people choose to use buses.</p> | <p>The Integrated Transport Group put together a bus improvement wish list and has sent this to Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>Cllr KW to send after meeting.</p> |        |
| 4    | <b>Date of next meeting</b>  | <b>To be agreed</b>  |        |



## Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group

### NOTES OF MEETING – TO DISCUSS EMERGENCY MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CONGLETON DUE TO COVID-19

**Date:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020      **Time:** 11am      **Location:** Via Zoom

**In Attendance** – Cllr Suzie Akers Smith (Chair), Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr David Brown, Ant Bolding (Active Transport Congleton) David McGifford and Jackie MacArthur

| Item | Discussion  | Action  | By Who         |
|------|---|---|----------------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies:</b>   | None.   |                |
|      | <b>Objective:</b> To reach a consensus on the changes temporary and experimental changes to the use of Highways that should be recommended for Congleton. These recommendations will be forwarded to full Council for approval on the 28 <sup>th</sup> May. | Minutes of meeting to circulate on 21 May.<br>Committee paper to circulate to Councillors for the meeting | JMAc to draft. |

### DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

|   | What                           | Where  | Why  | Recommendation  | Comments                                 |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | 20 Mph Speed limit Town Centre | Town Centre roads – Market Street, Lawton Street, Canal Street to New Street, Chapel Street, Kinsey Street, Market Square, Bank Street, Mill Street, Swan Bank, West Street, Waggs Road, The Crescent, West Street, Antrobus | To create a safer environment for town centre users needing to social distance and to encourage more walking and cycling within the centre by having a more active travel friendly vibe. | Town centre roads in the area identified in Map A should have a 20mph maximum limited applied. Pedestrian area is not shown as part of the through network of road. Access is for loading and unloading only from 4pm until 10am. | See attached map with highlighted roads. |

|    |                                  | Street and road leading off Antrobus Street.  |   |   |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 2  | 10 mph Speed limit Broadhurst Ln | Broadhurst Lane (off Clayton Bypass)  | Extremely narrow residential road leading to a busy employment site   | This should be an Advisory 10mph zone.  | Mill owner agrees and would support. Residents signed petition requesting   |
| 3  | 20 Mph Residential               | Residential Areas around Congleton (all non-through routes)   | Mentioned in the Government guidance – aimed at encouraging more people to walk and cycle by creating safer streets | This is not an immediate priority – concentrate on the Town Centre first – see if grassroots pressure grows for advisory 20mph. Would be good, but not a COVID-19 priority.   | Possibly encourage residential roads to take up ability to close their roads for designated play days <a href="http://www.playengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/StreetPlayReport1web-4.pdf">http://www.playengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/StreetPlayReport1web-4.pdf</a> |
| 4. | Cycling in pedestrian area       | Consideration given to allow cyclists to share space in the pedestrian area. High Street, Bridge Street, Duke Street. | Part of signed route. Not all cyclists can easily walk with bike.   | Not Recommended. May be more people queuing in the pedestrian area, pressure on space for pedestrians social distancing, better to have safe cycle routes that avoid the pedestrian area for those wanting to use as a cut-through. | This idea was not supported by traders working in the town. Cycling into town and using the bike ranks is supported, but not using the pedestrian area as cut though was not. Also concern raised for pedestrians with mobility or sight difficulties.                                      |
| 5. | Widening Pavements               | Mill Street -   | Very narrow pavements – no space to queue near shops  | Recommend pavements widened. Add a disabled bay and loading bay at the wide area near the bus stop at the bottom of Mill Street.  | This was outside of the area for the public realm improvements but has been recognised as a need for years  |
| 6. | Widening pavements               | Swan Bank   | Narrow pavements - not easy for the public to   | Recommend working with highways to create pedestrian passing points   | Note: Shops do not believe it is an issue as so little footfall in this road. JMacA and Ant to work on a plan   |



|     |                           |  | wait for shops or pass each other.   | by losing some of the parking space   |  |
|-----|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 7.  | Widening Pavements        | West Street  | Not very wide pavements to enable passing.   | Recommend pavements widened both sides – particularly from West Street Car Park towards the Town Centre   | Used as a route for people walking into town. Many businesses more evening economy.  |
| 8.  | Widening Pavements        | High Street  | Not very wide pavements to enable people to pass. Not practical to only use one side for each direction as hard to cross the road.       | Recommend bus stop temporarily moved to the bus station. Pedestrian passing points introduced which will mean losing some spaces – but also spaces for disabled, deliveries | Jackie and Ant Bolding to look at creating a plan for multi-use of this area.<br><br>Suggestion to make it all pedestrian was seen as too drastic at current time – but longer term some re-imagining of the High Street should be carried out with the aim of making it better for businesses and people. |
| 9.  | Widening Pavements        | Market Street  | Popular route from Morrisons to the Town Centre and Bus Station to Town Centre   | Recommend widening the footpath running alongside Morrisons and B&M – work with Highways on what is possible.   | Noted that bus turning circle needs to be maintained and access to large delivery lorries to Morrisons   |
| 10. | Widening Pavements        | Lawton Street  | Not very wide pavements need crossing points. Conscious that many of the businesses are takeaways and rely on quick turnaround of spaces | Recommend creating pedestrian passing points, which will need some of the parking space.  | Western Power will be using the parking bays for electric cables. Need to manage conflicting needs   |
| 11  | Safer Routes for Cyclists | Mountbatten Way Junction with Market Street and Worrall Street | Make it safer for through cyclists not to cut through town   | Recommend adding Advance Cycle Stop Lines so that cyclists are ahead of the traffic at the red lights   | Ideally would like to see introduced for all traffic lights at all main junctions in Congleton   |

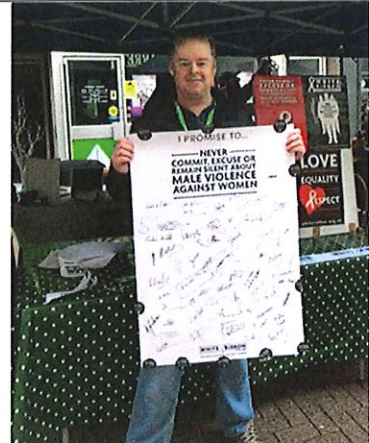


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|----|------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 12 | Safer Route<br>for all | Bottom of Canal Street<br>(Albert's Place) | Concern about how<br>narrow the pavement is<br>next to the music shop | Encourage pedestrians to<br>use the Community Garden<br>route to Canal Street | This junction needs looking at for safety – believe<br>there was section 106 Funding from Seddons for<br>the area (D. McG checking) |
|----|------------------------|--|---|---|---|

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

|  |   |                 |             |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>                      | <b>Community &amp; Environment Committee</b>  |                 |             |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>           | <b>4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 7pm</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>Zoom</b> |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>                     | <b>Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Paul Duffy, Chief Officer David McGifford</b>  |                 |             |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>        | <b>13<br/>White Ribbon Working Group Update</b>   |                 |             |
| <b>CURRENT STATUS</b>                  | In January 2019 CTC agreed that it would like to become a White Ribbon Town and in September 2019 the Council agreed to set up a working Group and pay the fee to become an accredited White Ribbon Council. This report explains progress since then and the next steps.   |                 |             |
| <b>BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS TO DATE</b> | <p>White Ribbon UK was founded in 2005 and is part of a global movement to end male violence against women. It is a charity that works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence.</p> <p><b>The Congleton White Ribbon Working Group is</b> - Cllrs P Duffy (Chair), M Rogan, G Hayes, K Wesley, Chief Officer D McGifford, R Walton and P Munro.</p> <p>The Group has created an Action Plan for CTC for the next 4 years. This consists of 4 Sections:</p> <p><b>Section 1: Strategic Leadership</b> – ensuring policy and practice is compatible with the behaviours required, and creating White Ribbon Ambassadors</p> <p><b>Section 2: Engagement</b> – training Councillors and staff, then reaching out more widely e.g. through Congleton Partnership.</p> <p><b>Section 3: Culture</b> – taking action to stamp out sexism and a willingness to report and deal with inappropriate behaviours</p> <p><b>Section 4: Raising Awareness</b> – outreach into the wider community through a broader Communications Plan, encouraging other organisations to become White Ribbon Accredited</p> <p>The Action Plan has been reviewed by the White Ribbon organisation and is subject to minor updates before approval which should lead to Accreditation.</p> <p>Members of the White Ribbon Working Group joined a national webinar to learn from others around the country such as a human rights campaigner and a head teacher about the actions they are taking to change attitudes and behaviours.</p> <p>The Group has run stalls on a Maker's Market and on the Christmas Fair in November 2019 to mark White Ribbon Day on the 25th. Domestic violence usually reaches a peak in the Christmas Holiday season.</p> |                 |             |

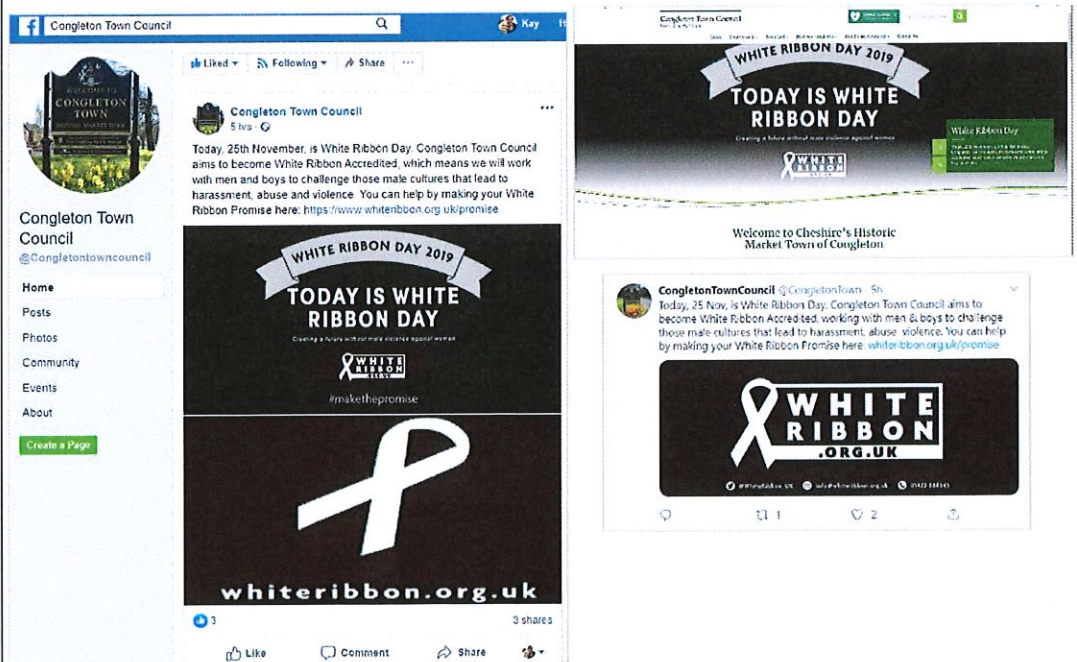




The team running the stalls were impressed by the courage of the many women who came to the stall and mentioned having been victims of abuse and violence.

Over 150 men and women in Congleton signed the White Ribbon Promise to "Never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women."

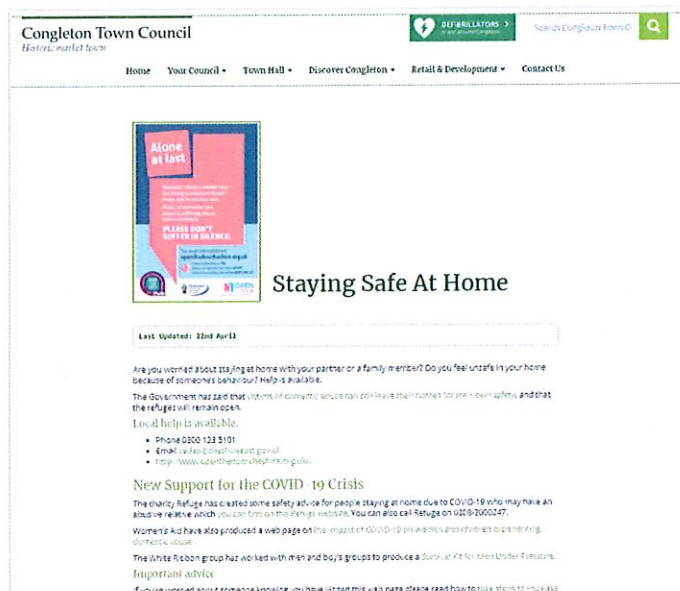
In addition, CTC featured White Ribbon Day on its website and social media to raise public awareness:





As part of the COVID-19 response the White Ribbon Group met and discussed the impact of the lockdown on violence, especially domestic abuse. The national Charity Refuge has reported a 10-fold increase in calls to its helpline since lockdown began.

The Group resolved to add a page to the COVID-19 section of the CTC website called 'Staying Safe at Home', including resources from White Ribbon and local provider, Cheshire Without Abuse, to help individuals and families defuse potentially dangerous situations in the home. This page was live the next day.



The next action for the Working Group is training for Council Staff and Councillors on the White Ribbon objectives, values and behaviours.

## NEXT STEP

For Council staff and Councillors to attend the training, which will be run as a Zoom meeting.

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

|                                     |  |                 |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>                   | <b>Community and Environment Committee</b>   |                 |      |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>        | 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 7pm  | <b>LOCATION</b> | Zoom |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>                  | David McGifford Chief Officer  |                 |      |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>     | <b>14</b><br><b>COVID-19 LEADS GROUP</b>   |                 |      |
| <b>Background</b>                   | <p>The previous Community and Environment Committee took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, just before the lock-down due to COVID-19. At that meeting Councillors were given a verbal update on suggestions from the extended Health and Wellbeing working group that had met earlier that day to discuss actions that may need to be considered within the Congleton Community. This paper is for information only and is a follow up from the meeting on actions taken.</p> <p>The Congleton COVID-19 group consists of the Town Mayor, Chair of Community and Environment, various Town Council officers and representatives of Congleton Community Projects, Ruby's Fund, New Life Church, St John's Parish Centre, United Reform Church, Bromley Farm Community Centre, Chappell Centre, Visyon, U3A, Cheshire Voluntary Service, Age UK, Cheshire East Social Services, Cheshire East Connected Communities Team, Plus Dane and Congleton Police.</p> <p>The Group has been keeping in contact via emails and initially weekly and now fortnightly zoom meetings with the idea of sharing knowledge, information and getting a cross section of opinions on community issues.</p> <p>We recognise that we are fortunate to have a variety of community groups and passionate volunteers in Congleton who have endeavoured to support the needs of our residents during this extremely difficult time .</p> |                 |      |
| <b>Actions taken as a Community</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Congleton Community COVID-19 call line was set up and is staffed from 11am – 7pm seven days a week. It is staffed by a mixture of councillors, staff and volunteers. The line has helped 74 people. In the past two weeks the number of calls has decreased. A new rota is being issued with the line diverted to the Town Council number from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and the remaining hours covered by councillors and volunteers. Although calls have dramatically reduced, the line will remain open to help people if needed.</li> <li>2. New COVID-19 pages were added to the Town Council website packed with information for residents and business on Frequently Asked Questions, Health, Shopping, Staying Safe at Home, Financial Matters, Bereavement and things to do. These are still being updated.</li> </ol>  |                 |      |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The Town Hall was used as a the base for a Volunteer Food Hub from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March when it moved to the Vale Club. The Town Hall continues to hold some food parcels for emergencies and is also working with Vanilla In AllSeasons to deliver chilled fresh cooked meals to 106 members of the community who previously attended luncheon clubs part funded by the Town Council or have been identified and added by New Life Church Storehouse team. Vanilla in AllSeasons donated the first 400 meals. The Town Council is now covering the cost of the raw materials needed for the weekly meals</li> <li>4. Residents are now being directed through to the Cheshire East People Helping People helpline which basically links local volunteers to residents who need help.</li> <li>5. Information pages filled with Congleton based information was prepared for advertorials in the Congleton Chronicle. When the distribution company was able to distribute a COVID-19 edition of Bear Necessities was produced delivery started on the Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April to 11,500 households.</li> <li>6. The Town Council has been running the COVID-19 Community Facebook page and has also increased activities across social media</li> <li>7. At the Town Council Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 a number of measures were identified help make Congleton town centre a safer location for all as lockdown is relaxed. These are now with Cheshire East Highways.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Proposal</b> | To Note the report   |



## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

|                                 |  |                 |      |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>               | <b>Community and Environment Committee</b>   |                 |      |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>    | 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 7pm  | <b>LOCATION</b> | Zoom |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>              | Jackie MacArthur – Town Events & Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer  |                 |      |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>15</b><br><b>Moody Hall, Moody Street</b>   |                 |      |
| <b>Background</b>               | <p>Moody Hall is a grade 2 listed building in Moody Street. Until a few years ago it was Chapel Brook House Care Home. It was also once the site of Congleton's first girls' school, founded by Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy. The building occupies an important site in a conservation area close to Congleton Town Centre. For more details on the history of the site see Appendix 1.</p> <p>Over the past months there has been concern about the deterioration of the building. The Town Council's Anti-Social Behaviour working group in partnership with the Police and Cheshire East have made several requests for the property to be made secure and the property has been re-boarded several times.</p> <p>Various members of the Town Council – including Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith, Margaret Gartside, Sally Holland, Amanda Martin, Denis Murphy and Kay Wesley as well as members of Elizabeth's Group and Congleton Museum are keen to make sure that this important listed building is maintained, has a purpose and is a positive asset to our town. The Chair of Elizabeth's group, Susan Munro, has been particularly active on this project and the building forms part of the Elizabeth Heritage Trail.</p> <p>In July 2018 Cheshire East Council gave the current owner of the site Mr Tamber of Ownitshareit, Wolverhampton, permission to turn the site into 14 assisted living apartments to enable elderly or disabled people to live relatively independently.</p> <p>The planning application contains conditions that the special character, architectural interest and the integrity of the listed building is preserved. In January 2019 some minor changes were made to the plans and these were approved in June 2019. In October 2019 detailed design documents were submitted to Cheshire East and these need to be approved before any works can commence.</p> <p>In addition to Councillors, some local people have also expressed concerns and want to make sure that this listed building is not allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that it become unviable to repair or becomes an unsafe structure.</p> |                 |      |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Next Steps</b> | <p>Congleton Town Council, in its Business Plan 2019- 2023, Strategic Objective 04 (4.5) has committed to 'Awareness and Protection of listed buildings and local listed buildings in Congleton'.</p> <p>Following the concern about the deterioration of Moody Hall building in the centre of Congleton it is proposed that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Town Council contacts the owner and Cheshire East Council Planning department to understand more about the delays to the proposed redevelopment and what the owner's intentions and timescales are.</li> <li>2. The Town Council works with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and the owner to agree a plan to secure the building, improve the visual aspects of the site and to prevent further deterioration.</li> <li>3. The Town Council establishes whether the owner is interested in selling the property and if so to explore options for the property to be used for community use such as a heritage, arts or museum.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Proposal</b>   | To approve the actions 1-3 identified in the proposed next steps.   |



## Moody Hall

Moody Hall like the other Georgian merchant town houses situated throughout the town represents the growth in the prosperity of the town generated by Congleton's industrial revolution. This enabled the town's leading industrial families to construct and occupy houses of consequence often situated at the centre of a small agricultural estate. In the 1794 schedule of Congleton properties of the 19 acres of lands associated with Moody Hall nearly 2 acres is described as being gardens and pleasure grounds.

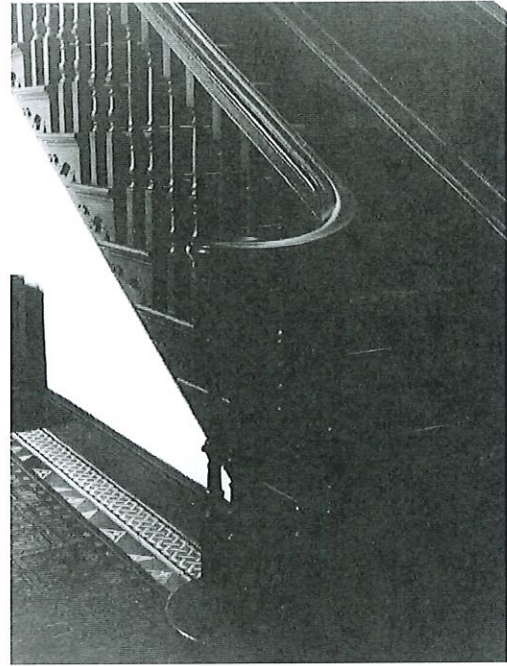
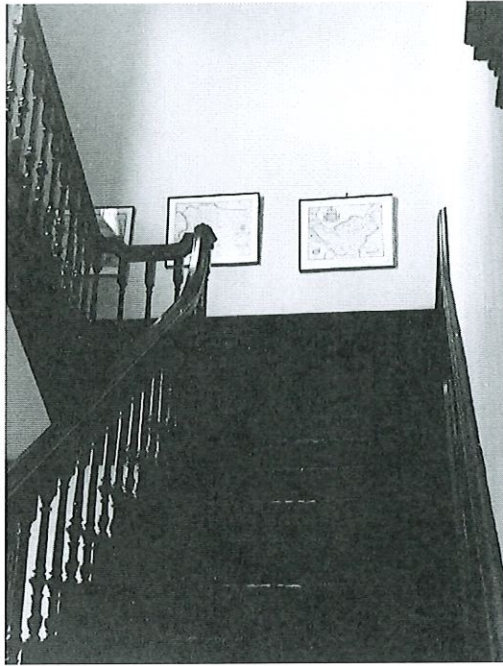
Of all Congleton's merchants mansions Moody Hall is probably the most complete, the complex still comprising the original Georgian house, service wing, coach house and stables.



*This picture, taken at the end of the 19th century, when Dr Moss occupied the house, shows how little the house has changed except for the boundary wall to Moody Street and the wall separating the house from the stable yard and offices.*

An impression of the quality of the original interior of the house can be gained from these photographs below of the main staircase.





*Moody Hall Main Staircase.*

The heritage value of a house such as Moody Hall is not just in the quality of the architecture and the contribution the building makes to the streetscape of which it is an integral part, but also in its occupants and the contribution they have made to both local and national life. The one occupant of Moody Hall who has recently come to prominence is suffragist Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy. It was from this house between 1867 and 1873 that she ran her school for young ladies.

Soon after the house was built it was occupied by industrialist Robert Hodgson around 1776. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Hodgson was not involved in the textile industry. His father Brian Hodgson had long been associated with the Derbyshire copper and lead mining industries and became a partner of Charles Roe in the Macclesfield Copper Company. Robert inherited his father's interest in the company and it was from Moody Hall that he managed both the Havannah and Bosley sites of this growing international concern. Whilst resident at Moody Hall Robert was twice Mayor of Congleton during 1798-90 and 1803-04, and played host to James Watt when he visited Congleton to offer advice on the installation of steam engines at the Havannah manufactory.

Robert lived at Moody Hall with his wife Mildred Porteus, who was a second cousin of George Washington, 1st President of the United States. Mildred was also distantly related to Confederate General Robert E Lee. In 1853 Francis Dora the grand-daughter of Robert and Mildred's son also called Robert married the 13th Earl of Strathmore an ancestor of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and therefore Queen Elizabeth II. In 1777 Robert's sister Ellen had Edward Hawkins, who has recently been admitted as a partner in the Macclesfield Company their son Edward jnr. on selling his interest in the company was subsequently appointed in 1826 Keeper of Antiquities at the British Museum.

A later occupant of the house was George Reade and his family, the owner of the Stonehouse Green/Brook Mills complex of textile mills, who was also the guardian of the youthful Sir Thomas Reade, later to become guardian of Napoleon on St Helena and British Consul General to Tunis. In his later capacity he worked closely with Keeper of Antiquities Hawkins in the excavation of Carthage.



**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

|                                 |   |                 |      |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>               | Community, Environment and Services Committee   |                 |      |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>    | 4th June 2020<br>7.00 pm  | <b>LOCATION</b> | Zoom |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>              | Cllr Suzie Akers Smith  |                 |      |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>16</b><br><b>Traffic free cycle lanes into and out of Congleton.</b>   |                 |      |
| <b>CURRENT STATUS</b>           | <p>It is almost a year since Cllr Margaret Gartside, Patti Pinto and I presented the ideas from the campaign group Living Streets regarding improving our liveable environment for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>CES/O7/1920 resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Congleton should sign up to Living Streets</li><li>b) Further discussions, including professional advice, needed on actions that the town can implement as part of Living Streets and towards an integrated and sustainable transport policy.</li></ul> <p>This proposal is part of these measures to improve the environment to enable and encourage the uptake of cycling for short journeys.</p>  |                 |      |
| <b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>   | <p>In 2016 Congleton was named as the best start stage ever for a Tour of Britain segment, people came out in their droves to cycle around, watch people cycling and were encouraged to cycle more. The lack of traffic free infrastructure which provides safety for people to cycle is a barrier to people cycling even for short journeys.</p> <p>With the latest government investment of £5 billion there is an opportunity for Congleton to apply for funding to create a network of traffic free cycle routes and cycle lanes linking the whole of Congleton to the town centre, schools, the leisure centre and green open spaces through active travel.</p> <p>The latest COVID-19 emergency measures has given Councils with responsibility for highways the opportunity to introduce temporary cycle lanes to enable people to cycle instead of driving for short journeys, with less consultation times than in the past. Traffic speeds are a barrier to people cycling. Putting in temporary cycle lanes and paths to connect Congleton for active travel is a possibility, and if the measures prove a success in their community they can become permanent.</p> <p>Whilst cars and other vehicles are always going to be an important and sometime essential mode of transport, this is an opportunity to explore ways to make it safer and healthier for the community to use alternative modes of transport for short journeys as well as for pleasure and exercise. If more people choose to cycle because it is felt to be safe and convenient, this will reduce the traffic and make it easier for those who need to come into town using their cars.</p> <p>The negative impact on car-centric lifestyles creates a social burden. The reduction in physical activity and the rise of obesity are two reasons why today's children are the first generation not expected to live as long as their parents. Regular exercise has never been more important and best done when it fits nicely into our daily routine.</p> |                 |      |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | <p>We are also increasingly aware of the devastating cost of air pollution, caused by motor vehicles, to our health and also that almost 5,000 pedestrians are killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads each year.</p> <p>The time has come for a more effective approach and putting these measures in place. This will not only demonstrate our commitment to fight climate change we will create liveable communities that encourage people to walk and cycle into their town centres, reducing the number of car journeys, and create a healthier, more equal society.</p> <p>Some additional information is attached in appendix</p> |
| <b>PROPOSAL</b> | <p>To ask Cheshire East Council to evaluate the feasibility of temporary or permanent cycle ways along the roads listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both sides of Mountbatten Way,</li> <li>• Rood Hill, Clayton Bypass, Buxton Road, Park Lane, Leek Road, Canal Street.</li> </ul>  |



# Covid-19 emergency measures for cycling into Congleton town centre.

Congleton has no safe cycle access into the town centre.

Creating temporary cycle lanes on the roads into town will provide safety for people to cycle for short journeys and reduce car use.

These measure will allow parents to feel their children will be safe cycling on their own around Congleton, reducing car use.

Bridge Street with a ban on cycles between 10am and 4pm means that the cycle route is along the Mountbatten Way dual carriageway, which is a significant barrier for people to feel safe cycling.

No cycle signs and cyclists dismount signs in the pedestrian area are a barrier to people cycling and discriminate those who have disabilities that are not obvious, disabled cyclists and children who cycle.



## Coronavirus: Push for cycling despite safety fears

19 May 2020



UK towns and cities must be made cycle-friendly if a change to commuting habits is to succeed, campaigners say.

Cycling and walking are being backed as alternatives to public transport for people not able to work from home, are encouraged back to work.

The latest government survey data before lockdown showed three in five people thought cycling on the road was too dangerous – 61%.

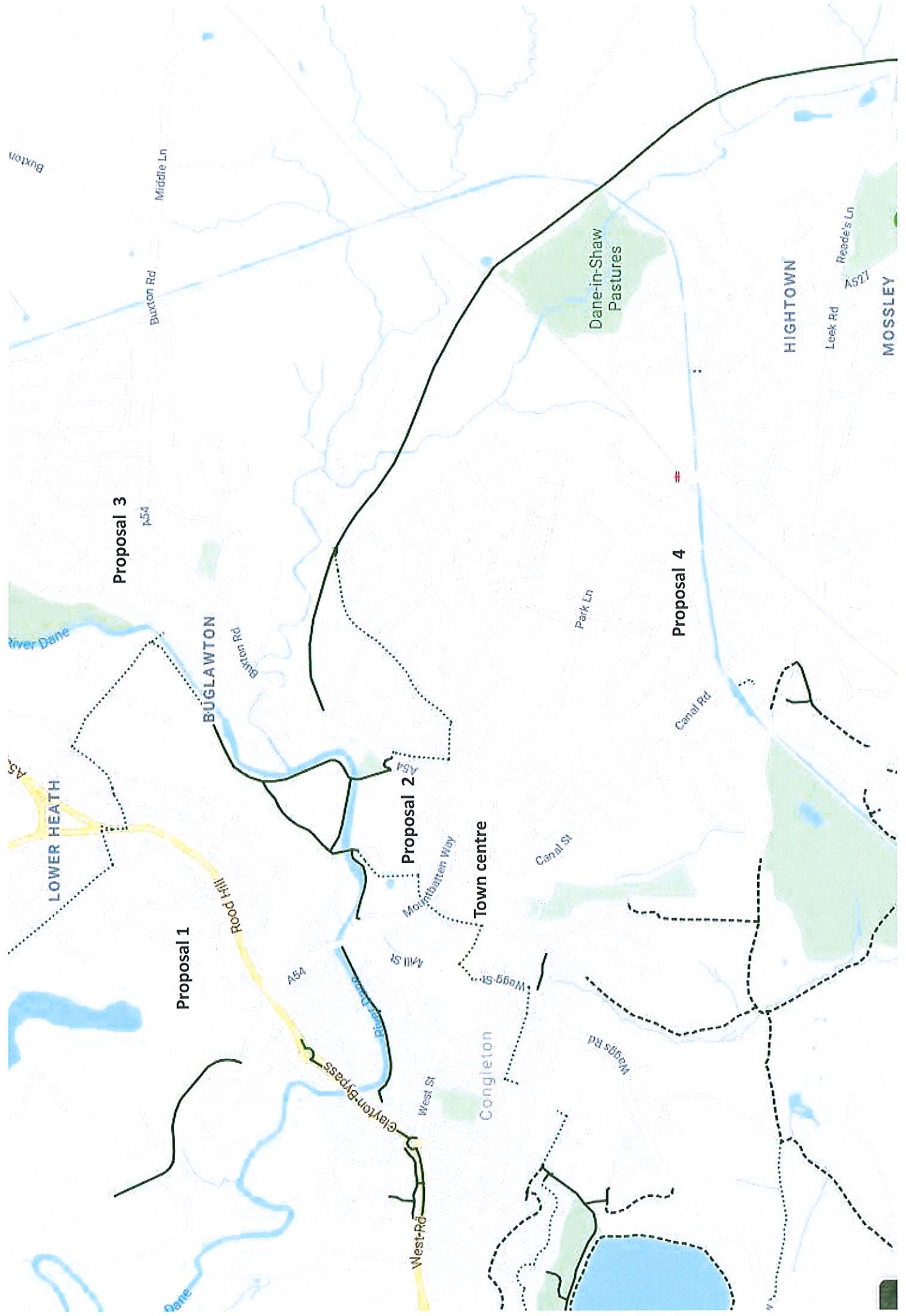
Campaign groups said infrastructure improvements would be key.

The government has released a £250m “emergency active travel fund” aimed at helping towns prevent overcrowding as lockdown is lifted and it has issued guidance to councils.



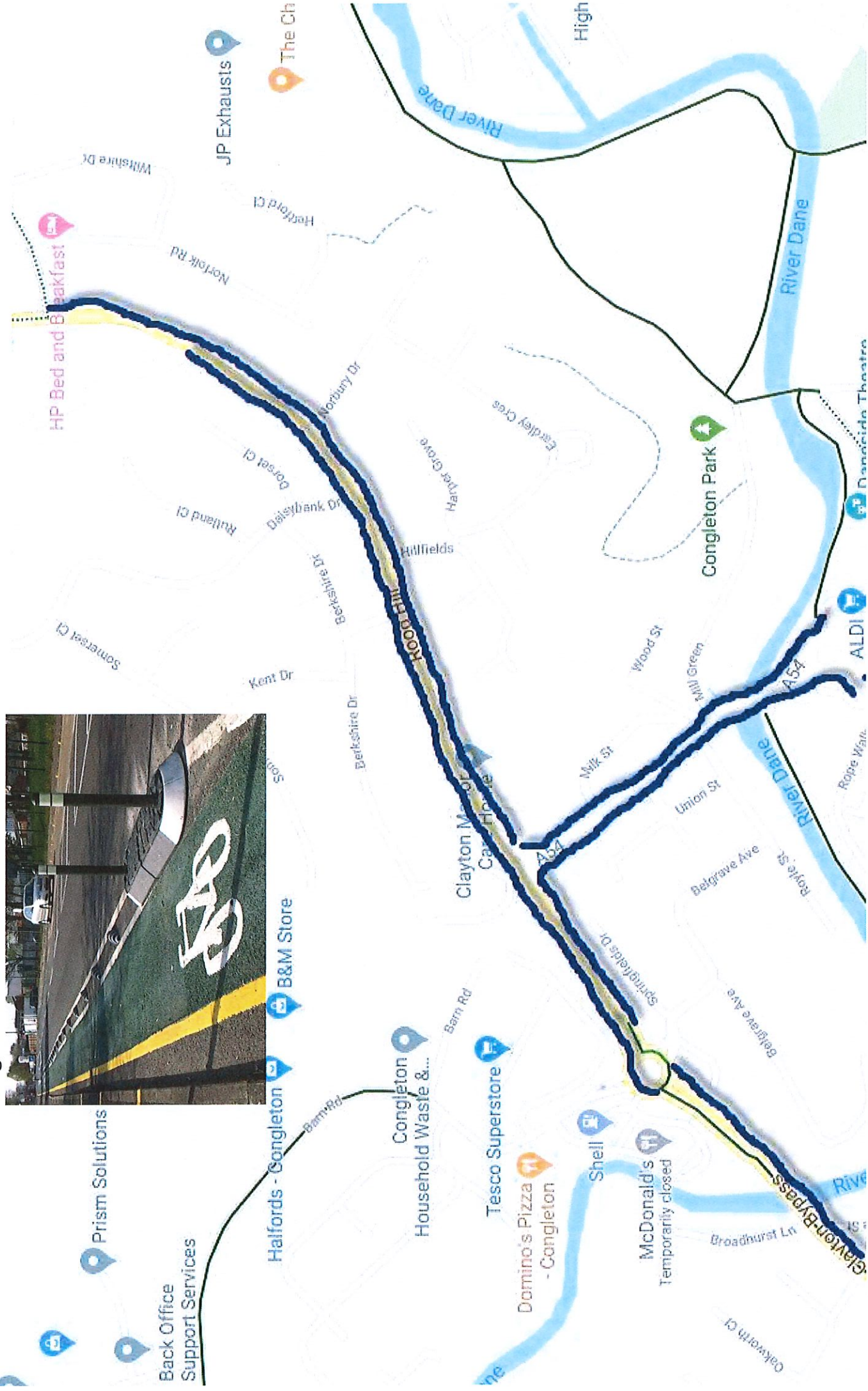


**BEFORE – EXISTING TRAFFIC FREE CYCLE ROUTES AND SHARED SPACE INTO CONGLETON**



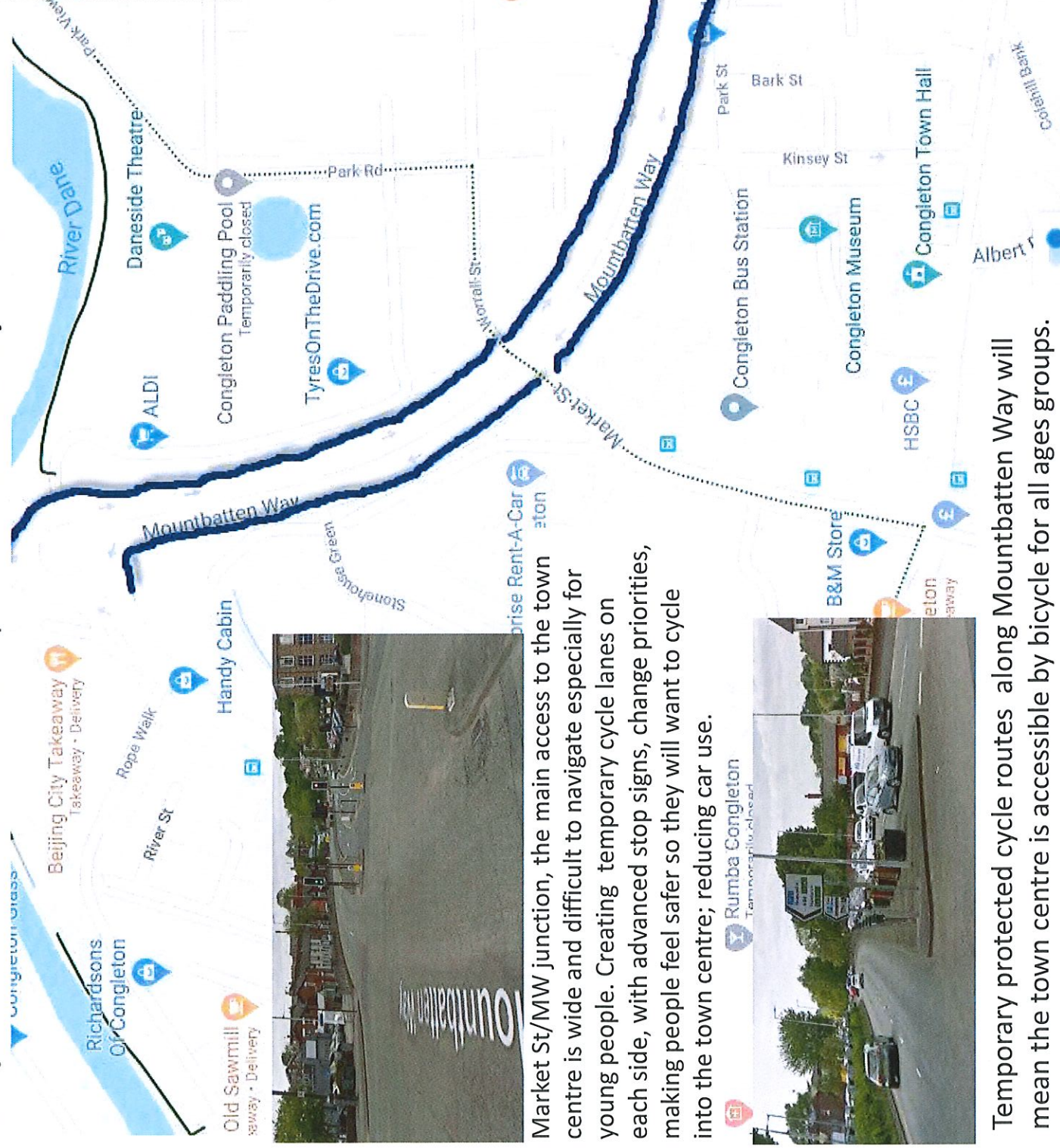


Proposal 1. Temporary cycle lanes along Rood Hill from the gyratory on the A34 at Lower Heath to the Aldi roundabout. Along the Clayton Bypass to join the existing bike lane. Safer passage across the roundabout junctions, Advanced stop lines at Rood Hill traffic lights.



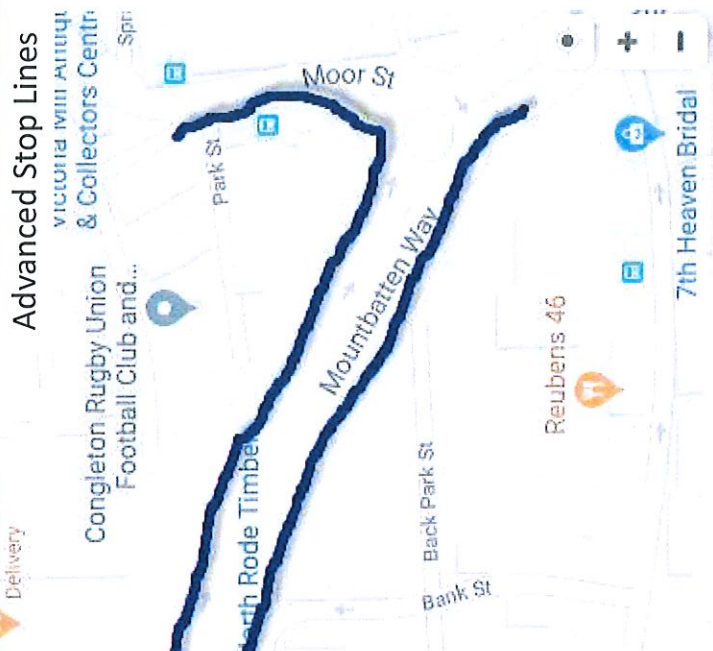
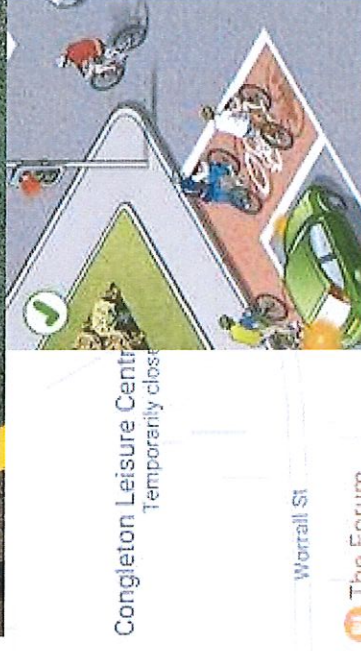


Proposal 2. Temporary cycle lanes along Mountbatten Way from Aldi roundabout to Park Lane junction. Additional Advanced Stop Lines at the Park Lane junction.



Market St/MW junction, the main access to the town centre is wide and difficult to navigate especially for young people. Creating temporary cycle lanes on each side, with advanced stop signs, change priorities, making people feel safer so they will want to cycle into the town centre; reducing car use.

Temporary protected cycle routes along Mountbatten Way will mean the town centre is accessible by bicycle for all ages groups.





Proposal 3. Temporary cycle lanes along Buxton Road to Park Lane junction. Temporary road crossing at the end of the Biddulph Valley Way.





The map displays the River Dane flowing through Congleton. Key streets include A54, Brunswick St, High St, and Morrisons. The Congleton Museum is marked with a blue pin. An inset photograph shows a street scene with a white van and a red car at a junction. A blue arrow points from the inset to the map location.

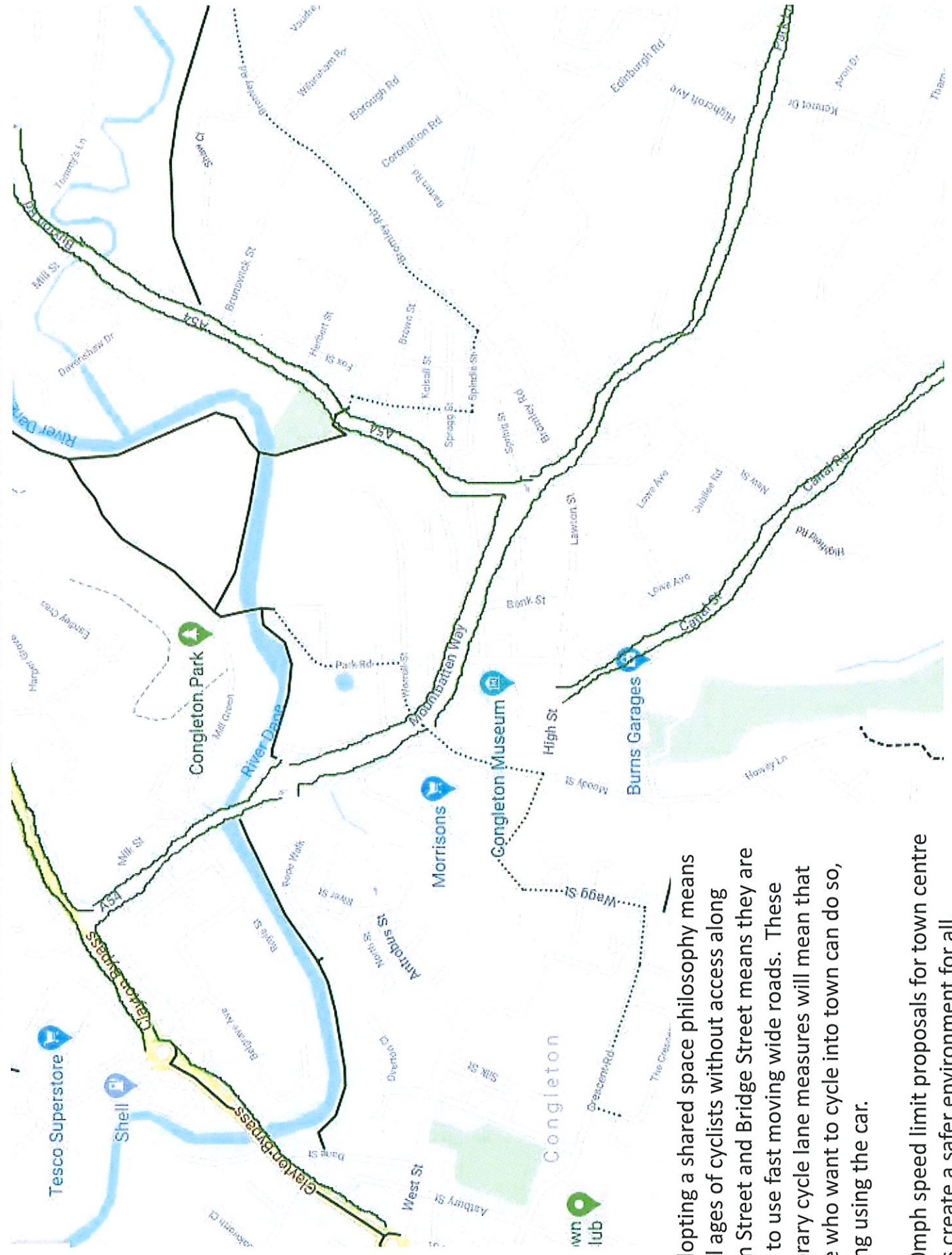


Park Lane/Mountbatten Way – temporary cycle lanes relieve congestion and create a safer environment that will encourage and enable all ages of people to cycle into the town centre.





## CONGLETON AFTER - TRAFFIC FREE CYCLE AND SHARED SPACE INTO THE TOWN CENTRE



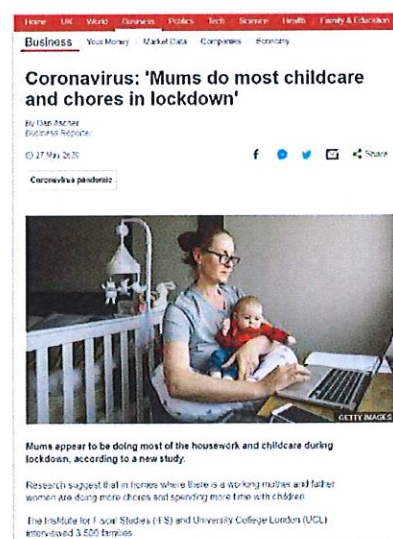
Not adopting a shared space philosophy means that all ages of cyclists without access along Lawton Street and Bridge Street means they are forced to use fast moving wide roads. These temporary cycle lane measures will mean that people who want to cycle into town can do so, avoiding using the car.

The 20mph speed limit proposals for town centre streets create a safer environment for all.

# CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

|                                 |   |                 |      |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>               | Community & Environment Committee   |                 |      |
| <b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>    | 4 <sup>th</sup> June 7pm  | <b>LOCATION</b> | Zoom |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>              | Cllr Kay Wesley, Officer Ruth Burgess   |                 |      |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b> | 17<br>Childcare in Congleton  |                 |      |
| <b>CURRENT STATUS</b>           | Investigating options to improve provision and support for parents  |                 |      |
| <b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>   | <p>In a 2019 Congleton survey, 83% of respondents said that the lack of access to the right kind of affordable childcare had impacted them in some way. Adequate childcare is one of the most important enablers to equality of opportunity, and CTC has it as a priority in its Business Plan.</p> <p>Cllrs Wesley and Firkin ran a workshop in March with childcare experts – providers and parents – to discuss how childcare services can be promoted and/or improved to meet the needs of families in Congleton. See the attached report of the workshop and outputs.</p> <p>The workshop identified some key issues that need to be resolved in Congleton, in particular that the cost and lack of flexibility of childcare options providing a barrier to some parents working and progressing their careers. This impacts our community more widely, reducing opportunities for fathers to be more involved parents, mothers (especially single ones) to return to work, and employers to tap into local talent to fill jobs.</p> <p>Further, the group concluded that government allowances are not adequate to cover the costs of providing childcare, which means many providers are running on a shoestring and are incentivised to take more affluent parents/children in preference to those who need affordable childcare the most, which exacerbates some of the problems.</p> <p>Also, both parents and employers are often unaware of facilities and financial options such as available tax allowances, which might improve provision and affordability.</p> <p>The recent COVID-19 lockdown has brought the problems of childcare into sharp focus as some parents have been unable to return to work due to lack of childcare and the increased burden on women to care for children whilst trying to work from home has been widely reported.</p> |                 |      |





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|                         | <p>The childcare workshop identified some potential ‘quick wins’ and some more ambitious suggestions. The proposals 1-4 are below. Progress has been made on several of them as shown:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>1. Provide a ‘Childcare Information Hub’</b> for parents, providers and employers – giving access to local services but also advice and links to national resources such as information on shared parental leave and tax-free childcare.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Council officers are gathering the information with a view to creating this as a page of the CTC website, linking to appropriate national and Cheshire East resources.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>2. The Council leading the way</b> in childcare good practice</p> <p><b>Progress for Staff:</b> Council Officers are reviewing the Employee Handbook on this topic and have invited ANSA (HR provider) to a meeting about this.</p> <p><b>Progress for Councillors:</b> Investigation has revealed that although Borough Councillors can claim caring and other expenses to attend meetings, this is not the case for Town Councillors, who can only claim for travel and subsistence expenses. With many meetings in the evening, this means that single parents or those caring for an elderly relative effectively cannot become Councillors because they could not attend meetings. NALC, the National Association for Local Councils, is calling for a change in the rules and many Town and Parish councils have written to the Commissioner asking to change the rules. We propose that CTC does the same, as this will support our Equality and Inclusion Policy and ensure anyone can stand to become a Councillor in Congleton, regardless of their caring responsibilities.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>3. Working with local employers</b> to promote benefits of supporting parents with flexible working and childcare options</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> No action on this as employers are fully occupied on COVID-19 at the moment, although observers have noted that working remotely and from home have become viable options in some sectors that had not tried this before. This may be an opportunity for more flexible working to become the norm for some companies. Work to be continued when local businesses are back at work.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>4. Investigating a Congleton workplace nursery scheme</b> to help small businesses provide tax-efficient options for parents who work for them</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> The workplace nursery scheme is no longer operating and has been replaced with the tax-free childcare scheme. Our action will be to ensure local employers are aware of this – on the same schedule as point 3 above.</p> </li> </ol> |
| <p><b>PROPOSALS</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with work as described</li> <li>Write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government in support of NALC’s campaign for Local Council caring allowances.</li> </ul>   |

