



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CILCA

24th July 2020

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 30th July 2020

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, on **Thursday 30th July 2020 at 7.00pm.** This will be a virtual meeting which needs to be accessed via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 9871 8135

Password: 341379

- **The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note** - There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally or at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.
- 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)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on **4th June 2020** as a correct record.



Congleton
beartown
where friends are made



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 9 –Updates Paper from 4th June 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.

6. Cheshire Police (Verbal Update)

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

7. Monthly Domestic Abuse Clinics in Congleton (Enclosed)

To give support to a new initiative which would see a monthly Domestic Abuse clinic introduced to Congleton.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 16th July 2020 and a brief update from the group Chair.

9. Updates Paper from 4th June 2020 C&E Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the previous Community & Environment Committee meeting on 4th June 2020.

10. Updates from Working Groups (Enclosed)

To receive a brief update from the Working Groups on progress.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 3rd June 2020.

12. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 23rd July 2020.

13. 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 2nd July 2020.

14. Glyphosate use in and around Children's Play Areas (Enclosed)

To consider a report into the stopping using glyphosate in and around children's play areas and the fencing areas which surround them in Congleton.

15. Edinburgh Road Telephone Box (Enclosed)

To receive a report from Cllr Robert Moreton requesting that Congleton Town Council takes on the future management of the telephone box in Edinburgh Road for community use.

16. Increasing Walking and Cycling in Congleton (To follow)

To discuss a report from Cllr Suzie Akers Smith and the Integrated Transport Working Group about activities to increase walking and cycling in Congleton this autumn.(group meets 27 July)

17. Request for support A34 Astbury junction road safety (Enclosed)

To consider a request to support Astbury Parish Council in their campaign to make the A34 Astbury junction safer for all users. Paper from Cllr David Brown.

18. Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park (Enclosed)

To receive a report and update from Councillor Amanda Martin on concerns from local residents about the potential loss of Rope Walk Car Park in Congleton,

19. Request to use the Community Garden for additional Tables and Chairs (Enclosed)

To consider a request to put tables and chairs in the Community Garden in Lawton Street.

20. An Interim report on the Congleton COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey (Enclosed)

To consider an interim report in the findings of a COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing survey of Congleton residents.

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 Visitor Information Centre.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4th June 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 895 4804 1508

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Kay Wesley (Chair)
Martin Amies
Margaret Gartside
Amanda Martin
Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)
Jean Parry

Non-Committee Members:

Suzie Akers Smith
David Brown
Robert Douglas
Robert Hemsley
Robert Moreton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received Councillors Dawn Allen, Paul Duffy, Suzy Firkin and Mark Rogan and from non-committee members Councillors Russell Chadwick and Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2020 as these were approved by the COVID 19 Emergency Powers Committee on 9th April 2020.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor) and Robert Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

Robert Douglas declared an interest in Congleton Museum - linking to Moody Hall item.

4. Outstanding Actions

Note that these actions are covered in Agenda Item 8 - Updates paper from 12th March 2020 Community & Environment Committee.

CE/01/2021 Resolved to: Move item 15 on Moody Hall to item 7 after the police report due to interested members of the public being present.

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. – see Appendix A

CE/02/2021 Resolved to: Send an interim response to Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE and for Congleton Green group to carry out further investigations into the subject and report back to this committee.

6. Cheshire Police

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

PC Iain Bell and Amy Heath from Cheshire Police provided updates see Appendix B for details

7. Moody Hall

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

CE/03/2021 Resolved to:

1. Contact 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.
2. Work 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. Most important for the Town Council is to see the exterior of the building retained, and this should take priority over the interior

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 28th May 2020 and to receive a summary from the group chair. The summary is available on the ASB Working Group page.

CE/04/2021 Resolved to accept the minutes of the Anti- Social Behaviour Group from the 28th May 2020.

9. Updates Paper from 12th March 2020 C&E Committee

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the Community and Environment Committee meeting on the 12th March.

CE/05/2021 Resolved to accept reports contained in the update paper.

10. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

To receive an update on Congleton in Bloom 2020 and the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 7th January, 5th February and 11th March 2020. The update is on the In Bloom working group page.

CE/06/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the In Bloom meetings held on the 7th January, 5th February and 11th of March.

11. Congleton Green Working Group

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group from the 2nd April and 23rd April 2020 and an update from the Chair. The update can be seen in the Congleton Green Working Group page.

CE/07/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group on the 2nd April and 23rd April.

12. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

To receive an update from the group and the notes of the Health and Well-Being Group held on 23rd April 2020 and an update from a group member. The update is on the Health and Wellbeing Working Group page.

CE/08/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting, proposed: Cllr Wesley, 2nd Cllr Gartside

13. Integrated Transport Working Group

To receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group from the 9th April and 23rd May 2020. Noted this area was discussed at Council on the 28th May 2020

CE/09/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on the 9th and 23rd May.

14. White Ribbon Working Group Update

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

CE/10/2021 Resolved to note the White Ribbon Report and the next step for Councillors and staff to attend a White Ribbon training session.

15. COVID-19 Leads Group

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

CE/11/2021 Resolved to note the report.

16. Traffic Free Cycle Routes in and out of Congleton

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

CE/12/2021 Resolved to ask Cheshire East Council to look at the feasibility of improving the cycle network in Congleton to enable people to cycle to the town centre and other listed destinations (parks, schools and attractions) safely avoiding main roads

17. Childcare in Congleton

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

CE/13/2021 Resolved to review Town Council policies on childcare, develop an online information hub, work with employers and write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support the NALC campaign for Local Councils Caring Allowances.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX A - QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions were submitted by Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE about 5G

1. Will 5G radiation be rolled out in Congleton? Yes or No
2. If Yes - What is the date 5G radiation will be switched on in Congleton?
3. How will 5G radiation be transmitted to Congleton?
4. Where are the antennae been erected to make this happen?
5. Is it true that the Council have allowed 5G radiation antenna's to be installed on LED streetlights?
6. If the answer is yes to the above please provide a grid of lights with 5G radiation antennas installed, or to be installed.
7. Have any schools in Congleton had 5G radiation antennas installed? If so in which schools?

The following response given by the Chair of Community and Environment Committee on behalf of the Town Council was:

We understand that there is a national roll-out programme for 5G which has been approved by the UK Government. We have received no notification of a roll out programme for Congleton and the Cheshire area and cannot find Congleton mentioned by EE, Vodafone, O2, BT, Sky Mobile or Three on any of their materials.

Last year the Town Council raised its concerns and objections in a Government consultation into allowing 5G operators permitted development rights (which would mean that there would be no need to consult with the planning authority (Cheshire East) before extending or converting current masts to 5G). We are waiting to hear when this consultation will be discussed by the UK Government.

We do not have the technical details about how 5G may be transmitted or how this may be planned but we will investigate.

The Head of Cheshire East Highways street lighting has confirmed that he is not aware of requests for any 5G attachments to be added to any street furniture in either Cheshire East or Cheshire West area. The Cheshire East areas next work manager was also not aware of any requests, although confirmed that there has been a big project in Congleton to improve superfast broadband fibre cabling and people will have seen BT Openreach vehicles in town. We have not yet heard back from Congleton schools, but all the indications are that nothing has been installed in Congleton.

In reality, the Town Council is unlikely to be consulted on the plans for the 5G roll out. But as a Town Council we will take a more active role and the Chair of the Congleton Green group has agreed for that group to carry out more research and report back to this committee.

APPENDIX B

Item 6 - Report from Congleton Police

Summary of the report given by PC Iain Bell to the Community and Environment Committee 4th June 2020

Congleton Beat Priorities

1. Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour in Meadow Mill Court
2. Anti-Social Behaviour Bromley Woods/Biddulph Valley Way and Dane-in-Shaw Pastures
3. Targeted nominal residing on the East

Anti-Social Behaviour -

188 COVID related Incidents reported for the period 23/03-23/05. Top two locations are private dwellings resulting in one eviction. Third spot is Astbury Mere and has involved daily patrols. Patrols continue for all green spaces/supermarkets/petrol stations and other vulnerable premises. Force stance remains incremental Engage, Explain, Enforce

Three cannabis farms found since the March committee

1. Old Picture House Cross Street - up for development
2. Dane Street (next to MOT Garage) – Modern Day Slavery Investigation
3. Millford House on West Street – Located due to proactive PCSO information

It's standard to practice to make all found cannabis farms safe (electrics/boarding up etc) prior to closure. All are still live investigations, including a subsequent arson at Millford House. All located quickly due to community intelligence. Some increase in cannabis cultivation sites across the country since lockdown.

Arson at Moody Hall in Moody Street.

Proactive work ongoing in partnership with Housing Associations at:

Meadow Mill Court

Tetton Court

Shaw Close

Buxton Old Road

Woodview Row

Recent Police Action

Street a Week – Tall Ash Avenue

Domestic Violence

Slight decrease year on year (lockdown period 61 vs 88)

Force revisiting higher risk victims during lockdown

Planned Operations



Op Automotive

Street a Week w/c 06/07

NOTE: Congleton Beat Team now fully staffed but 2 abstractions due to COVID 19.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Kay Wesley, for the Antisocial Behaviour and White Ribbon Working Groups		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Domestic Abuse Clinic in Congleton		
Background	<p>In September 2019 Saskia Light burn-Ritchie from MyCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) gave a presentation to the Community, Environment and Services Committee about the need for a weekly Domestic Abuse Hub in Congleton. The organisation runs Domestic Abuse Hubs in Crewe and Macclesfield including survivor groups, support services and advice clinics. The Committee agreed that such a Hub was needed in Congleton, as a minimum for one afternoon and evening a week. However, the staff cost for this service was around £29k, and funding was not yet available.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council agreed CES/21/1920 – to support MyCWA’s aim to open a centre one evening and one afternoon a week in a Congleton Connected Communities venue, subject to funding being found.</p> <p>Issues around Domestic Abuse have been heightened through the COVID-19 pandemic, with the United Nations describing the worldwide increase in domestic abuse as a ‘shadow pandemic’ alongside COVID-19.</p> <p>It is thought that cases overall have increased at least 20% during lockdown, as many people are trapped at home with their abuser. In the first 3 weeks domestic abuse-related killings reached an 11-year high. The Charity Refuge has reported an 80% year-on-year increase in helpline calls and 800% increase in visits to its website in June 2020.</p> <p>In 2018-19 in Cheshire East as a whole there were 4566 cases of domestic abuse reported to Police, including 957 cases of domestic violence causing injury, according to CEDAP. Since lockdown day, 23rd March 2020, there have been 140 Police reports of domestic abuse in Congleton.</p> <p>Furthermore, according to Safelives: domestic abuse is under-reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average victims at ‘high risk of serious harm or murder’ live with domestic abuse for 2-3 years before getting help • 85% of victims seek help five times on average from professionals in the year before they get effective help to stop the abuse <p>Cheshire Police, led by DI Claire Jesson, together with Cheshire East Council and MyCWA, collaborate to deliver one of most effective and co-ordinated domestic abuse services in the country, dealing with crimes reported as well as implementing preventative measures. Their work was highlighted in a BBC documentary with Cheshire survivor Abi Blake – more can be seen here. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51360772.</p>		

	<p>This proposal is to bring more of these services to Congleton to benefit the 200-250 families a year affected by domestic abuse or domestic violence in our town.</p>
Next Steps	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p>Cheshire Police and MyCWA will send Domestic Abuse Specialist staff to run a Clinic once a month in Congleton. This would provide local people who are concerned about their family situation the opportunity to have a private talk with trained professionals without threat of arrest.</p> <p>It is a chance to get advice on rights, the law, the options to reduce harm, change behaviour, escape, and so on. The Police team and CWA advisors will both be available at the clinic. Experience has been shown that these clinics can help to prevent escalation to more serious abuse and violence.</p> <p>MyCWA advises that the Old Saw Mill would be the most suitable venue, and Peter Aston has kindly offered to make it available at no cost other than to cover its bills.</p> <p>The objective is that the Clinic can help meet the needs for local families affected before they reach a high-risk status. Currently to access this service Congleton residents would have to travel to Crewe or Macclesfield.</p> <p>Although this isn't yet the full Domestic Abuse Service Hub that Town Council wished to see, it is a big step in the right direction and it may be extended in future to deliver more services for families here in Congleton.</p>
Environmental impact	Central and local location. Reduces the need to travel to Macclesfield or Crewe, saving energy and greenhouse gases.
Financial Impact	Request for CTC to fund the monthly room hire at a cost of £40 per month. This can be met from the existing Crime Prevention Budget.
Equality Impact	Provides access to services for those without the means to travel. Benefits vulnerable women, men and children and helps prevent further harm.
Proposal	That Congleton Town Council works in Partnership with Cheshire Police and MyCWA to deliver a monthly Domestic Abuse Clinic at The Old Saw Mill starting in September 2020. Cost of venue = £40 per month, funded from the Crime Prevention Budget. The clinic to be reviewed after 6 months.

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Zoom Call - Thursday 16th July 2020

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Denis Murphy, Cllr Sally Holland, Glen Williams, Stg Paul Brunton Cheshire Police, Jackie MacArthur (CTC).

Apologies: Julia Pestell Hassell, Cheshire East, Cllr Rob Moreton, Ruth Burgess (CTC)

Item	Issue	Action	By Whom	When
1	To receive notes 28 th May 2020	These were agreed via email and presented to the 4 th June Community and Environment Committee	Jackie Mac	May
2	Action Log	Reviewed Action Log Outstanding Actions West Street CCTV Bamboogie Youth Event Non-Alcoholic beer on tap Letter to Northern Rail re abusive passengers on the late train home	Cllr Murphy/ JMacA Cllr Moreton Cllr Murphy/ JMacA JMacA	Asap When possible Discussions started July
3	Drug and Alcohol Abuse Hot Spot	Police aware of local issues and continuing to carry out operations. Appears to be more dealing now in the early morning rather than evening and an increase of issues around Waggs Street. Noted traders also reported regular issues in Little Street and Police will follow up. Public has been good at giving intelligence, encourage more to ring 101. Awareness of private CCTV and to approach new owners of Lion and Swan about installation of CCTV to cover Waggs Street and Little Street.	Police Police Cllr Murphy	Update at next meeting

Item	Issue	Action	By Whom	When
4	Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Areas	Astbury Mere Country Park has generated most concern from the public – particularly with people swimming in the mere. Planning Police presence over the weekend. Other areas have been raised as a problem on more than one occasion Buxton Old Road Mossley Cricket Ground Public raised issues about Cross Lane, the Police are not aware of issues and CTC to encourage the public to ring 101 so that issues are logged and resources can be targeted to areas with issues.	Ongoing Bear Necessities article - JMacA	Report to next meeting Summer 2020
5	Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences	Police reported 79 incidents since ASB met on the 28 th May. This is similar to previous years. Cllr Kay Wesley has been working with the Cheshire Without Abuse CWA) Group and DI Clare Jensen. CWA run a number of programmes across Cheshire and have hubs in Crewe and Macclesfield. Congleton would like to have its own hub, and as a first step it was suggested that maybe the Police and CWA could hold monthly clinics in Congleton. This idea is to be developed further and a proposal taken to Community Environment and Services on the 30 th July.	Paper to go to CE for the 30 th July. Will Police and CWA attend FoC Potential Location and costs	23 rd July paper
6	Speedwatch and Speeding issues	Contact from a member of Public concerned about speeding on Newcastle Road and wishing to be part of a Speed Watch group. Idea for more Speed Watch groups across Congleton to work with the Police – online and press release information	Paul Brunton to speak with PCSOs re speedwatch activities Article in Bear Necessities	July Summer 2020
7	Silk Mills request for assistance	Residents are concerned that the Right of Way though the land by the Silk Mill is being abused by some inconsiderate people who are causing ASB in the area and issues with drink, drugs and damage. Police urged residents to make complaints via 101 so that they are registered. If enough evidence may be able to look to extend PSPO in the area. Streetscape to carry out some physical improvements to open up the area (as they did with the path by Aldi). CEC ROW and CEC Youth Workers to be informed	Ruth – Streetscape Jackie – ROW Glen – Youth Workers Paul – PCSO awareness Kay – respond to residents.	

Item	Issue	Action	By Whom	When
8	Dog attacks	Group made aware of a couple of nasty dog on dog attacks in Congleton Park. Police aware of two different dog attacks, both of which have been dealt with and owners taking actions to prevent it happening again. Public encouraged to report incidents on 101. Cllr Sally Holland to seek more information on the attacks. CTC to encourage local people to respond to the PSPO on Responsible Dog ownership consultation – closes on the 10 th August.		
9.	AOB	Speeding issue at Blossoms Gate Drive, off Back Lane Congleton Edge – motorcyclists and scramble bikes causing a danger/nuisance Neighbourhood/Community Watch groups – encourage more to be set up in Congleton – made COVID-19 neighbourhood Watch groups aware of the opportunity. Police will support local groups. There are currently 7 local groups. https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/	Police to look into Police to add to operation. JMacA Comms	
10	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 22 October 3.30pm – 5pm	ALL	

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 Updates Paper from 4th June 2020 C&E Committee		
Background	<p>This paper is provided to give Members an update on actions from reports discussed at Community and Environment Committee on the 4th June, 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>		
Updates	<p>CE/55/1920 – NHS Health Trust - the meeting with the Chief Executive of the East Cheshire NHS Trust has been put on hold and needs to be sorted.</p> <p>CE/02/2021 - Question on 5G - a letter was sent to the resident giving an initial response which she was very pleased to receive. There was also confirmation that none of the providers had plans for Congleton in the immediate future. This issue is now being discussed by the Congleton Green Group.</p> <p>CE/030/2021 Moody Hall – conversations are ongoing with both the developer and the Planning department. A number of conditions have been now been discharged (satisfied) and the case officer is waiting for some more details before being able to discharge all the conditions that would allow the development to start. The developer is keen to developer and is agitated that it has already take 3 years.</p> <p>CE13/2021 Childcare in Congleton - A letter has been sent to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government supporting the NALC position on English Town and Parish Councillors being allowed to offer allowance to councillors for caring services whilst carrying out Council business. Work on the information hub for the website is still outstanding.</p>		
Proposal	To note this report.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Working Group Updates since the meeting on the 4th June 2020		
Background	<p>This paper is provided to give Members a summary of the work taking place within the working groups that report into this committee. There is more details of the work of the groups in the notes of the working group meetings which are covered by items 8-13 of this committee. The paper is for noting and will not be discussed unless a member has a question.</p>		
Updates	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group - Chair Councillor Kay Wesley</p> <p>The Police are dealing with drug-dealing hotspots in Little Street and Silk Mills. Domestic Abuse is a concern during COVID crisis and Police responded to 79 incidents from 28 May to 16 July. Considering encouraging Neighbourhood Watch groups forming from COVID neighbourhood groups. Supporting residents setting up Speedwatch groups. COVID incidents much reduced, but concern about swimming in Astbury Mere.</p> <p>Congleton Green Working Group – Chair Cllr Margaret Gartside</p> <p>Working on a priority list for reducing the carbon footprint of Congleton Town Council activities, based on a baseline data spreadsheet of activities. Creating a Green Living e-learning course for Congleton residents. Looking at possible off-setting local options for Congleton.</p> <p>Congleton in Bloom – Chair Cllr David Brown</p> <p>Even though there are no competitions this year, the In Bloom volunteers and streetscape have carried on working on their in bloom activities, the concentration this year and the focus on the in bloom meeting was around new wild flowers areas throughout Congleton and working with highways. Succession of the green flags throughout Congleton, with Congleton Park getting its 12th and many of the primary schools also renewing theirs. Long term plans for Tree planting and that there is a list now of potential sites for new trees. Looking forward to the 2021 competition and the possible route and presentation.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Working Group - Chair Councillor Dawn Allen</p> <p>Concentrating on mental well-being and attracting more local support for local people. Carrying out a Health and Wellbeing Survey into how COVID-19 has affected the Congleton Community. Considering what format the Health and Wellbeing Fayre planned for October could take.</p>		

	<p>Integrated Transport Working Group - Chair Councillor Suzie Akers Smith</p> <p>This group will be meeting on Monday 27th July and more information will be sent to the Committee ahead of this meeting.</p> <p>White Ribbon Group</p> <p>Staff awareness training has taken place and Councillor awareness is due to take place before the C&E Committee. In the next phase we will be reaching out into the community, working with sports clubs, schools, employers and others to ensure this campaign reaches all parts of our town.</p>
Proposal	To note this report.

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

3rd June 2020 Virtual Zoom Meeting, 10.00am

MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** Cllr David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Martha Hayes, Cllr Amanda Martin, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams.
2. **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.
 - Jackie MacArthur, Anna Morrison
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the Notes of the previous meeting as a correct record. – 11th March
 - Approved- Minutes sent to CTC Community & Environment Committee on Thursday 4th June.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
 - David Brown- Cheshire East
5. **Tribute to Bill Blackledge:** ACTION MH- Contact North West In Bloom for the details of where to send card and flowers and action as appropriate on receipt of this.
6. **Weeds:** Noted that in some areas the weeds are quite high, PP reported on Canal Road, by the high pavement- ACTION DB to sort this. Rood Hill- wait a couple of days on this, as reported that the CE Highways programme for weed spraying started on 18th May and so some areas could be covered. Let DB know the areas of concern and he will sort.
7. **What have we been up to?**
 - Suggested to have an article in the Chronicle to show what the In Bloom group and neighbourhoods have been doing despite the current situation. ACTION RB & MH to arrange to have a full page article (paid for) in the Chronicle. Contributions such as what has been going on with pictures need to be sent to RB & MH. This will keep In Bloom in people’s minds and hopefully encourage people to look after their own areas.
 - Mention ‘No Mow May’ to say we did this the best we could to encourage wildlife.
 - Mereside Avenue- look into permissions for a Wildflower Meadow and send letter to surrounding residents.
 - Mountbatten Way- empty at the moment, could be filled, depends on number of left over plants.
 - Link up with Congleton Green group to get joint messages out.
 - PP & MG are putting together a leaflet of walks
 - Not ready for a tidy up yet, but the group discussed about the In Bloom team members still having a Town Tidy in the In Bloom Hi-Viz to promote that the group is still keeping up the good work alongside the Streetscape team- this would be socially distanced. GW to coordinate a date and time and communicate to the group.
 - UPDATE: also requested to add in the article mentioned above about the Purple4Polio bulb planting for Congleton Rotary, sponsored by Alan Finneron.
8. **Tree of Light:** Congleton Rotary would like to see this tree as a permanent feature in Congleton for future events. Suggested behind Treo in the Community Gardens- RB & JMac agreed to this. Need to wait and see what the new Cenotaph area looks like in autumn and will decide from there. Noted that Congleton In Bloom is happy to support Congleton Rotary in making this permanent, but waiting until finished Cenotaph for the best area to site the tree.
 - October 2020 is the 25th anniversary of the Community Garden.
9. **Missing Hanging Basket Post Lawton St:** a couple of years ago, a lorry reversed into the post, damaged it and it had to be removed. Confirmed that this will be reinstalled soon.

Commented [m1]:

10. Provision of Shop Hanging Baskets: Traders would still like to see hanging baskets, discussed as may not be possible this year due to staff health and safety for watering and maintain and also the provision of plants. To be looked into. If we can provide for shops that have previously supported, we will do.

11. Community Involvement (BE): Look to reposition the neighbourhoods in the portfolio.

12. Cemeteries (BE): Noted that a lot of community groups are tidying up and wildflowering cemeteries- need to speak to/ draft a letter to St. Peter's wardens to see if we could do something like this, make into a community project? Congleton Cemetery currently cut three times a year.

13. AOB:

- Park Allotment- requested for possibility of volunteers digging out and planting vegetables- RB agreed to this.
- St Stephen's entrance into the park- ongoing work for 2021
- Congleton Park is 150 years old in 2021- need to start thinking of plans and ideas to decorate and celebrate. Suggested for all groups that benefit from the park, to send a letter to CE to show support, e.g- Friends of Congleton Park, CTC Green group etc.
- Congleton Park to put forward for a heritage green flag award- Ansa usually put us forward.
- Bearmania 10 years old in 2021- ACTION RB to contact all bear owners with aim to get them on display again.
- Rosemary Bushes at Fairground car park- leafbeetle problem in this area- ACTION AMartin looking into.
- New Website- Group agreed to build more information and pictures into the page already existing on the CTC website, rather than a complete new website.

14. Date of Next Meeting: TBC

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

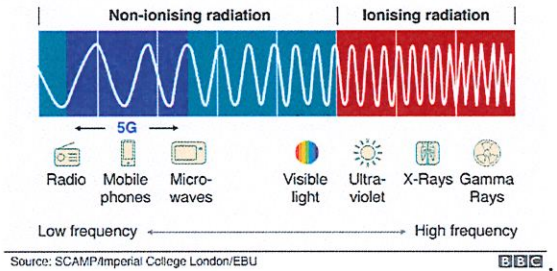
Date: Thursday 23 July 2020

Location: Via Zoom

Time: 3.30pm

Present: Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Suzy Firkin, Councillor Kay Wesley, Councillor Jean Parry, Councillor Suzie Akers Smith, Barry Speed, Peter Aston, Barry Fox, Jackie MacArthur, David McGifford

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By who	By when
1	Apologies	CLlr Sally Holland, CLlr Mark Rogan, David McGifford		
2	Actions from meeting 23 April not on agenda	Discussion on CTC Procurement policy – circulate to team Mark Worthington held first meeting with Heroes Renewable re potential improvements to the Town Hall energy use – meeting again 29/7/20	JMacA MW and MG	July July
3	Priorities from the Carbon Footprint Spreadsheet, with responsibilities and actions, goals and timescales	Team thanked Barry Speed for all his work on creating a baseline Carbon Footprint spreadsheet for the Town Council – this will be the responsibility of the Town Council Management team to introduce measures to reduce usage and report back on progress. Top 10 areas identified <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electricity usage in the Town Hall 2. Gas usage in the Town Hall 3. Cleaning chemical usage in the Town Hall 4. Lease of Vehicles for Streetscape 5. Fuel Usage by Streetscape 6. Plant purchasing for Streetscape and In Bloom 7. Councillor and staff travel for work purposes 8. Town Hall Waste reduction 9. Town Council plastic use reduction 10. Town Council paper use reduction 	JMacA to take to Mgmt team to develop a plan	September
4	Plan for Congleton's Environmental Footprint	This would be a wider plan for Congleton in general – to include issues such as tree planting, active transport, plastic free Congleton, Waste reduction, Rewilding, Green learning. Suggestion that this would need a half day or full day session and a large consultation exercise. Idea would be to public plan showing where the town is on its environmental journey,	Bring suggestions on how to develop to next	September

		and where it needs to get to, what the steps are along the way and have this publish this information.	meeting	
5	Progress on the Green E-learning project	Using Barry Fox's handbook to create an e-learning package to educate and inspire people in Congleton. TMC has started to sort the story board and structure of how it would work – will include video, pictures, text and quizzes. 7 modules. Joint project between Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council. To launch probably in November.	BF, KW, SF, MG and JMacA on project team	Progress report in Sept.
6.	Off-setting of Carbon Footprint	Agreed that it will not be possible to reduce use to zero. Need to explore options around off-setting. This may also be of interest to local businesses and companies.	SF, BF and BS	September committee
7	Local Research on 5G	<p>Issue raised at Community and Environment and request for Green Group to consider the science. Reports from sources such as Public Health England, the BBC and numerous other sites highlight that the waves used for 5G are not in the harmful end of the radio wave spectrum https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health</p> <p>Where 5G fits in the electromagnetic spectrum</p>  <p>Points raised by the group on ethics of how much is being spent on 5G and the visual intrusion of bigger masts was outside of the scope.</p>	To respond to CE committee	
8	AOB	None		
9	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 10 th September 5pm - ZOOM		

Minutes Health and Wellbeing Working Group

Zoom Meeting 2nd July 2020 - 3pm

Present: Cllr Dawn Allen, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Jackie MacArthur

Apologies – Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr David Brown, John Saville Crowther

Item	Issue	Action	By whom	When
1.	Review Actions from 23 April Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hulme contact • Crisis Centre Chester • Living Well leaflet • Mountview Building 	<p>Link with the East Cheshire Mental Health Board. Send minutes. Keep updated. Contact Big Life Group and Amy – working with surgeries on social prescribing.</p> <p>On hold Produce by early October Meeting due to be held with CEC about future project - to report back</p>	<p>JMac</p> <p>Cllr Firkin</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Post meeting</p>
2.	Membership of Group / working of group	<p>Check is Cllr Akers Smith still wants to be on the group. Core group to work on direction, but to hold wider group meetings with health professionals and local mental health charities and support organisations.</p> <p>Sort a note of understanding for non-council members invited into working groups</p>	<p>JMacA</p> <p>DM/JMacA</p>	
3.	COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Questionnaire	Discussed idea of an online questionnaire. Cllr Wesley showed a version sent out in Liverpool. Group modified questions. Agreed to share with Congleton Community COVID leads group and then issue. Findings to report into CE. Results may be useful to help with gaining funding for COVID recovery needs	JMacA	Issue Questionnaire through July

4.	Mental Health Support in Congleton	Group still wants to see a location in Congleton where people with mental health issues can get professional help. Need support and help from the East Cheshire Mental Health Partnership Board as need their support for funding CCG's commissions BIG LIFE to cover the Congleton area, so need to engage with them		
5	Health and Wellbeing Fayre	Due to take place on the 6 th October. Lead contact for the group is Cllr Suzy Firkin although fayre organised by the Congleton Partnership. Discussion around how to make it COVID-19 secure. With Partnership to contact stall holders and agree a way forward.	Cllr Firkin and JMacA	July
6	AOB	Need to make sure that articles around mental health doesn't cause even greater anxiety amongst people with poor mental health.	All	
	Date of Next meeting	3 rd September 2020 3.30- 5pm by zoom		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Robert Douglas		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Glyphosate Use in and around Children's Play Areas		
Background	<p>Glyphosate, which is commonly known by brands such Roundup, is the most widely used herbicide in the world used to kill weeds and other "undesirable" plants.</p> <p>Glyphosate has been the subject of a number of debates about its safe use in public spaces.</p> <p>The International Agency for Research on Cancer (I.A.R.C.), which is part of the World Health Organisation, coordinates and conducts both epidemiological and laboratory research into the causes of human cancer.</p> <p>In March 2015, the I.A.R.C. classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" which was based on limited evidence of cancer from real-world exposures that actually occurred and sufficient evidence in experimental animals from studies of pure glyphosate.</p> <p>On 13th November 2019, David McGifford, the Chief Officer, Ruth Burgess, the Streetscape Manager and Councillor Robert Douglas had a meeting with a Congleton resident, who is a mother of young children, about her concerns regarding the use of glyphosate.</p> <p>On 23rd January 2020, all present at that meeting had a follow up meeting at which Cheshire East Highways and Ansa Environmental Services Limited also attended.</p> <p>During those meetings, Congleton Town Council gave a verbal commitment to the concerned resident that glyphosate would not be used in future in children's play areas and the fencing areas which surround them.</p> <p>On 18th June 2020, Ruth Burgess advised the Town Councillors at the Town Hall and Assets Committee Meeting that the use of herbicides by Congleton Town Council has now been reduced by about 75%. Furthermore, the Council aims to eliminate its use entirely in the near future.</p>		
Next Steps	<p>To recognise that the Town Council has already reduced its use of the herbicide glyphosate by 75% in the past few years.</p> <p>To approve the verbal agreement made by officers to commit to not using glyphosate in and around children's play areas.</p> <p>To work towards eliminating the use of glyphosate in the near future.</p>		

Environmental impact	Glyphosate has been considered a relatively safe compound in the environment because of its rapid inactivation in soil by adsorption and degradation. However, owing to its extensive use, concerns and studies on the behaviour of glyphosate in plant and the environment are growing.
Financial Impact	Without the use of the herbicides more staff hours will be required to keep the same standards.
Equality Impact	Children playing may be particularly affected by glyphosate in parks and play areas, so will benefit the most from its removal.
Proposal	That this Committee formally confirms the verbal commitment made by Officers that glyphosate will not be used in children's play areas and the fencing areas which surround them.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Rob Moreton		
AGENDA ITEM	15		
REPORT TITLE	Edinburgh Road Telephone Box		
Background	<p>On the 8th July 2020 Cheshire East Council notified the Town Council that BT intended to dispose of the telephone box tel number 01260 272321 on Edinburgh Road – CW12 3EZ</p> <p>With the request that the Town Council responds by the 28th August at the latest, to confirm whether it :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves of the removal • Does not approve (include reasons why) • Wishes to adopt (if a red phone box). 		
Next Steps	<p>Cllr Moreton has requested the phone box is taken over by the Town Council on behalf of the community, and that the community would like to raise funds to house a defibrillator in the box.</p> <p>The Town Council has had experience of adopting phone boxes before, having adopted the phone boxes at Timbersbrook and Padgbury Lane, however these were red boxes.</p> <p>A question has been raised with BT about whether it is possible to adopt a modern phone box. If this comes back as a positive, the recommendation is that the Town Council adopts the box.</p>		
Environmental impact	Nothing significant – Streetscape will need to check and clean the facility. Minimal electric to run a defibrillator		
Financial Impact	BT will pay the electric for the Defib for 7 years then would fall to CTC. May need some repair work and will need new signage		
Equality Impact	Part of ensuring all areas have easy access to a defibrillator.		
Proposal	That the Town Council adopts the Edinburgh Road Telephone Box if the option is available.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr David Brown		
Request	17 Request for Support A34 Astbury Junction Road Safety		
Background	On 25 June 2020 a collision between an HGV and a car at the junction of Peel Lane and the A34 caused the tragic death of a teenage girl and serious injuries to two others. All three were students at Congleton High School.		
Next Steps			
Environmental Considerations	Not applicable		
Equality Considerations	Not applicable		
Financial implications	None at present.		
Proposal	To offer our condolences to the families involved and give our support to Astbury Parish Council in their efforts to negotiate improvements to the safety of the junction with Cheshire East Highways.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

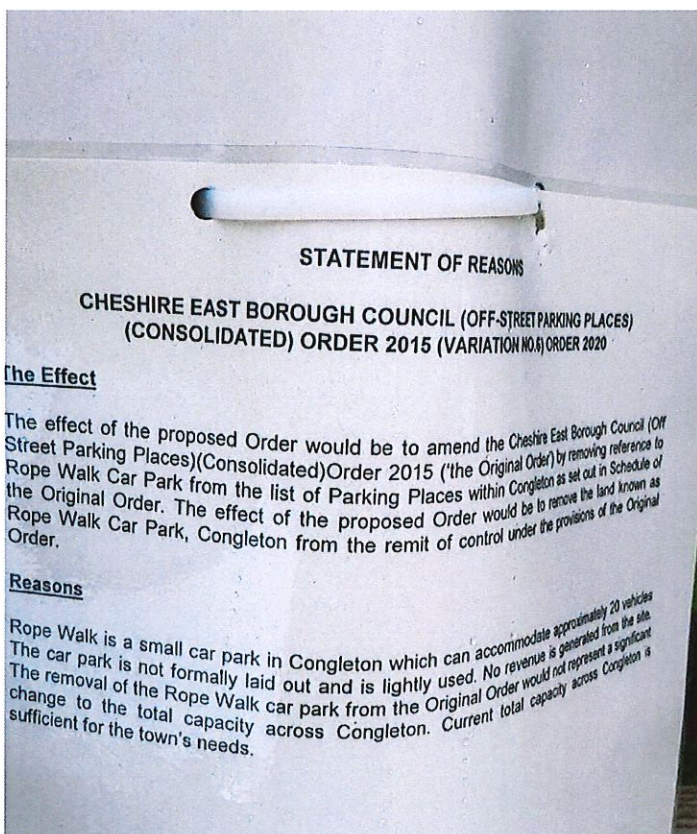
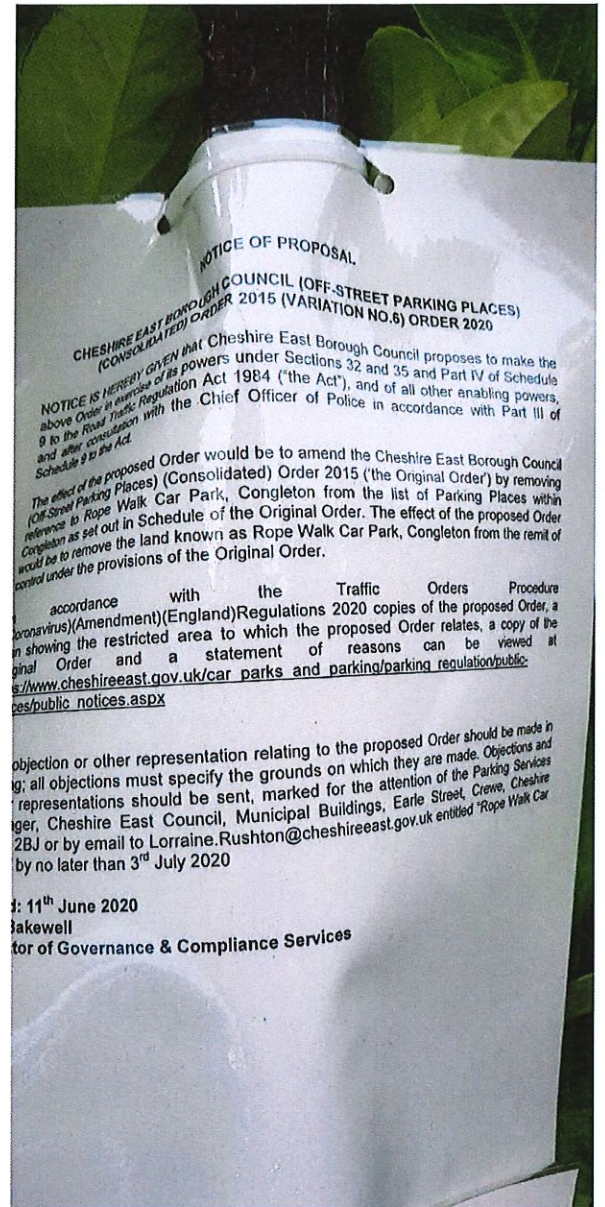
COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Amanda Martin		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	18 Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park		
Background	<p>On 4 July the Congleton Town Councillors were informed by a resident of Providence Mill that a notice had been put up on a lamp post saying that the Public Car Park opposite their flats was to be closed. The reason given was that the car park only had 26 places, was lightly used and “would not represent a significant loss to the total capacity across Congleton”. The closing date for objections was 3 July.</p> <p>The Town Council was not consulted about this. A Public Notice was published on 11 June under the heading “NOTICE OF PROPOSAL – CHESHIRE EAST Borough Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2015 (Variation No. 6) Order 2020”. It proposed “to remove the land known as Rope Walk Car Park from the list of Parking Places within Congleton.” Those of us who saw this notice thought that it meant that the car park would no longer be advertised on the CEC web site, not that it was to be closed.</p> <p>When we received the email from the resident, CEC Councillor Sally Holland made enquiries and was told that the real reason that the car park had to close was that the new owner of the Lord Mountbatten pub had realised that half the car park was on his property and had asked Cheshire East Council to pay him rent. Jackie McArthur received a similar reply when she emailed CEC Parking Officer Lorraine Rushton about the proposal.</p> <p>The Lord Mountbatten’s manager allowed me to photograph the deeds, which show that the area behind the pub does indeed belong to its new owner, so that the car park is taking up some space at the end of his property. Only the part that lies behind 64 and 66 Mill Street belongs to Cheshire East. He said that Congleton Borough Council had paid rent to the pub but that no rent had been paid since Cheshire East Council took over.</p> <p>The loss of this car park might not be significant to Congleton as a whole, but it would a very significant loss to the residents of Providence Mill, who have nowhere else to park. The car park is also used by local businesses</p> <p>The flats belong to Plus Dane Housing. I have emailed them asking what parking provision was made when permission was given to convert the Mill into flats, but they have not yet responded.</p>		
Next Steps	To consider how the Town Council should respond to the proposed closure of one of its free car parks.		
Environmental Considerations	Not applicable		
Equality Considerations	It should not be assumed that social housing does not need parking facilities. Likelihood of affecting residents of reduced mobility who may not be able to access vehicles parked further away.		

Financial implications	None at present.
Proposal	Make representations to Cheshire East Parking services about the proposed closure and that the Town Council was not consulted about possible solutions.

Documents provided:

1. A photo of the car park (the photo on the CEC web site is of a completely different one)
2. Photos of the notice put up on the lamp-post.
3. The plan from the Providence Mill planning permission, showing the car park.
4. A photo of the Lord Mountbatten deeds.

Item 18 APPENDIX A



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Town Marketing and Events Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	19 Request to Add Temporary Tables and Chairs in the Community Garden		
Background	<p>The Town Council has been approached by Frank Hildrup from Congleton Kitchen and Bazaar on Bank Street requesting permission for himself and other local businesses (Kings Arms, Prince of Wales and Gather) to put tables and chairs in the Community Garden on Lawton Street for their customers to use during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Due to social distancing, businesses have needed to remove tables and chairs within their premises, meaning they can accommodate less people. Also many people currently feel safer in outdoor spaces.</p> <p>Although the Business and Planning Act 2020 received Royal Assent on the 22 July 2020 making it easier and quicker for businesses to apply for pavement licences, due to the restrictive nature of Lawton Street these businesses have identified that the Community Garden would provide a safer and more pleasant area for customers.</p> <p>The Town Council is responsible for the Community Garden and has a long lease on the area.</p> <p>The businesses are looking to add a maximum of 8 tables and 30 chairs in the area.</p> <p>Congleton Kitchen and Bazaar would cover activities associated with the tables and chairs its public liability insurance and would take responsibility (with assistance from other food businesses) for the COVID-19 secure measures around the tables. This includes signage, health and safety, hygiene and social distancing.</p> <p>The tables and chairs would be removed at night and stored securely by the participating businesses, with the same conditions as cafes using space in the pedestrian area.</p> <p>The advice from the Town Council's insurance company is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The agreement/contract with the company wishing to use the space is clear must be clear on lines of responsibilities 2. The Council must ensure that the business taking on the responsibility has adequate public liability insurance and provides suitable risk assessments and working methods 3. The Town Council as landlord has responsibility for ensuring that the risk assessment and working methods are being adhered to – especially around the COVID-19 health and safety 		

Next Steps	<p>If the Town Council would like to see this taken forward for officers to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with premises in the immediate surroundings to gauge local opinion 2. Consult with Cheshire East, Licensing and the Police around any issues 3. Draw up a suitable agreement with Mr Hildrup to allow Congleton Kitchen and other businesses working with him to use the Community Garden until 30th September 2021 (in line with the Pavement licences being granted under the Business and Planning Act 2020).
Environmental impact	Not expected to add to Carbon Footprint of the Town Council
Financial Impact	No expense anticipated - businesses will be providing the tables, chairs and looking after the area. May be some additional cleaning and bin emptying needed by Streetscape.
Equality Impact	Opportunity being offered for all residents. Suggest businesses ensure that those with limited mobility or visual impairment have equal access to the facility.
Proposal	For officers to draw up an agreement with Mr Hilrup from Congleton Kitchen to allow Congleton Kitchen and other businesses working with him to put tables and chairs in a COVID-19 secure way in the Community Garden until 30 September 2021.

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	20 Interim Report on the Congleton Health and Wellbeing COVID-19 Survey		
Background	<p>At the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on the 2nd July the group agreed to put together a survey to send out to residents to gather data from the local residents on their experience of COVID-19.</p> <p>Questions were asked around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether they believe they have had COVID-19 • How easy it has been to get access to information • Impact that COVID-19 has had on their mental health, finances, family relationships • Whether they had suffered a bereavement during the pandemic either due to COVID-19 or other causes. • Their confidence levels when taking part in activities such walks, sports, shopping for non-essential items, visiting families, going to pubs and restaurants • Demographic information <p>The questionnaire was discussed and tested with the Congleton COVID-19 Community Leads group. It went live on Friday 10th of July. On the 22 July there had been 223 responses.</p> <p>As well as closed questions each section offers an opportunity to give further comment.</p>		
Updates	<p>The survey will stay live until the end of July. A summary report of the survey will be circulated to the committee on the morning of the 30th July and a verbal update of the findings and comments will be given at the meeting.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the information gathered will be used to help apply for funding and to give us a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the community.</p>		
Proposal	To note the report		

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
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Proposal	To note the report		