



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CiLCA

18th September 2020

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 24th September 2020

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, on **Thursday 24th September 2020 at 7.00pm.**

This will be a virtual meeting which needs to be accessed via Zoom.

[Use this link to open the Zoom meeting for the Community & Environment Committee 24th September 2020](#)

Meeting ID: 891 0354 2554

Passcode: 784145

- **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

Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

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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 30th July 2020 as a correct record.

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

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally at the meeting including those which have been 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. Updates Paper from 30th July 2020 C&E Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the previous Community & Environment Committee meeting on 30th July 2020.

8. White Ribbon Working Group Update (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the meeting held on the 5th August and to receive an update on the [accreditation for the Town Council](#).

9. Congleton in Bloom Working Group Notes (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on [24th August](#) and [14th September 2020](#).

10. Congleton Green Working Group Notes (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 10th September 2020.

11. Health and Well Being Working Group Update (Verbal)

To receive a verbal update from the group held on the 24th September 2020.

12. Integrated Transport Working Group (Verbal)

Note this group will meet on Friday 25th September 2020.

13. Events for 2020 (Enclosed)

To approve the recommendations for the Remembrance Sunday and Congleton Christmas Lights Switch-on.

14. Congleton Christmas Lights Decorations (Enclosed)

To discuss and approve recommendations for extra decorations for Congleton Town Centre 2020.

15. Sink Holes in West Heath (Enclosed)

To discuss and note actions to be taken to investigate the extent of the issue of sunken drains in Congleton.

16. Feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Survey 2020 (Enclosed)

To note the responses to the Health and Wellbeing Survey 2020.

17. COVID-19 Update (Verbal)

To discuss any actions needed as a result of recent announcements or changes for the Congleton Community.

18. Resolution to exclude the Public and Press

To consider passing a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 19 on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of private and confidential information.

19. Tour of Britain Opportunity 2021 (Verbal Report)

To discuss a request from the organisers of the Tour of Britain.

To: Members of the Community & Environment Committee

CLIs: 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 (3),
Congleton Library, Congleton Visitor Information Centre.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30th July 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 860 9871 8135

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

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

Non-Committee Members:

Suzie Akers Smith (13)
Duncan Amies
David Brown
Robert Douglas
Robert Hemsley
Robert Moreton
James Smith (joined item 7)

Also present: CTC Officers David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur and Ruth Burgess (until item 6)
2 Members of the Press, 1 officer from the Police and 6 public.

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

CE/13/2021 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020 as a correct record.

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, David Brown and Rob Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Outstanding Actions

Agenda Item 9 provides an update 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.

There were questions from two members of the public – Lisa Miller and Olga Whitmore. This can be seen in Appendix A.

6. Cheshire Police

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

PC Helen Weeks from Cheshire Police provided updates to the Committee see Appendix B for details.

7. Monthly Domestic Abuse Clinics in Congleton

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

CE/14/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council would work 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 to be £40 per month, funded from the Crime Prevention Budget. The clinic to be reviewed after 6 months.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/15/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group from the 16th July 2020.

9. Updates Paper 4th June 2020 C&E Committee

CE/16/2021 Resolved to receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the Community and Environment Committee meeting on 4th June 2020.

10. Update from Working Groups

CE/17/2021 Resolved to receive a brief update from the Working Groups on progress being made by the groups.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

CE/18/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 3rd June 2020.

12. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/19/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 23rd July 2020.

13. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

CE/20/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group held on the 2nd July 2020.

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

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

CE/21/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council 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.

15. Edinburgh Road Telephone Box

This paper was withdrawn. A future report will come to committee updating on plans for a 24/7 defibrillator for the Bromley Farm area.

16. Increasing Walking and Cycling in Congleton

To discuss a report from Councillor Suzanne Akers-Smith and the Integrated Transport Working Group about efforts to increase walking and cycling to school in Congleton this autumn.

CE/22/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council will support the need for Congleton schools, focussing on the secondary schools but also considering the opportunities for the primary schools, to create safer routes for cycling and walking to school. To actively encourage Cheshire East Highways officers to explore ways that this can be done safely in Congleton drawing on Government Active Travel funds where possible.

17. Request for support A34 Astbury Junction Road Safety

To consider a request to support Astbury Parish Council in their campaign to make A34 Astbury junction safer for all users.

CE/23/2021 Resolved 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.

18. Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park

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.

CE/24/2021 Resolved to make representations to Cheshire East Council Parking services and to the Head of Planning about the serious highway problems that the proposed closure of Rope Walk car park will cause and seek parking solutions for the area. Also to raise concerns that Congleton Town Council was not consulted about possible solution.

19. Request to use the Community Garden for Addition Tables and Chairs

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

CE/25/2021 Resolved to delegate responsibility to 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 and socially acceptable way in the Community Garden, initially for a four week trial.

20. An Interim Report on the Congleton COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey

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

CE/26/2021 Resolved to note the report and to continue the survey until the end of August.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

Appendix A Public Questions

Question from Lisa Miller

“Firstly, I’m thrilled that the amount of pesticide/herbicide usage in Congleton has been reduced, I’m wondering if there’s any further plans to reduce/eradicate its use anymore? Also, I know that streetscape/ANSA are having meetings to review each individual area that is mown to see if they can be left/rewild. I’m wondering how this is progressing, are there more grass verges being left to nature now?”

RESPONSE BY CHAIR:

Congleton Town Council was set to try out a new approach to grass cutting in an attempt to preserve wildflowers and the wildlife who rely on them.

The Town Council had announced that some of the roadside verges and open spaces – will be cut in a different way in order to encourage the growth of wildflowers. However, this has been put on hold until next year 2021, as it was difficult to set up the scheme whilst in COVID lockdown. The Scheme will happen next year and is something we are all looking forward to doing and carrying out.

Under this new approach, the grass which the Town Council is responsible for will not be cut fortnightly which is the current schedule but will be left, the parts which will be left will be cut only once a year, between mid-July and mid-August, with the grass cuttings removed. This will prevent aggressive plant species from dominating the areas and will allow for the growth, flowering and seeding of wildflowers. This in turn will provide the ideal habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.

Congleton Town Council is determined to protect and improve Congleton’s natural environment and this fairly simple change to how we cut our grass will help increase the habitats and food that our pollinating insects rely on.

Congleton Town Council’s progressive move towards a better management of their grass areas is part of their Sustainable Strategy and Climate Responsibility.

Questions from Olga Whitmore:

1. *“CTC declared climate emergency in September 2019, is CTC planning to reduce the fortnight mowing of the verges in Congleton?”*

Happy with the same response as question from Lisa Miller.

2. *"In Bloom Committee aka Floral Arrangement Group plays an important role in Greening the town, but still resists the change to sustainable planting, why are such prominent members of the planting community not invited to the committee?"*

As far as the current In Bloom team are aware the three mentioned have never asked to join the In Bloom working group itself, although they are already actively involved with In Bloom activities and also separate green Initiative groups.

Val works with the streetscape team roughly once a Month as well as maintaining the food for free bed which we present and show to the judges each year.

Ruth is part of the tree initiative group and has been carrying out work on Congleton's Green Open Spaces for the Town Council. She is also working with Ruth Burgess from the Town Council on plans to develop wild areas on council owned land.

Sandra runs the Buglawton in bloom group, which is one of nine Its Your Neighbourhood areas that makes up the bigger In Bloom campaign. Congleton in bloom supports and provides plant, labour and equipment to the group. We actively seek out meetings with the local groups each year and support where possible.

The Town Council is very grateful to them and the many other volunteers who support these initiatives across Congleton.

3. *"Correct me if I am wrong, perhaps In Bloom Committee has endorsed sustainable planting in view of CTC declaration of climate emergency in September. Since the minutes of October 2019 In Bloom Committee meeting were never published, I can't tell for sure if any changes in planting scheme took place."*

Streetscape and Congleton in Bloom has many changes planned this year however a lot has been put on hold due to Covid and will be put in place next year. This includes sustainable planting schemes, wild flowers, reduced grass cutting. Copies of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group minutes - along with all the Working Groups, can be viewed on the Congleton Town Council website in the section on Working Groups.

4. *"Will planting roundabouts be using perennial plants, or will CTC decide on using annuals which have high environmental impact? Only one roundabout has permanent planting."*

We have 5 roundabouts which we are responsible for there is currently two sustainable and three with bedding plants however in the autumn there is plans for one more roundabout to be made sustainable with perennial planting to be done

5. *"Considering the cost of labour to replant those roundabouts, perhaps CTC will consider to reduce the carbon footprint and the money expenditure at the same time?"*

Financial, Environmental and Equality & Diversity as well as Safety concerns have to be considered for all our projects and this will certainly be taken into account.

APPENDIX B Item 6 - Report from Congleton Police

Summary of the report given by PC Helen Weeks to the Community and Environment Committee
30th July 2020

General Police Update

Congleton Beat Priorities

Road Safety

in addition to the PCC promise Congleton Beat Team are undertaking Operation Assembles focussing on Road Safety, it will last 6 weeks and will include:

- 1 Trucam per day
- 1 Police Traffic Enforcement Operation per week
- Increasing our Community speed watch groups and their activity
- A focus on our Road Traffic Collision hotspots as well as those areas highlighted by the community
- Road Safety messaging

Request for members to utilise their platforms to push the messaging.

Drug Dealing in Town - Op Little

Organised Criminal Gang members targeted as well as enforcement at street level. All-encompassing approach - Businesses, landlords, dealers and customers.

Previous Priorities Updates:

- Meadow Mill Court – ASB/Crime. 1 Injunction (arrestable), 1 custodial
- Anti-Social Behaviour Issue – Shaw Close – Eviction
- Astbury Mere ASB – Increased patrols there. Bike marked 100 bikes and are returning for more.
- Buxton Old Road – Harassment: partner working resolution
- Robert Hughes charged with blackmail and remanded in prison – Vulnerable victim reassurance being provided

Summer Plans

Summer Activity Program supporting Youth Services – targeted youth project

Panna football has been made available to Glenn Williams

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24 September 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Updates Paper from 30th July 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 30th July, 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/14/2021 Domestic Abuse Clinics for Congleton</p> <p>The first Domestic Abuse support and advice clinic was held at the Old Saw Mill on Wednesday 9th September and staff from Cheshire Without Abuse and Cheshire Police were encouraged by the participation.</p> <p>In addition, since the last committee meeting the Town Council has supported My Cheshire Without Abuse on a funding application to introduce three additional clinics per month into Congleton to help with Peer support, survivors and ongoing support. Cheshire Community Action has approved £5000 worth of funding to enable this additional support to be offered in Congleton.</p> <p>CE/22/2021 Increasing Walking and Cycling in Congleton</p> <p>This is an on-going long-term goal. The Integrated Transport Working Group is meeting on the 25th September.</p> <p>CE/23/2021 Request for support A34 Astbury Junction Road Safety</p> <p>Support has been offered to Newbold, Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council. The Parish is exploring general traffic safety in the villages with Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>CE/24/2021 Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park</p> <p>We have received a holding letter from Cheshire East Council to say that no decision has been made on the future of Rope Walk Car Park.</p> <p>CE/25/2021 Request to use the Community Garden for Addition Tables and Chairs</p> <p>Frank Hildrup informed the Council that at this stage the businesses didn't wish to take up the option so there has been no further discussions on this.</p>		
Proposal	To note this report.		

Minutes of the White Ribbon Working Group Meeting

10.00 am – 11.30 am

Wednesday 5th August 2020

Meeting conducted remotely via Zoom Meeting ID: 814 3857 7815

In attendance

Cllrs R Douglas, K Wesley, Chief Officer D McGifford, Volunteer resident R Walton

1. To appoint a chair for the White Ribbon Working Group

Cllr R Hemsley was appointed as Chair for the group in his absence

2. Apologies

Were received from G Hayes, R Hemsley, P Munro,

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2020

Minutes of the meeting were approved

4. White Ribbon Action Plan review and update (attached)

Updated action plan is as attached

5. Pubwatch – to discuss the opportunity to present White Ribbon to members of the Pubwatch Team

Richard Walton stated that he was willing to present the White Ribbon initiative to the Pubwatch group but would need advance notice to be able to manage around work commitments.

Action Jackie M would liaise with Richard and Pubwatch to arrange a convenient date

6. Working with the Police –

Below is a summary of information / statistics provided by the police following a meeting with Kay

Police Reported Incidents of Domestic Violence in Congleton February-July 2020

Total victims = 228

Female victims =154 (67.5%)

Male victims=74 (32.5%)

Total offenders/suspects= 200

Female offender/suspects=80 (40%)

Male offender/suspects= 120 (60%)

Persistent/Prolific offenders

Female=2

Male=5

So two-thirds female victims, one-third male, which is consistent with the country in general.

In addition to this, we know that according to Safelives, 95% of MARAC cases (risk of death or serious injury) are female victims and, according to myCWA, women are 300 times more likely to be killed than men.

7. To develop White Ribbon Day Plans

It was proposed that we have stalls at 2 of the Makers Market September and November DM to check with Jackie M to confirm. An alternative would be to explore the possibility to locate next to the library DM/JM

8. Accreditation target date

Before White Ribbon day !

AOB

It was explained to the group that there would be a Council Volunteer Policy for the council's working Groups to ensure there is a clear understanding of the roles and a consistent approach in all of the Council's working groups

Date of next meeting TBC

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24th September 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Robert Hemsley, Chief Officer David McGifford		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 White Ribbon Update		
CURRENT STATUS	We are delighted to announce that the national White Ribbon Organisation has awarded Congleton Town Council Accreditation as a White Ribbon Organisation.		
BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS TO DATE	<p>White Ribbon UK is a global charity that works with men and boys to challenge those cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. With recent escalations of domestic abuse during the COVID lockdown, this work is more important than ever.</p> <p>The Congleton White Ribbon Working Group is - Cllrs Robert Hemsley (Chair), Mark Rogan, Robert Douglas, George Hayes, Kay Wesley, Chief Officer David McGifford, Richard Walton and Peter Munro.</p> <p>We recognise that men and boys can be victims too. So our mission is to “Strive to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and abuse in Congleton”</p> <p>Since its inception in 2019, our White Ribbon Working Group has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run a stall on the Maker’s Market in September and at the Christmas Fair in November 2019 to mark White Ribbon Day on the 25th. • Got over 150 men and women in Congleton to sign the White Ribbon Promise. • Featured White Ribbon Day on the CTC website and social media • Joined a national webinar to learn from others around the country about the White Ribbon actions they are taking. • Collaborated with the Police and Cheshire Without Abuse to get a Domestic Abuse clinic in Congleton • Created a page of the CTC website ‘Staying Safe at Home’ to support families affected by abuse during the COVID lockdown • Run White Ribbon awareness sessions for staff and Councillors • Asked Kelly Johnston, our local Police Beat Inspector to join our WR Group. • Developed an Action Plan to ensure all our council activities promote the aims of White Ribbon and to reach out into the community and engage people and organisations with the White Ribbon messages <p>The plan consists of 4 Sections:</p> <p>Section 1: Strategic Leadership – ensuring policy and practice is compatible with the behaviours required, and creating White Ribbon Ambassadors</p> <p>Section 2: Engagement – awareness sessions for Councillors and staff, then reaching out more widely</p>		

	<p>Section 3: Culture – taking action to stamp out sexism and a willingness to report and deal with inappropriate behaviours</p> <p>Section 4: Raising Awareness – outreach into the wider community through a broader Communications Plan, encouraging other organisations to become White Ribbon Accredited</p> <p>All this work and our plans for the future have secured our Accreditation.</p> <p>The White Ribbon Group would like to thank our fellow councillors and our council offers for their ongoing support and determination to stamp out abuse and violence in our town.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council is incredibly indebted to our colleagues in the Police and my Cheshire Without Abuse who work collaboratively and tirelessly to eradicate these crimes. Thank you.</p> <p>Our next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a stall at the Maker's Market on Saturday 26th September. This will be our White Ribbon Accreditation launch event. If any councillors would like to man the stall, please let Cllr Wesley know. • We are planning our campaign for White Ribbon day in November. • The PubWatch group has invited us to come and do an awareness session with them. • Other local town councils have asked for our support in starting their White Ribbon campaigns. • We are doing outreach work with schools, sports clubs and others to spread the word. • If any Councillors or staff missed the awareness sessions, we will run a 'mop-up' session in the next few months that you can join. • We encourage all Councillors, staff and members of the public to make the White Ribbon promise and sign up as White Ribbon Ambassadors or Champions - which you can do on the White Ribbon website. <p>If anyone would like to talk to us about getting their own organisation accredited – a business, a club or whatever, please get in touch with a member of the White Ribbon Working Group.</p>
REQUEST	To note the report.

Congleton In Bloom Working Group
24th August 2020 Virtual Zoom Meeting,
MINUTES

Attendee: Cllr D Brown (Chair), Cllr A Martin, Cllr M Gartside, B Edwards, G Williams, P Pinto, R Burgess (Officer)

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.
 - Anna Morrison, Martha Hayes
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.
 - David Brown- Cheshire East
 - Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust (WDT) and FOCP
 - Glen Williams – Partnership and FOCP
 - Bob Edwards – Partnership
 - Margaret Gartside – Astbury Mere
1. **Update from Tree information – Website links**
 - Tree information is on the Town Council website, with update number of amounts of tree planted with a link to a map with locations, this is also on the partnership website.
 - Tree group will be linking with the Link Rd Graham Construction regarding their planned tree planting scheme
 - Idea for Memorial woodland recommended by RHS, regarding all the lives lost due to COVID-19
 - Glebe Farm have now planted 500 trees a variety of species – RB to add to list
2. **Town tidies update**
 - 15 attendee the last town tidy at Astbury Mere and Congleton Park, Congleton Plastic free group also joined to help with the litter pick at Astbury Mere.
 - GW and DB weeded and cleared Princess St Car Park
 - Total of 15 bags of vegetation and litter in total picked up which is now all recycled
 - Next Town tidy 12th September meeting at the community garden 10am MH Chronicle advert and social media, RB email to all councillors and previous volunteers on our database
3. **Green flags update from judging 18.8.20**
 - Very positive judging day, received verbal update from Chair of FoCP Glen Williams, the judge will be sending our a recommendations sheet, but he did mention about the Park Bedding, that we do not need any more sustainable bedding as this will lose the heritage of the park and the initial design by Edward Kemp, Work needs to be done on the woodland path and landing stage.
4. **Route update after tour**
 - Drive around with the team went well, showed us what we needed to do for next year – RB to create an action plan and maintenance programme,
 - Alexandra Court would like to be back in the judging
 - Need to create a list of sites and who does what - RB
5. **Wildflowers areas (with blue heart signs) update –**

We now have 20 blue hearts, which were put out in the park, in the park unable to leave out due to them being thrown in the river and at the buildings

6. AOB

- Action MH – add in to portfolio information on the new tree planting scheme
- All – generate a thank you list and send to RB and MH ready for DB to send out – send by 15th October
- AM – Issue with insects on Dutch Wall, - plan to remove 25 Rosemarie's with the team and clear soil – 6th September
- Congleton Park volunteer hours – 155 hours June and July 2020
- Next month's agenda item – community garden / cenotaph
- Quote for calendars A4 and strip calendar at 250 qty, photos to be sent to RB 4th September

Next meeting 14th September 10AM

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

14th September 2020, 10am

MINUTES

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

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, Anna Morrison
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record- 24th August
 - Approved.**Actions:** - Trees are now on the website- RB to chase up agreement of areas for planting from Cheshire East.
 - RB to send out all site information and who looks after each area, also 2021 action plan.
 - Thankyou list (15th October deadline)- nothing sent as yet.
3. **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
 - Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park
 - Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park
 - Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership
 - Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership
 - Amanda Martin- Congleton Park, Congleton Partnership
4. **Community Garden and Cenotaph:** Area for Rotary ‘Tree of Light’ has been agreed and work has started on the area to be ready for the tree to be planted. PP & MG met with Rod Goodier to show where the tree will be planted, pre-agreed by RB & JMac- Rotary are happy with this. RB looking into a path for this area, to match with the rest of the garden.
Suggested Community Garden needs more summer colour- looking into this.
5. **Dutch Wall- Update:** AMartin and GW looking into this area to fill the gaps with compost. AMartin has suggested a plant list for this area, send to RB an exact list to order.
6. **Summer Bedding- Ideas for 2021:** To be sorted at the next meeting. Agreed not to have tiers at Market Street by the traffic lights, but to keep them in the pedestrian area.
7. **Town Tidies-** 12th September cancelled as CTC can’t be seen to be promoting gatherings in the current circumstances. Town Tidies could still go ahead, but in much smaller groups, up to six. Needs a letter in the Chronicle to say people still went out despite the event being cancelled, keep up the good work message.
8. **AOB:**
 - **2021 Calendar-** Quantity 250, quotes from Full Colour, £700 for the A4 landscape and £1000 for the thin wired, Vistaprint at £1,700. PP has suggested to not have a calendar in 2021 and get images for 2022 and focus on this one, highlighting Congleton’s Charter year. (Noted DB wanted a picture of Dane-in-Shaw in Spring). Decided to look at the pictures for the 2021 again, identify gaps, as time to re-take. Deadline of agreement- 30th September.
 - **Blue Heart Sites-** Need to send these to RB.
 - **In Bloom Video-** Instead of having still images, have some short videos on this, made into one video, ACTION GW- to email both high schools to see if a photography group would be willing to work on this.
 - **Penny-farthing:** Currently being made with Belmont, a design needs to be done for the Park Lane roundabout for this to go on.
 - **Wheelbarrow Project-** PP is still looking to do this for 2021 and be in the polytunnels from June.
 - **Park Fern Poster-** To be discussed at the next meeting, ACTION GW & PP.
 - **IYN Support-** To be discussed at next meeting, possibly they’ll need more support in 2021- ACTION DB to send an email to the IYNs.
 - **Rotary Crocus Planting-** Will be notified when arrived, need to sort planting.

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 10 September 2020

Location: Via Zoom

Time: 5pm

Present: Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Suzy Firkin, Councillor Kay Wesley, Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Martin Amies, Barry Speed, Peter Aston, Jackie MacArthur.

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By who	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Sally Holland, David McGifford Councillor Jean Parry,		
2	<p>Actions from meeting 23 April not on agenda</p> <p>a) CTC Top 10 to reduce:</p> <p>b) E-Learning</p>	<p>Top 10 items from Carbon footprint sheet now split between Town Hall Working Group, Streetscape Working Group and Town Council Management Team and will report back to the Committee. Team to produce SMART targets based on benchmark. Barry Speed offered to complete baseline for 2019- 20 in the same way as the 2018-19 for comparison. (Note 2020-2021 likely to be exceptional due to COVID)</p> <p>This has been temporarily paused while more work goes into the learning experience side of the project and more local content added. Peter Aston to join editorial board.</p>	<p>JMacA with Mgt team</p> <p>Barry S</p> <p>KW/SF/MG/JM & PA</p>	<p>November meeting</p> <p>Nov Mtg</p> <p>Fortnightly meetings</p>
3	Carbon Offsetting Options	<p>Barry Speed and Cllr Firkin have started work on a paper on options for Carbon offsetting options for Congleton. The paper now contains all the main issues and asked to circulate it to all members of the Green Working Group and Barry Fox from CSG to consider how we can move the principles forward to help Congleton.</p> <p>Paper to be circulated</p> <p>Add as a main item for next agenda</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>November</p> <p>Sept</p> <p>Sept</p>
4	Wider Plan for reducing Congleton's Environmental Footprint/	Agenda item 2 is about reducing the carbon footprint of areas within the control of the Town Council. This item is about an action plan for the		

			<p>town as a whole. It is a huge task. Add local business types into the equation. Lots of good work already underway by a variety of local groups –Congleton Sustainability Group, Plastic Free Congleton, Congleton Tree Planting Group, Active Travel, Eco Schools, Love Food Hate Waste, SLIC course, E-learning, Green Fayres.</p> <p>Actions – Pull together a comprehensive grid showing all various groups/organisational types which need to be involved, all the gaps and the issues and opportunities for change.</p> <p>Explore options for introducing Town-wide green awards – ways to incentivise change.</p>	PA/JMacA	Oct
8	AOB	Green Waste	Question on Green waste - which is greener – compost waste in garden or using green bin	PA	Nov
		Webinars/Podcast	PA gave overview of meeting with KW and JMacA – idea to create Congleton centric webinars to help drive education on interesting green topics – want to reach across the generations. – Ongoing work	PA/KW/JMac	Update email
		Transport Issues	An Integrated Transport Working Group is being held on Friday 25 th September to look at targets and strategy – minutes of this meeting to circulate to green group too.	JMac	End Sept
		Bike Doctor	Would it be possible to organise a session in town to get your Bike sorted – potential Bike Doctor could check bikes and fix if simple or explain what is needed if serious work needed.	MR/JMacA	Sept/Oct
		International Car Free Day	22 September – could put out on Social Media – but too late to organise road closures for this year. Could consider for next year?	JMacA	Add to grid
9	Date of Next Meeting		Thursday 5 th November- ZOOM		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24 September 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur and Martha Hayes - Events and Marketing		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Events 2020		
Background	<p>Earlier in the year we had held on to the hope that by the end of 2020 the COVID-19 virus would be under control and that it may be possible to put on some of the events and festivals that are extremely popular in the town.</p> <p>COVID-19 is still in the community and with the laws and guidance around social gatherings have recently become more restrictive. It is now clear that the community events that we would like to arrange for Congleton are not going to be possible this year. Congleton Rotary have already announced that it will not be going ahead with the traditional bonfire and fireworks event this year.</p> <p>This paper outlines plans for four of the events that the Town Council was expecting to be involved with during the Autumn/Winter 2020</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congleton Green Fayre – 31st October 2. Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 3. Congleton Christmas Lights Switch on – 21st November 4. Other Town Centre Christmas related activities 		
Details	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congleton Green Fayre. The first fayre was held in October 2019 and was successful. The second event was due to be held in May 2020 and was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Green Fayre planned for the 31st October has also needed to be cancelled and Congleton Town Council and Congleton Sustainability Group are exploring ways to create a series of webinars giving a Congleton angle on national and international green issues. 2. Remembrance Sunday. This activity is usually led by the Congleton Branch of the Congleton British Legion. Congleton Town Council supports the event with a grant, a reception and involvement in the event. We are expecting advice from the Cheshire East Council Event Safety Advisory Group, but the expectation is that the normal parade and service will not be appropriate. Instead we are proposing, subject to Police and ESAG agreement, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Lawton Street to traffic around the Cenotaph area 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite one representative of each group wishing to lay a wreath to come into the barriered area where we can control social distancing. • Have a short service at the cenotaph, play the last post and the RBL invite representatives up one at a time to lay their wreaths. • There will be no reception afterwards • Members of the public will be actively encouraged to play their part by staying away and will not be able to come in the closed off section. We are in discussions with a company to live stream and film the event • Need a clear one-way system and stop groups from congregating and chatting after the event. <p>This action will subject to risk assessments being approved by the ESAG and co-operation of the Police.</p> <p>3. <u>Congleton Lights Switch-on and other Christmas activities</u></p> <p>Over the past few years the Congleton Christmas Light Switch-on has involved stage entertainment, fair rides, charity and commercial stalls, Santa's Grotto, Street Entertainment, street food and lantern parade all leading up to the Lights Switch-on. The event usually attracts several thousand people.</p> <p>In the current climate towns across the UK are taking the tough decision to decorate their towns, but not hold a mass public event to celebrate the switch-on. The Christmas working group believes that this is best course of action for Congleton.</p> <p>The Christmas team is advocating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing more lights to make the town look extra special for the duration of the Festivities • Booking events that attract a slow and constant draw of people into the town centre – such as ice sculptures and entertainers • Work with traders on promotions and competitions to bring people into the Town centre during the festive time • Using three of the four days given to us by Cheshire East Council to offer free parking in three of the car parks in the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas. • Giving local traders who would usually purchase a Christmas Tree to go above their shop will be offered a free tree this year. This will help to decorate the town, in the same way that we supported the shops with free hanging baskets in 2020.
Environmental Consideration	<p>Work was taking place on helping to green events. Overall not being able to put on the events will have a positive impact on environmental footprint, but a negative impact on community cohesion.</p>

Equality considerations	The lack of events impacts across the community.
Financial Considerations	<p>The funds that would be used for the Remembrance Sunday reception will be used to film and stream the event.</p> <p>The funding saved on not holding a light switch on event – stage, road closures, entertainment, equipment hire etc will be used to enable local shops to have trees and will be used to boost the Christmas programme of activities.</p>
Proposal	Officers and Councillors involved in organising the Green Fayre, Remembrance Sunday and Congleton Christmas activities to continue to work with partners on delivering COVID-19-secure alternatives to the normal programme.

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24 September 2020	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur and Martha Hayes - Events and Marketing on behalf of the Christmas Team		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Congleton Christmas Lights Decorations		
Background	<p>Following a review of the Christmas Lights in 2019, the Congleton Christmas Team agreed to look into:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. enhancing the lighting in the pedestrian area 2. introducing lighting in Victoria Street 3. enhancing Market Street as a gateway to the Town Centre 4. extend Christmas lighting into West Street area to benefit its evening economy. <p>The review of the lights and the benefit of creating a more attractive and welcoming town centre for this Christmas is considered even more important this year to encourage more local people to support their local town at Christmas.</p> <p>The Christmas team has sought quotes from four companies specialising in Christmas lighting and is confident that it can achieve the four objective above using the £10k in the Ear Marked Reserve for Christmas Lights.</p> <p>This paper is looking for the support of the Community and Environment Committee for the recommendations of the Christmas group.</p> <p>As background information Congleton Town Council invested in the bulk of its current Congleton Christmas lights in 2013:</p> <p><i>FAP/09/1314 RESOLVED that: New Christmas lights to be purchased outright at a cost of £19,893, plus one off hardware costs of £7,200.</i></p> <p>Over the years these lights have been carefully stored and maintained and we will continue the cross-street banners and lamp-post lights. Most large companies give an option to purchase lights outright or hire cross street banners and lamp post lights. The cost of renting for three years is slightly higher than purchasing outright.</p> <p>The benefit of hire is that after three years you can completely change your lighting scheme as the town would have no ties – or ownership – of lights.</p> <p>The benefit to purchasing outright is a saving to the public purse if the lights are robust and looked after. Our current lights are going into season 8.</p>		

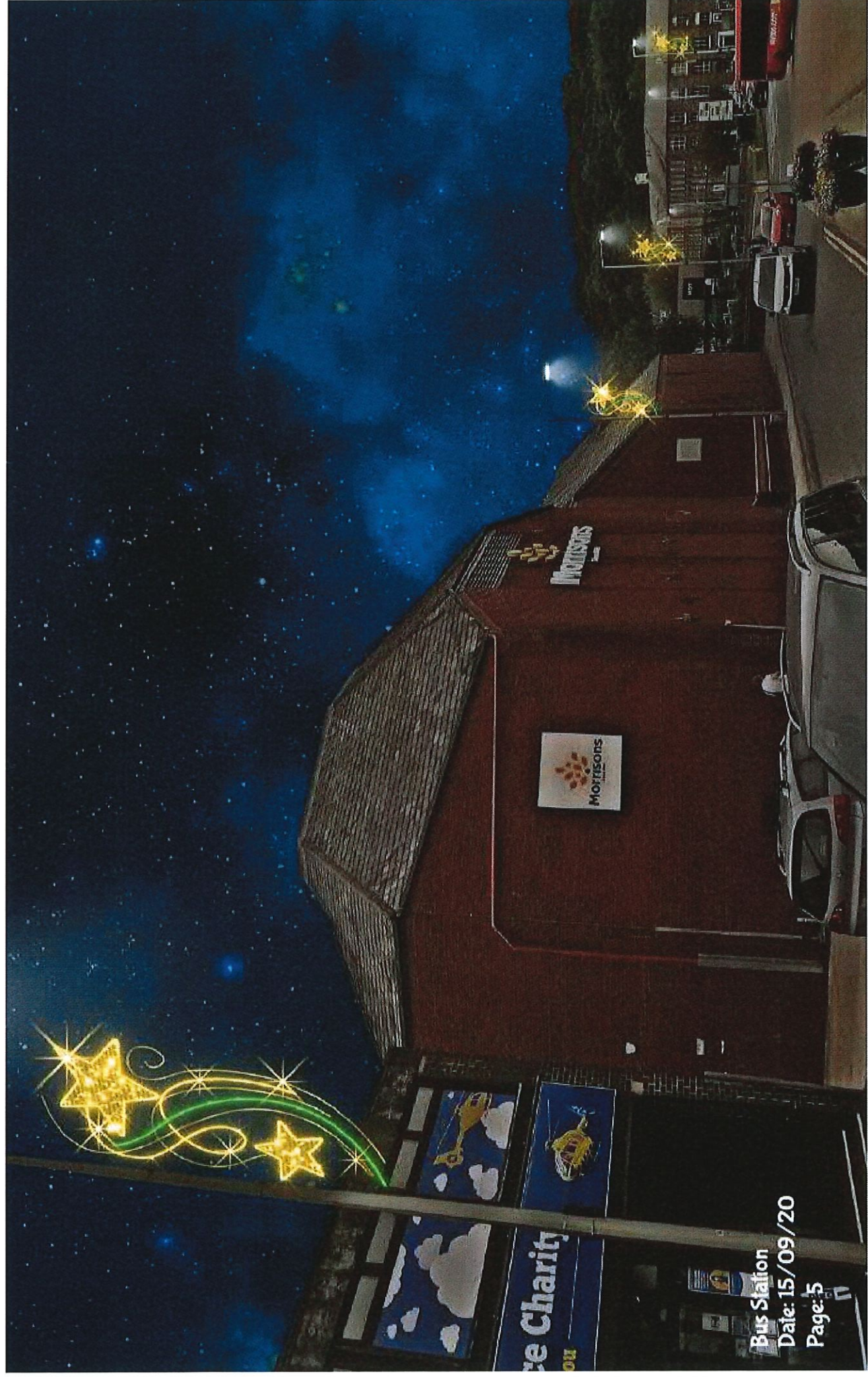
<p>Proposal</p>	<p>1. Pedestrian area: The plain festoon lights in the pedestrian area started to fade and fail last year. The area also lacked some Christmas magic as the trees that were originally lit as part of the scheme were removed as part of the pedestrian refurbishment. The new trees were initially seen as too young to decorate.</p> <p>The proposal for this area is to introduce 350m of 700mm drop cool white icicles with a warm white rope star every 10m to zig zag the length of the pedestrian area and dress the four trees in the centre of the pedestrian area with 3 sets of lights per tree (300 lights) per tree of 12v warm white LED lights.</p> <p>There would be an additional cost of loosely wrapping the trees - cost £100 per tree from our contracted Christmas lights installer.</p> <p>2. Victoria Street – Light columns</p> <p>After looking at a number of options for Victoria Street the group are recommending introducing lamppost motifs to the street columns in Victoria Street and have chosen moon and star columns that build on the theme throughout the town and are in proportion for the narrow pedestrian route and a load that is acceptable for the post.</p> <p>Note there will be a one-off charge to convert the lamp posts so that they are able to use the electricity for the Christmas displays. This costs approximately £230 per lamppost and will be completed by CEC Highways team.</p> <p>Victoria Street – entrance to shopping area</p> <p>Rather than putting funds towards the temporary Christmas trees which are largely hidden along the Bridestones walkway, we are discussing adding more dramatic lighting to area using 9 sets of 700mm drop (max.) cool white icicles with warm white plug in rope light stars. This which will mirror the look in the pedestrian area. We are seeking the property owner's financial support for this lighting...</p> <p>3. Market Street – new Lighting Columns Designs</p> <p>The group is recommending changing the current light column display motifs in Market Street to give a new look to the area. The group is recommending the purchasing 4 x Dancing Star design. These lamp posts are already converted ready to take Christmas lights, so it is only the cost of the new motif.</p> <p>4. West Street Lamp posts</p> <p>The four Christmas lamp post motifs that were previously used in Market Street will be recycled and used in West Street. This will involve a further cost to convert the four lampposts at a cost of £920.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for images of the potential new lights. Details of the costing will be included in the paper to Council if the principle is approved at Community and Environment Committee.</p>
<p>Environmental Consideration</p>	<p>The lights are LED. If we purchase out-right the current lights are about to be used for their 8th season so have longevity over many years.</p>

Equality considerations	The lights are to brighten the town centre for all groups of our society.
Financial Considerations	For the past 8 years the surplus from funds from the budget used to store, repair, install, test and remove lights has been placed into an ear-marked reserve for Christmas lights to build up our reserves for repairs or replacing lights. There is £10k in this budget and the Christmas team would like the Community and Environment Committee to recommend to Council that this fund is used to enhance though the purchase of these additional lights for the four areas mentioned in the report.
Proposal	Community and Environment support the proposals of the Christmas team to enhance the Christmas Lights for 2020 and recommends that a paper goes to Council to approve the purchase of the additional Christmas lights as recommended in this report

Appendix 1

Victoria Street, leading into Bri-
Centre





Town Centre with plantec
middle section



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24th September 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzy Firkin and Cllr Amanda Martin		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	15 Sink Holes at West Heath		
Background	<p>On 6th August the Chronicle published a letter from A Bennet of Nuneaton headed "Councillors need to sort out this mess". The writer visits the area frequently and raised concerns about "numerous sewer collapses in the West Heath area". The same week the Chronicle published an article entitled "Town's sewer network is to be investigated". It quoted United Utilities as saying that it had resolved the problems at 11 and 23 Padgbury Lane and added: "We will be conducting a full assessment of the sewer network in Congleton to identify any areas that may benefit from proactive intervention. This includes installing sensors at strategic locations to help us identify any defects or blockages in advance of them causing problems to customers in this area".</p> <p>Councillor Martin went to West Heath and investigated the problems. She found a big hole in the turning area at the junction of Sandbach Road and Box Lane. The resident at 11 Padgbury Lane told her that the hole outside his house had opened up four times in a year and that each time United Utilities brought in a machine that caused water to squirt out of his toilet. The hole was filled in but continued to sink. Councillor Martin wrote to the Chronicle to reply to the letter but her letter was not published until 27th August.</p> <p>In the meantime Councillor Firkin was contacted by a resident on Sandbach Road who was concerned about the sinking of the kerbs near his house. He was worried about subsidence, which he thought might be due to United Utilities taking water out of the sand under the estate. He said that the sewer on the other side of the road had fractured and that United Utilities had reinforced the ground under the sewer with gravel to prevent it breaking again.</p> <p>Councillor Martin spoke to the resident at 23 Padgbury Lane, who said that United Utilities had carried out a similar operation on the sewer outside his house after a deep hole opened up in the road.</p> <p>Local residents say that the hole at the junction of Box Lane and Sandbach Road has been there for months and that sometimes they can hear running water and smell sewage there. The hole has barriers around it and Cheshire East advise that it has not yet been programmed for action although they are aware of it. The adjacent sinking pavements are also impacting the pedestrian crossing on Box Lane.</p>		
Next Steps	<p>To find out why these problems are occurring and whether United Utilities have a long-term solution. Congleton Town Council needs to establish on behalf of the residents whether their anxieties about ground subsidence are justified.</p>		

Environmental Considerations	If we have an open sewer on Sandbach Road, that is a matter for Environmental Health.
Equality Considerations	None
Financial implications	None
Proposal	<p>1. Write to United Utilities asking whether there is an underlying cause of the problems that have occurred and if so, what they are planning to do about it and on what timescale. Specifically, whether the residents' fears about shrinkage in the underlying sand are justified.</p> <p>2. Liaise with CEC to ensure their ongoing discussions with United Utilities includes rectifying the key problems identified in Congleton and that we get feedback from any relevant meetings.</p>



Documents provided:

1. Copies of the Chronicle article and correspondence
2. Letter from resident at 8 Heathfield Close

Item 15
Appendix 1

chronicleseries.com

Town's sewer network is to be investigated

A full assessment of the sewer network in Congleton is to be carried out following a "thorough investigation" of roads and pavements in the West Heath area, after damage caused by sewer collapses and sink holes.

The announcement was made by United Utilities this week as it apologised for the inconvenience to customers.

The utilities company issued the statement after the Chronicle received a letter that aimed to highlight the "safety issues and the atrocious lack of action being taken by Cheshire East Council and United Utilities in resolving the numerous sewer collapses in the West Heath area".

Collapses

The company said some of its surveys had shown no defect in the sewer network on Sandbach Road, as the letter had claimed.

It was written by someone from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, who regularly visits their elderly parents who live on Padbury Lane, which was closed for more than a week earlier this summer for repairs to a collapsed sewer.

The writer said there had been "numerous sewer collapses" on Box Lane, Sandbach Road, Holmes Chapel Road that were now "exposing residents to weeks of open running sewers and subsidence danger from defective roads, leaning street furniture (traffic lights, lamp standards), sinking pedestrian crossings and unguarded holes in grass verges".

The letter added: "Not only has there been numerous sewer collapses resulting in sink holes in Padbury Lane over the last few years (the latest being repaired last week), Cheshire East and United Utilities are continuing to fail to address the underlying issues."

"All United Utilities appears to be interested in is repairing fractured pipes and all Cheshire East appears to do is to keep throwing sand bags and tarmac into the sink holes, as can be seen outside 11, Padbury Lane and at the Box Lane cross roads where the road has collapsed and an open sewer has been left unattended for over a month." The writer claimed it was "a direct public health risk", saying "covid-19 let alone other viral and bacterial infections could be been aerosolised from this".

They also claimed the Box Lane traffic lights and pedestrian

crossing and highway had started to collapse and were no longer safe to use, adding: "In addition to these, on the main Sandbach Road heading into town before Greengables nursing home, this sewer is clearly collapsing across the main road and adjoining verges and footpath, taking with it lamp post number 20, which as a consequence of the collapse, is now leaning alarmingly."

Unguarded

"On the main Holmes Chapel Road on the verge, outside number 140, there is a large unguarded hole that has developed at the side of the sewer manhole which someone could easily fall in or could further collapse." Cheshire East Council denied a hole at this location was unguarded.

The letter continued: "This lack of action is completely unacceptable, for the failure to address the underlying problems not only is presenting a public health risk, especially as these routes are the main walking routes to the area's main primary and secondary schools, but failure to address these issues at an early stage is resulting in greater damage and repair costs that ultimately local Cheshire East Council tax payers have to pay for."

The writer urged Cheshire East and Congleton town councillors "to get a grip, take these authorities and companies to task, this is what local residents elect you to do."

A spokesperson for United Utilities said: "We apologise for the inconvenience caused to customers in Congleton and can confirm we've carried out a thorough investigation of all the areas mentioned."

"The issues have now been resolved at 23, Padbury Lane and our engineers are currently on site carrying out repairs at 11, Padbury Lane."

"In the Sandbach Road locations, our surveys of the sewer network have shown no evidence of defects and we've shared this information with Cheshire East Council to assist it in its own investigations. The hole on Holmes Chapel Road is not sewer related."

"We will be conducting a full assessment of the sewer network in Congleton to identify any areas that may benefit from proactive intervention."

"This includes installing sensors in strategic locations to help us identify any defects or blockages in advance of them causing problems to customers in the area."

Councillors need to sort out this mess

Dear Sir, — As a regular visitor to my elderly parents who live on Padbury Lane, Congleton, I am taking the time to contact yourselves to highlight to you and your readers the safety issues and the atrocious lack of action being taken by Cheshire East Council and United Utilities in resolving the numerous sewer collapses in the West Heath area (Padbury Lane, Box Lane, Sandbach Road, Holmes Chapel Road).

They are now exposing residents to weeks of open-running sewers and subsidence danger from defective roads, leaning street furniture (traffic lights, lamp standards), sinking pedestrian crossings and unguarded holes in grass verges.

Not only has there been numerous sewer collapses resulting in sink holes in Padbury Lane over the last few years (the latest being repaired last week), Cheshire East and UU are continuing to fail to address the underlying issues.

All UU appears to be interested in is repairing fractured pipes and all Cheshire East appears to do is to keep throwing sand bags and tarmac into the sink holes, as can be seen outside 11, Padbury Lane and at the Box Lane crossroads where the road has collapsed and an open sewer has been left unattended for over a month.

This is a direct public health risk (covid-19 let alone other viral and bacterial infections could be been aerosolised from this!) because this has not been dealt with. Tarmac has been previously thrown into the developing hole over the last two years, the adjacent Box Lane traffic lights and pedestrian crossing and the highway has started to collapse and are no longer safe to use.

In addition to these, on the main Sandbach Road heading into town before Greengables nursing home the sewer is clearly collapsing

it is a consequence of the collapse is now leaning alarmingly.

On the main Holmes Chapel Road on the verge outside number 140 there is a large unguarded hole that has developed at the side of the sewer manhole which someone could easily fall in to or it could further collapse.

This complete lack of action and apathetic attitude is completely unacceptable, for the failure to address the underlying problems. Not only is it presenting a public health risk (especially as these routes are the main walking routes to the area's main primary and secondary schools) but failure to address these issues at an early stage is resulting in greater damage and repair costs that ultimately local Cheshire East Council tax payers have to pay for.

For god's sake, Cheshire East and UU, pull your finger out and do your job properly! And stop covering up issues. And councillors (Cheshire East and Congleton Town Council): get a grip, take these authorities and companies to task. This is what local residents elect you to do! — Yours faithfully,

A BENNETT
Nuneaton

5th September 2020.

Re:

- (i) **The progressing subsidence in Heathfield Close/ Sandbach Road, Congleton, Cheshire, relating to the main United Utilities sewer, (first reported to CEC 17.7.2019.).**
- (ii) **The deterioration of the road surface of the A534 (and the vibration damage being caused (was listed by CEC Highways as a priority in late 2019)).**

Dear Cllr Martin,

May I firstly thank you for visiting the above location this morning and hope that the opportunity allowed you to gain a greater appreciation of the above issues and the lengthy process to date we have endured in trying to establish a cause and ownership of the problem (CEC? UU? or both?) and what course of investigation and/ or resolution is proposed.

As promised I will now provide you with some brief background information and a time line of CEC and UU interventions and findings from over the last 14 months.

Having lived at the above address for over 41 years and having had contact with Cheshire East Council (CEC) and Cheshire County Council before, we do have a good knowledge of the local area in question and the works undertaken by the Councils and United Utilities in the past, and hence the following background information is of important detail.

Directly opposite our driveway, on the adjacent A534 Sandbach Road, the main sewer crosses the Sandbach Road grass verge, before passing beneath the A534 and footpath, through the hedge (and onto Heathfield Close, before continuing down the Sandbach Road Slip Road towards Box Lane.

A number of years ago ourselves and neighbours were forced to contact CEC because the main A534 (at the above stated point) and the adjacent grass verge (south side of A534) began to sink, not only causing extensive vibration and noise to adjacent properties from passing frequent HGV's, but the dipping nature of the road was causing vehicles to deviate without warning from their normal path without warning signage. Hence a Highways Officer attended and said that " he was fully aware of the issue as he travelled the road each day to and from work" and that it needed to be investigated (by the Council and United Utilities) as something needed

to be done. Sure enough the Council investigated the road from the surface for a specified depth and found that to be fine and United Utilities placed a camera down the sewer to check for cracks and alignment defects, which again proved ok. Hence it was decided by the Council and United Utilities that what was actually happening was that the shuttering and ballast around the sewer and the underlying sand was deteriorating due the volume of traffic the A534 was taking and that remedial action was taken by the Highways to build up and level the carriageway (which it did and has continued to do as and when required) and by United Utilities to excavate the verge and provide more infill (ballast/hardcore) around the sewer before the verge was levelled and reinstated. In addition to this we were informed that the issue would be regularly monitored by both parties (this never appears to have occurred!) and further remedial action taken as and when required.

Moving forward a number of years and other than the occasional application of a further layer of tarmac to level the Main A534 depression (which significantly reduces the extensive vibrations ourselves and other neighbours experience and by the present level of disturbance experienced, will be due soon!), not a great change visually occurred. That is until Jan/Feb2018 (coinciding with increased heavy and HGV traffic on the A534 diverting off the M6 during the roadwork upgrade day and night and the general increase in traffic using the A534 in/out of Congleton), when we first noticed that the Sandbach Road footpath had started to sink and that the highway outside ours and our neighbours in Heathfield Close (on the line of the sewer) had also started to subside causing an evident visual dipping in the road. Having monitored this closely from this time it has continued to sink and increasingly rapidly over the last 18 months with an obvious depression being evident to the naked eye in the highway and increasingly misalignment of the kerbing, plus the neighbouring chambers (at the entrance to Heathfield Close) being forced upwards through the highway and footpath. As this piece of highway only takes two or three car movements a day, this defect is not propagating from direct movement over it but from the adjacent A534 and as this defect is propagating towards our properties at an increasing rate and knowing the level of remedial work that was required directly opposite on the other (south) side of the A534 and the numerous problems experienced in Padgbury Lane and Box Lane, I embarked on trying to establish dialogue with CEC on the **17.7.2019**.

17.7.2019. Contacted CEC requesting to speak to a Highways Officer. **Ref No:3365110.**
No answer, asked for reply- No Response

23.7.2019. Contacted CEC as no response to above. Stated that someone had been out and found no defect. Again tried to put me through to Highways Officer. No answer and again asked for call return-

12.8.2020. Contacted CEC and advised the best way to get a response from Highways was to make a complaint, as they very rarely answered their phones and did not return calls.

Hence formal written complaint was raised with CEC.

19.8.2019. Highways officer attended and admitted there was an issue and that it was most likely due to the sewer. He consequentially arranged for United Utilities (UU) to attend within 5 days of **21.8.2019**. (UU Case No: 00015845)

No one ever saw UU attend and as the chamber covers are buried in the grass verge and clearly had not been disturbed both ourselves and

questioned whether this actually took place.

14.11.2019. I contacted UU to see what had been found, only to be told that the sewer was Ok and that it had been **passed back to CEC**, as the **area around the sewer is a "Grey Area"**.

I spoke to CEC Highways, updated system **Ref No: 3365110** and asked for a reply as to the way forward.

2.12.2019. Highways Officer called at home to update on sewer. Not believing that UU had attended, he arranged again for UU to camera sewer. Also raised concerns about the deterioration of the carriageway surface, adjacent to the previous CEC repair (Ref no:3355437) and said that he had put this section of the A534 on a list requested by Councillors for resurfacing action during early 2020.

6.12.2019. UU cameraed sewer from 8:30an- 12noon. (Photo evidence they attended).

Never heard anything on findings from CEC or UU.

9.1.2020. I spoke to UU who had no record of attending location on 6.12.2019.

Contacted CEHighways to try and obtain the UU Case number they had issued him for the job on 6.12.2019. No response -voicemail left.

Contacted **CEC** Highways Ref No: 3365110, to see if they had had a response from UU or if not what was the UU case number so that I could chase it up. No answers available - case reopened

15.1.2020. Spoke to **CEC**, case had not been updated

16.1.2020. Highways returned call, to say had had no response from UU and would chase up.

13.2.2020. Spoke to CEC, no update on system.

15.2.2020. As appeared to be going nowhere I wrote to UU directly seeking what the findings of 6.12.2019. showed and what action was proposed if necessary.

21.2.2020. Contacted **CEC**, still no update on system.

28.2.2020. Highways contacted me and called around, could see that Heathfield Close subsidence had continued and that it was now starting to affect both carriageways of the A534 and to inform me that he had spoken to UU and UU had had a new IT system and had "conveniently" lost all records of cases from November 2019 onwards. Hence he had raised a new re-camera job (to be done upto 6.3.2020.) and was given a Ref No: SA285388 and whilst he stood at the front door received a confirmation text message with a completely different ref number: 00234855. He also asked me to contact him on his mobile immediately UU arrived and he would also attend.

5.3.2020. UU attended) tried to piece together the case on phone and lap top as Ref :SA285388 had sent them to

Sandbach Road (where there was no manhole). Shaun remembered coming over the road 3.12.2019. and arranging for tankers to come and jet on the 6.12.2019.. Eventually found a report that the sewer was clear but questioned whether it was actually ever cameraed!!.

Contacted CE Highways (who was dealing with some defective resurfacing in Alsager) and although said he would attend, UU contacted him on his mobile to inform that as far as UU were concerned it was not their problem and handed it back to CBC to resolve. UU then left without undertaking an inspection.

6.3.2020. I was contacted by **UU Complaints** to

(9:20am) inform me that in response to my letter of 15.2.2020. he had arranged for the sewer to be CCTV'd today on the late shift after 2pm. I explained that UU attended yesterday and handed everything back to CBC. To this he said that because it looked like it was at least 3 months since it was last done he would let the job continue, look into the matter and get his manager to arrange a meeting, between a UU manager, CBC and self. (This has never materialised).

(3:45pm) UU Team attended for 3hours CCTV'd 16foot deep Foul and Storm sewers from Sandbach Road to Heathfield Close (as force *was* to great to camera the opposite way) and IOM down into the Close itself. Also cameraed the highway drain in Heathfield Close but not the one on the A534 for Health & Safety reasons. All appear fine from a UU point of view, but whole UU Team admitted something is wrong due to the subsidence on both sides of the A534 and that the kerbs have dropped so far that they look like dropped kerbs. Likelihood that all the development in the area is altering water table, destabilising the underlying sand and when coupled with the heavy traffic movement and vibration this is causing an exacerbation of the subsidence. All the area will need remedial action in time and limiting/reducing of heavy traffic over it is also needed. Hence referred back to CBC.
Tried to contact Highways when UU arrived but no answer on his mobile.

May 2020. During Lockdown I was contacted CE Highways who was working from Home (and delivering food parcels for CEC), to say that when he was back in work he was going to go back in the archives to see if there are any old drains in the area that may be having an impact on the situation although he was not convinced that it was not entirely due to the failing nature of UU sewer network. I updated him that the situation had continued to deteriorate to the scale that the pressure of the subsiding road on Heathfield Close has actually fractured a kerb stone clean in half and that further towards the entrance to Heathfield Close the footpath was being driven upwards at an increasing rate.

I also took the opportunity to reiterate the deteriorating nature of the carriageway surface of the A534 outside our house which he said he would update on the system.

Mid June 2020. Whilst walking in Padbury Lane spoke to UU employees working on repairing the collapsed sewer (about 250yards from the Box Lane Traffic Lights), who informed us what was actually happening was that because the area is on sand all the extraction of water (by developments - house building and Link Road) is destabilising the water table and sand beneath pipes and with the heavy traffic the vibration and / or any surface water ingress is causing the sewer pipes to be undermined causing them to sink (causing the dips and subsidence at the surface) which will continue until the sewer fractures and the ground opens up (eg sink holes). They not only

explained what had happened at that specific site (sand below the storm sewer pipe had been displaced causing that pipe to sink (causing road to sink) and fracture which in turn "took out" the adjacent foul sewer pipe (resulting in the whole road opening up and collapsing), but they acknowledged that there were suspicious depressions adjacent to the sewer, outside, Padgbury Lane, another near the Spen View estate entrance and another between the pub and petrol station and a hole at the Box Lane junction, which was undermining the traffic light crossing and south bound carriageway of Box Lane..

19.6.2020. Contacted CEC to make sure Highways had listed the defective A534 road surface between, Heathfield Close and Sandbach Road Ref No: 3398793 at same location as previous repair (Ref No: 3355437) which has started to sink.

Early July 2020. Saw **CE Highways** checking the Box Lane sink hole, he stated that it had been open and gushing for weeks and could smell raw sewage yet UU would not take responsibility for it. He indicated how much it was undercutting and spreading to the road in Box Lane itself. I explained my and my Sister's discussion with the UU employees in Padgbury Lane in June and he agreed that all these sewer related issues (including two collapses in Arnside Avenue last year) need linking together and fully investigating and said he would get someone to look into it.

5.7.2020. Letter to Cllr S Firkin bringing to CTC attention the on going issues we were having with CEC and UU failing to take ownership of the problem and what action is proposed and failure of CBC to address the defective road surface on the adjacent A534 which not only is affecting ours and our neighbours property but most likely is contributing to the sewer subsidence issue.

13.7.2020. Response from **Cllr S Firkin**. Arranged a site visit for 23.7.2020.

23.7.2020. Checked with **CEC** the progress of Ref No: 3398793 (defective surface of A534) which had had no defect found written against it!!!!. Another residents had not received a response from CBC.

23.7.2020. Cllr S. Firkin, attended as arranged and gained an appreciation of the location and issues raised and was to approach CEC to ascertain what is the present situation regarding the issues raised and what is proposed moving forward.

28.8.2020. Spoke again to **Cllr Firkin** to see what she had been able to find out from CEC but she was still awaiting a response on both the main issues raised.

3.9.2020. On walking along Padgbury Lane opposite to Porter's Filling Station a **Rat comes out of a highway surface drain** and ambles along the gutter

4.9.2020. In response to your letter in the Congleton Chronicle and in light of problems other residents have raised in the press. My sister and I thought it was important that you were (i) made aware of the issues we are facing in Heathfield Close and duration these have been ongoing with CEC & UU (where both admit there is an issue but neither want to take ownership of the problem or suggest a way forward despite what appears to

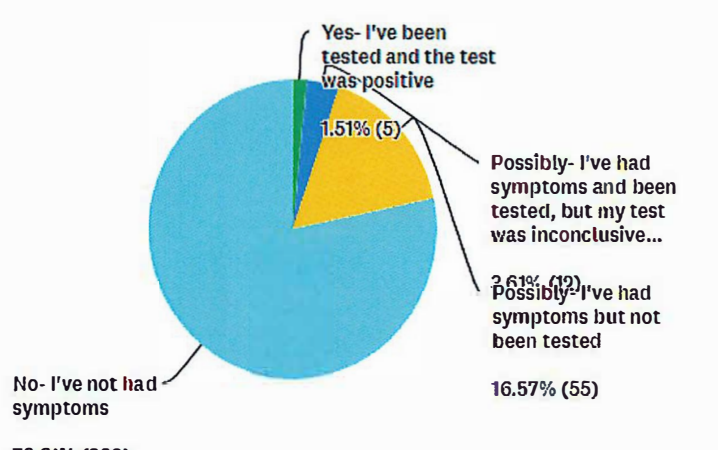
be a much wider problem) and (ii) to raise Public Health and Environmental Health concerns re the open sewer sink hole at Box Lane (in close proximity to Congleton High School) which has been left unattended/ W1 covered for months (emitting a sewage smell mainly in evenings) and especially as there is clear evidence that rats are using the local storm drain network if not wider sewer system in the area.

5.9.2020. Your visit to the location of concern.

Once again many thanks for taking an interest in this issue and hope you can help facilitate some response from CEC and UU (ownership of the problem and future remedial proposals) and dialogue with Senior CEC Highways personnel, as it would appear this is part of a much wider problem in this area of West Heath and at some point it is going to require some very costly and very disruptive remedial action.

Additionally following your visit I have spoken to another resident who is not satisfied with the response that he received from CEC over the condition of the A534 road surface and impact it is having on his family and property and he would be more than happy to speak to yourself over this related matter.

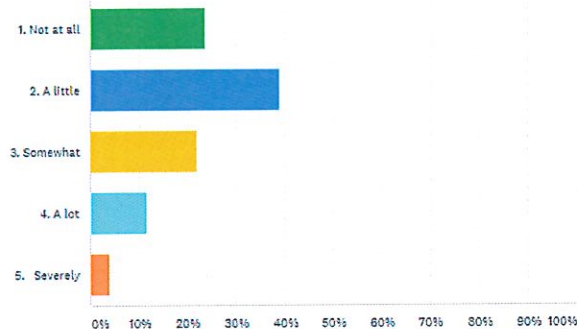
Yours faithfully,

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee																	
MEETING DATE AND TIME	24 September 2020	LOCATION	Zoom															
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Town Events and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer																	
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Survey 2020																	
Background	<p>At the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on 2nd July 2020 the group agreed to put together a survey to send out to residents to gather data from their experience of COVID-19. At the Community and Environment Committee of the 30th July Councillors agreed to keep the survey open during August to gain more views.</p> <p>The survey closed at the end of August with 332 responses. The strength of opinion hardly changed or varied over the period of the consultation. A copy of the Health and Wellbeing Survey results is available on the Health and Wellbeing Working Group page.</p>																	
Results	<p>Summary of Responses: (rounded up to the nearest full percent)</p> <p>Do you believe that you have had the COVID-19 virus?</p>  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>No- I've not had symptoms</td><td>78.31%</td><td>260</td></tr><tr><td>Possibly- I've had symptoms but not been tested</td><td>16.57%</td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td>Possibly- I've had symptoms and been tested, but my test was inconclusive...</td><td>2.61%</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Yes- I've been tested and the test was positive</td><td>1.51%</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Did you have enough information about the Virus</p> <p>87% said they felt well informed, although comments were around mixed messages and hard to keep up with the changes.</p>			Response	Percentage	Count	No- I've not had symptoms	78.31%	260	Possibly- I've had symptoms but not been tested	16.57%	55	Possibly- I've had symptoms and been tested, but my test was inconclusive...	2.61%	10	Yes- I've been tested and the test was positive	1.51%	5
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Was your Mental Health affected

On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not affected and 5 being severe, how much would you say your mental health has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 1



Only 24% of people reported that their mental health had not been affected by the Coronavirus –meaning that over 75% of the respondents were affected. This is due to be discussed in more detail at the Health and Wellbeing group on the 24th September. This section also had more than 80 comments from people expanding on their mental health concerns. Common themes were isolation, coping with rapid change in lifestyle, difficulty of managing with children at home, loss of confidence, concern about getting ill whilst living on their own, missing family and grandchildren.

Was your health care for other conditions affected by COVID-19?

44% yes, 42% no, 14% Not applicable

This was largely around cancellation of appointments for other health related matters. More work on this area will be picked up with the local health trust and primary care network.

Was your Social and Personal Care affected by the Coronavirus

8% yes, 29% no 63% not applicable

This question explored care provision. The main concerns raised in the comments was about not being able to visit loved ones in care settings or hospital.

Has the virus had an impact on your children or your role as a parent?

40% yes, 20% no, 40% not applicable

From the verbal responses to this question it was clear that people never stop being parents! Respondents verbalised concerns ranging from anxieties over working adult children to practical issues with clingy pre-schoolers.

Has your Personal Relationships been affected

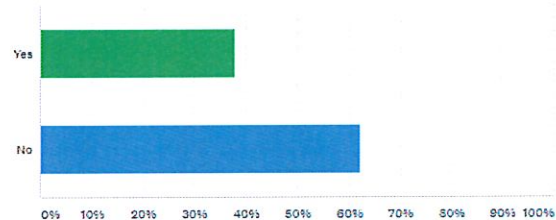
49% yes, 47% no, 3% not applicable.

Has you wage or household income been affected

38% yes, 47% no

Has your job, pay or household income been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 0

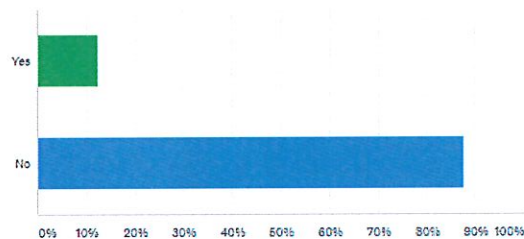


Ongoing personal finances been affected by COVID-19

12% yes, 87% no

Do you have ongoing personal or financial problems as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?

Answered: 330 Skipped: 2

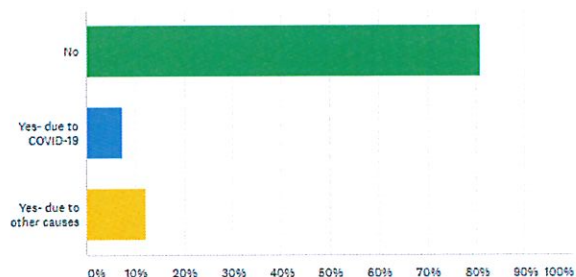


Has a member of your family died during this period

81% no, 7% yes due to Covid, 12% yes due to other causes.

Has a family member or close friend died during the COVID-19 crisis?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 1



	<p>Confidence in various situations....</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>VERY ANXIOUS</th><th>A LITTLE ANXIOUS</th><th>OKAY</th><th>VERY CONFIDENT</th><th>NOT APPLICABLE</th><th>TOTAL</th></tr><tr><td>Taking part in outside events such as walks or picnic with others</td><td>9.04% 30</td><td>21.39% 71</td><td>36.14% 120</td><td>31.33% 104</td><td>2.11% 7</td><td>332</td></tr><tr><td>Playing sport</td><td>8.64% 28</td><td>20.37% 66</td><td>26.54% 86</td><td>11.42% 37</td><td>33.02% 107</td><td>324</td></tr><tr><td>Returning to a place of work</td><td>10.88% 36</td><td>18.73% 62</td><td>13.60% 45</td><td>12.08% 40</td><td>44.71% 148</td><td>331</td></tr><tr><td>Shopping for non-essentials</td><td>19.09% 63</td><td>37.27% 123</td><td>26.36% 87</td><td>15.45% 51</td><td>1.82% 6</td><td>330</td></tr><tr><td>Attending appointments e.g. - medical</td><td>14.16% 47</td><td>32.83% 109</td><td>30.12% 100</td><td>20.48% 68</td><td>2.41% 8</td><td>332</td></tr><tr><td>Going to a pub or restaurant</td><td>33.64% 111</td><td>30.61% 101</td><td>18.79% 62</td><td>11.52% 38</td><td>5.45% 18</td><td>330</td></tr><tr><td>Visiting family at home</td><td>7.25% 24</td><td>24.47% 81</td><td>33.84% 112</td><td>31.12% 103</td><td>3.32% 11</td><td>331</td></tr></table> <p>Demographics of the survey: (rounded up to nearest full percent)</p> <p>70% female. 99% white. 36% aged 60-74. 23% under 44. Responses across all CW12 postcodes – CW12 3 and 4 more dominant.</p> <p>45% lived in a 2-person house. Next largest group was 17% lived alone.</p> <p>52% own house no mortgage, 32% own house with a mortgage, 8% rented social 7% rented private.</p> <p>24% working full time, 17% part time, 35% retired, 8% furloughed, 5% not seeking employment.</p>		VERY ANXIOUS	A LITTLE ANXIOUS	OKAY	VERY CONFIDENT	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	Taking part in outside events such as walks or picnic with others	9.04% 30	21.39% 71	36.14% 120	31.33% 104	2.11% 7	332	Playing sport	8.64% 28	20.37% 66	26.54% 86	11.42% 37	33.02% 107	324	Returning to a place of work	10.88% 36	18.73% 62	13.60% 45	12.08% 40	44.71% 148	331	Shopping for non-essentials	19.09% 63	37.27% 123	26.36% 87	15.45% 51	1.82% 6	330	Attending appointments e.g. - medical	14.16% 47	32.83% 109	30.12% 100	20.48% 68	2.41% 8	332	Going to a pub or restaurant	33.64% 111	30.61% 101	18.79% 62	11.52% 38	5.45% 18	330	Visiting family at home	7.25% 24	24.47% 81	33.84% 112	31.12% 103	3.32% 11	331
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Nest Steps	<p>The Survey is due to be discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Group.</p> <p>The information on the mental health and some of the comments made around the concerns for mental health have been shared with the appropriate agencies.</p> <p>The COVID Communities Lead group is looking to see what further actions can be taken from this survey, particularly in relation to people living alone and social isolation and any lessons that can be learnt if we were to have a local lockdown.</p>																																																								
Environmental Consideration	<p>Nothing to add.</p>																																																								
Equality considerations	<p>Need to look for more inventive ways to encourage younger members of society to respond to surveys.</p>																																																								
Financial	<p>None</p>																																																								
Proposal	<p>To note this report and a verbal update from the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.</p>																																																								