



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

14th January 2021

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 21st January 2021

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, on **Thursday 21st January 2021 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 21st January 2021.

Meeting ID: 854 3356 3243

Passcode: 812296

- **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 in accordance with Section 100 (B) (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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 Previous Meetings (Enclosed)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee held on 12th November 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

These are dealt with in item 8.

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. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police (Verbal Update)

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

8. Updates Paper from 12th November Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an updates paper from 12th November 2020 highlighting any issues.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 7th January 2021.

10. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2020.

11. Congleton Green Working Group Notes (Verbal Update)

Minutes of the meeting for the 5th November received at meeting on the 12th November. Meeting planned for 21st January minutes to next meeting.

12. Health and Wellbeing Working Group Update (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing group held on the 10th December 2020.

13. White Ribbon Working Group Update (Verbal)

To receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group held on the 14th January 2021.

14. Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy Statue (Enclosed)

To consider a report from the Elizabeth Group requesting Congleton Town Council support and help with the ambition to obtain a life size statue of Elizabeth for Congleton Town Centre.

15. Volunteer Co-ordination Point for Congleton (Enclosed)

To consider a proposal from Cheshire East Council to be a Volunteer Co-ordination Point for Congleton.

16. CTC Response to the Cheshire East Local Transport Delivery Plan (Enclosed)

To discuss and approve the CTC response to the Cheshire East Council consultation on Local Transport Delivery Plan, as formed by the Strategy Working Group on the 8th January 2021.

17. CTC Response to the Cheshire East Council Car Parking Survey (Enclosed)

To discuss and approve the CTC response to the Cheshire East Council consultation on Car Parking, as formed by the Strategy Working Group on the 8th January 2021.

18. CTC Response to Police Crime Commissioners' Consultation (Enclosed)

To consider a response to the request for Town and Parish Council's responses to the Policing proposals for funding and priorities in 2021/22.

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: Cllr 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 12th November 2020

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next committee meeting on 21st January 2021

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID: 812 5594 3567

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 12th November 2020](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

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

Non-Committee Members: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Robert Hemsley,
Cllr Robert Moreton,

Also present: CTC Officers David McGifford and Jackie MacArthur
2 Members of the Press, 1 Cheshire Police Officer, 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from committee members Councillors Sally Ann Holland (Ex-Officio) and Cllr Mark Rogan.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/38/2021 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 24th September 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 David Brown, Rob Moreton and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings. See minute note 7.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public at this meeting.

6. Cheshire Police

Sergeant Paul Brunton from Cheshire Police provided updates to the Committee see Appendix A for details.

7. Updates Paper from 24th September C&E Committee

CE/39/2021 Resolved to accept the report giving updates on Domestic Abuse Clinics, Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park, Moody Hall, Christmas Lights and Sink Holes in West Heath.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

CE/40/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 22nd October 2020.

Chair gave a brief update confirming that it is unlikely the Public Space Protection Order in the town centre will be renewed in 2021. The Dog Fouling Public Space Protection would be renewed. 1,000 speeding offences witnessed by Speed Watch groups. 118 cases of Domestic Abuse.

9. Congleton in Bloom Working Group Notes

No minutes to receive. The Chair encouraged people to support the 2021 In Bloom Calendar, on sale soon and focussing on Congleton Park which will celebrate 150 years in 2021. Confirmed that the Penny Farthing for Park Lane Roundabout is almost complete.

10. Congleton Green Working Group Notes

CE/41/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 5th November 2020](#).

Chair gave a brief update: Group is working on SMART targets for top 10 targets to reduce Carbon or environmental footprint of the Town Council, is in the process of updating Carbon figures for 2019/20, making progress on E-learning course and looking at future carbon offsetting options.

11. Health and Well Being Working Group Update

CE/42/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Health and Well Being group held on 24th September 2020](#). These were discussed at the meeting on the 24th September.

12. Integrated Transport Working Group

CE/43/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on the 25th September 2020](#).

Noted that there will be a Strategy Working Group to consider the consultation into the Delivery Plan for the Local Transport Plan. Consultation expected to start later in November 2020 and last through to January 2021.

13. White Ribbon Working Group

Chair reminded the group that the National White Ribbon Awareness Day will take place on the 25th November. CTC will be hosting a White Ribbon Stall in the Town Centre on the 12th December.

14. COVID-19 Update on Community Activities and Projects

CE/44/2021 Resolved to support in principle the Town Council's involvement in the development and delivery of five community projects connected with supporting the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- a)** Re-establishing the Congleton Community COVID Information Line
- b)** Working with the Big Heart Lunch Club to expand its offer within budget available
- c)** Work with Community Groups across Congleton on a 'Congleton Cares' hamper for those isolated.
- d)** Develop/ Support a Toy Appeal for Congleton
- e)** Help our community to prepare for a digital Christmas.

Note in the report it incorrectly refers to the New Life Church Store House as a Food Store. This is incorrect.

15. Support for Congleton School Pupils - Meals in School Holidays

CE/45/2021 Resolved in principle that Congleton Town Council would like to support Primary and Secondary Pupils in receipt of free school meals to receive meals/ funding for meals during the holidays or school closures in the event of the Government or Principle authority not fulfilling this role.

There was a strong feeling that this role should be picked up at a higher level. Budgets for this ultimate safety net would need to be agreed at Council.

16. Childcare Training

CE/46/2021 Resolved to support the scheme to make it easier for local people in Congleton to train as a childminder. For the Chief Officer and Responsible Financial Officer to resolve the best way to help with the request.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX A Item 6 - Report from Congleton Police

Summary of the report given by Sergeant Paul Brunton to the Community and Environment Committee 12th November 2020

COVID

- East Division has similar number of breach of restrictions reports as March Lockdown - 8 per day.
- Congleton has no repeat breach locations and has the lowest demand overall – 1 a day
- Patrol plan has resumed including essential services locations as well as open spaces
- Force has dedicated COVID patrols tackling reports of breaches under operation PAW
- 8 Fixed penalty noticed across Macclesfield - 1 in Congleton.

PCC Promise in Lockdown

- Surgeries – online include Police Constables (PCs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)
- 1 x TruCam per week checking speeding in an area.

Treacle

- Force carried out additional patrols in response to Halloween and bonfire night – there were just two incidents related to this operation.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- ASB October 69 incidents, compared to 49 in Oct 2019 – increase of 29% Year on Year
- No current hotspots but increase attributable predominately to YCA and geographically all over

Previous Local Priorities

Team - Focus on Road Safety under Op Assembles

- 1000 speeding offences
- Three new Community Speed Watch Groups
- All Primary schools visited
- Eight proactive traffic operations
- Four PCs trained in TruCam

Person – Charges now received for 2 adults for Possession with Intent to Supply (Drugs). Details can be shared once formally charged.

Place – Town Centre Patrols saw no reports of alcohol related violence in the run up to lockdown

New Local Priorities

All subject to investigations. The Police will share the details as soon as possible.

Domestic and Sexual Violence (as reported at ASB Working Group)

- 16th July to 21st October there were 118 incidents of domestic violence (1.2/day) and 29 incidents of sexual violence (2 a week) reported to the Police.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8. Updates Paper from Outstanding Actions from Communities and Environment		
Background	<p>This paper is provided to give Members an update on actions from reports discussed at a previous Community and Environment Committee and are still on-going matters 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>My Cheshire Without Abuse continue to be pleased with the development of the Congleton Domestic Abuse Clinics, being held weekly at the Old Saw Mill. At the end of December, the group received £10,000 from the CRH Charitable Trust to enable the clinics to continue for another year, ensuring the future of weekly clinics in Congleton.</p> <p>To date there have been 12 clinics between the 9th of September until the 30th of December. Each clinic offers up to 4 pre booked sessions, therefore we have offered 48 sessions in total. The group has assisted 15 unique individuals, with some attending several sessions.</p> <p>CE/24/2021 Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park</p> <p>In a letter dated 12th November Cheshire East reported it would be removing the Rope Walk Car Parking site from the Parking Places Order using the relevant statutory process. The legal notices would be published soon and that it cannot comment on any matters relating to the future use of the site once it is returned to the landlord. It is currently unclear what arrangements the landlord will make.</p> <p>CE/03/2021 Moody Hall, Moody Street</p> <p>A verbal update will be given at the meeting.</p> <p>CE/33/2021 Congleton Christmas Lights Decorations</p> <p>The new lights were well received by the public. The lights are back in storage ready for the 2021 season. Officers will shortly be working on a new three-year contract for the installation, maintenance and storage of the lights. This agenda item is now closed.</p>		

	<p>CE/44/2021 Congleton COVID-19 Response update.</p> <p>The Town Council continues to work with the community on supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Congleton Community COVID Information Line has been re-established. b) The Big Heart Lunch Club offer is now well established. Numbers increased to 90 just before Christmas and were 58 this week. The Old Saw Mill prepares the meals and the Town Council delivers. There is capacity to increase and there will be more publicity in Bear Necessities. c) CTC supported a giftbag being delivered to people, not necessarily in economic need, but living in isolation and missing visits from friends and family over Christmas. Congleton Community Projects organised local producers to take part; Beartown Brewery, Top Nosh, The Old Saw Mill and Learning Centre, Mrs Darlington preserves and Bare Health all contributed produce and local schools made lovely Christmas cards to be included in each bag. Nearly 800 gift bags were put together in the Electric Picture House, St John's Community Centre, Bromley Farm Community Centre and the Town Hall and delivered to care homes, supported living homes and nominated folk throughout the Town. It was a wonderful project that bought a lot of cheer to everyone who received this unexpected 'Congleton Cares About You' gift bag. d) The Town Council became a partner in the NSPCC/ Chronicle Toy Appeal. Between 500 – 600 brand new toys were donated to the appeal either at the Town Hall or via Boots Barn Road. The toys supported 237 children/families who were referred to Plus Dane, who co-ordinated the distribution. The co-ordinator, who has been helping for many years, reported to be totally amazed by the kindness and generosity of local people, but also shocked and saddened by the increase of families/children struggling and impacted by poverty. e) The Town Council has not been involved in digital support to those isolated. <p>CE/45/2021 Support for School Meals</p> <p>On the 10th of December, Council (CTC/41/2021) RESOLVED to provide support for the provision of school meals in school holidays based on the proposal within the report. There was no need for the Town Council to get involved over Christmas, however since schools closed at the start of this term the Town Council has been called on to help support deliveries of food to pupils who would normally receive free school meals at 4 primary and one secondary school.</p> <p>CE/46/2021 Supporting Child Care Training in Congleton</p> <p>This has been put on hold as currently there is no large space available within Congleton Town Hall that could be made available.</p>
<p>PROPOSALS</p>	<p>1. To note the report</p>

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Zoom Call – Thursday 7th January 2021

Chair: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Denis Murphy, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, PCSO Amy Heath- Cheshire East, Julia Pestell Hassall (CEC), Jackie MacArthur (CTC)

Attendees: Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Denis Murphy, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, PCSO Amy Heath- Cheshire East, Julia Pestell Hassall (CEC), Jackie MacArthur (CTC), Sgt Paul Brunton, Cllr Rob Moreton

Issue	Action	By Whom	W
Notes of Meeting 22 October	Notes went to CE on the 12 th of November		
Action Log	Reviewed Action Log Outstanding Actions West Street CCTV - carried forward Bamboogie Youth Event- POSTPONED Non-alcoholic beer – cold tap draught beer not currently supplying but keep on the agenda Speeding at Blossom Gate Drive off Back Lane	JMac & DMurphy RMoreton DMurphy & PubWatch CLOSED	
Public Space Protection Order Renewal	Town Centre- PSPO expires 31 st March 2021- CEC confirmed this cannot be renewed as not actively used while in place	CLOSED	
Drug & Alcohol Abuse Hotspot Areas	No reported hotspots currently however work ongoing to target Organised Crime Gangs in the area. Beat patrols continuing.	Ongoing	
Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Areas	Over the past 6 weeks there have been 64 reported incidents working at approximately 1.5 a day ASB Repeat locations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tetton Court x 2 (Noise/Covid) 2. McDonalds x 2 (YCA/abusive) Emerging location 3. Tall Ash Avenue - ongoing issue looking at a package of measures. 4. Silk Mills – no reported recent issue but a problem with blocking a Right of Way 	Police to report back at next meeting 1-3 Cheshire East Council 4	

Issue	Action	By Whom	W
Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences	50 cases of Domestic Violence and 9 of Sexual offences - in past 6 weeks. Levels remain consistent. Cllr Kay Wesley pleased to report that the Domestic Abuse Clinic in Congleton has now received more funding from the CRH Charitable Trust and the weekly clinics will be able to continue beyond March. Note weekly clinics currently being held on a Thursday as the Old Saw Mill is not opening on a Wednesday.	Police – Ongoing	
Police Priorities	POLICE Mow Cop (ASB/Covid/Vehicles) – issue with people congregating. Bromley Woods (Dealing/Off Road Bikes) Eastern side – exploitative behaviour GROUP Asked Police to look into parking at the Cloud (COVID) Aware of off-road bikes in Bromley Woods – from support from Drone Unit as and when appropriate.	Police – ongoing	
CCTV Updates	CCTV contract signed and prices frozen for next three years CCTV – camera should shortly be installed at the Community Garden	COMPLETE JMacA to keep chasing	
COVID-19 Updates	26 COVID related incidents Op Paw – Dedicated COVID Patrols & Patrol Plan Op Delivering – Patrol Plan for vulnerable sites		
AOB	Request for a join CEC/Police operation to stop vehicles cutting through the pedestrian area pre 10am. Look forward to working together on the Dementia Awareness and other schemes to be match funded PCC and community. Awareness of vaccinations starting in the Town Hall from the 8 th January – potential traffic issues/potential queues in the High Street.	POLICE Helen Weeks/ Karen Linton/ DM / JMacA	
Date of Next Meeting	4 th March 3.30pm – 5pm - via ZOOM	ALL	

Congleton in Bloom Working Group

7th December 2020 Virtual Zoom Meeting, Minutes

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.

Martha Hayes,

CLlr Amanda Martin attended first part of meeting then needed to leave during meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the Notes of the previous meeting as a correct record 14th September – 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, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership
 - Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - Amanda Martin- Congleton Park FoCP, Congleton Partnership
4. **2021 Planting Scheme and choices** – Separate spreadsheet
5. **In Bloom Video Diary** – GW has spoken with Eaton Bank High School and agreed in principle for the A level students as part of their media studies to cover a video of Congleton in Bloom throughout a year covering : A meeting, Planting, Tree Planting, Clean up day and IYN Groups, a draft brief from PP to be sent to GW early Jan.
6. **Planet Patrol** – GW to take role of Planet Patrol Guardian, sign the Congleton in Bloom Team up to the campaign and arrange events through this group.
7. **Calendars** – To be sold at £5 each, on sale at the TIC, Old Saw Mill and Stocks. Stall to be set up at the next Maker’s Market.
8. **No Judging 2021** – Received an email from RHS regarding no judging will be taking place in 2021, but there will be Digital Community awards given out instead.
9. **Visyon Garden** – Agreed for MG to keep on top of the site and liaise with a new group to carry on work in the future.
10. **Wheelbarrow and Penny Farthing Update** – Wheelbarrow is being repaired and will be back on the roundabout in the New Year, Penny Farthing nearly complete at Belmont Engineering, will also be fitted in the New Year.
11. **AOB**
 - a. 3 x new boats with colourful sustainable planting scheme to be added in Bromley Farm, Congleton Park and a roundabout.
 - b. Look at the trees in the planters to be re-sited and replaced.
 - c. Chronicle Advert to be done by PP advertising the calendar and the work In Bloom does.
 - d. Acknowledge receipt of committee member Anna Morrison email regarding stepping away from the committee. A huge thank you to Anna for her work with both Congleton In Bloom and the individual IYN Groups over the years she has been a huge asset to the team.

Minutes Health and Wellbeing Working Group

Zoom Meeting 10th December 2020 - 3pm

Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Jackie MacArthur

Issue	Action	By whom	When
Apologies - Cllr Dawn Allen, Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr David Brown			
To Review Actions from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis Centre Chester Note of understanding being part of a WG 	To make contact early 2021 .	JMacA	Jan 2
	Discussed the draft prepared by JMacA. Discussed ways to strengthen it. Changes made and sent to DMcG for discussion by other groups and to go to Feb Policy and Finance.	JMacA	Jan 2
Outreach Sources of Mental Health Support in Congleton - update	<p>Updates received on the activities of the various groups involved with Mental Health - GPs Surgeries, Big Life Talking Therapies Health Box, Visyon, SWaNS, Mentell Nailed it</p> <p>Agreed to look into holding a workshop to link the various groups working in the Mental Health field. Ideally face to face in the Town Hall late Spring?</p>	JMacA to test the idea with groups	Feb 2

	Welcomed the closer working relationship with Cheshire East NHS Trust and their openness to both physical and mental health needs.		
Cheshire East Well Being Campaigns for 2021	Well Being Network due to meet on the 21 st December. Jackie to send the group the minutes from the meeting.	JMacA	Dec 2
Public Questions re COVID-19 mental health	Discussed re issuing some of the questions on the health and well being survey, but also aware of other surveys asking similar questions being circulated in Congleton and can we pick up useful information from these sources of information	JMacA - review what's out there.	
AOB	Cllr Suzy Firkin mentioned the Senior Forum (Partnership) which she will be chairing.	Cllr SF	24/09
Date of Next meeting 11th February 2021	by zoom	JMacA	

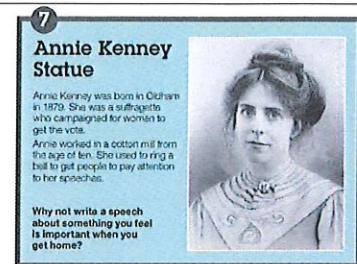
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur (Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer), S Munro (Chair, Elizabeth's Group), Cllr K Wesley (Trustee, Elizabeth's Group)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy Statue		
CURRENT STATUS	Elizabeth's Group has raised a significant sum from the community and local businesses for a statue of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy and now wants to ask the Council's support to complete the project.		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	<p>What is Elizabeth's Group?</p> <p>Elizabeth's Group was formed on International Women's Day 2018 and is a group of women and men who have joined together to raise public awareness of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, who lived in Congleton for over 50 years and was a major contributor to the Women's Rights Movement in the UK. Elizabeth's Group is a Registered Charity (no. 1181256).</p> <p>There are two strands to the Project; first, raising the profile of Elizabeth in Congleton and nationally through heritage/community work (See Appendix) and, second, raising money for a statue as a permanent commemorative artwork in Congleton, encouraging future generations to learn about Elizabeth and her work.</p> <p>Who was Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy?</p> <p>Elizabeth is an important figure in Congleton's heritage as a national figure in the campaign for women's rights. She appears on the plinth of the Millicent Fawcett statue unveiled by the Prime Minister in Parliament Square in 2018 as one of the most influential women in the suffrage movement.</p> <p>Several statues of other influential suffragists and suffragettes have been erected, or are planned, across the country to establish a heritage trail of influential women.</p> <p>Congleton should be part of that trail.</p> <p>As an example of the potential impact, when the Emmeline Pankhurst statue was unveiled in Manchester, all the roads to the city centre were closed, the local schools each arranged a procession to the unveiling and the 7000-strong gathering received blanket national and local TV coverage – as well as the local and national press.</p>		



Oldham's Annie Kenney statue unveiling was also [covered by the national media including the BBC](#).

Oldham Councillors have informed us that the Annie Kenney statue is managed and owned by their Town Council as part of the public realm, and is a tourist attraction as part of its [Town Centre Heritage Trail](#).



What did Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy do?

Elizabeth was a pioneer in women's rights and campaigned for more than 50 years, making hundreds of speeches, starting many petitions, writing thousands of letters, pamphlets, articles and poems. She had a significant and lasting national influence. Here is a selection of her many achievements:

- **Women's Education:** Elizabeth campaigned along with Emily Davies for girls to be given the same access to education as boys. In 1865 she founded the Manchester Schoolmistresses Association and in 1866 gave evidence to the Taunton Commission into education, the first woman to give evidence at a Parliamentary Select Committee. Elizabeth founded a school for girls at Moody Hall, Congleton.
- **'Government Watchdog':** In 1871 Elizabeth became the first paid employee of the women's movement when she was paid to lobby Parliament with regard to laws that were injurious to women. Elizabeth was so impactful she was nicknamed 'the Government Watchdog'.
- **Women's Suffrage:** In 1877 the women's suffrage campaign was centralised as the National Society for Women's Suffrage of which Elizabeth was a founding member. She helped found the Women's Franchise League and founded the Women's Emancipation Union (WEU). Emmeline Pankhurst called her 'the brains behind the suffrage movement'.
- **Married Women's Property Act:** Elizabeth was secretary to the Married Women's Property Committee from its inception in 1867 until the bill was finally passed in 1882. This was a major milestone for women as it allowed women to keep their own property after marriage.
- **Guardianship of Infants Act:** Elizabeth worked for the Guardianship of Infants Committee for this bill to be brought in, and the act was passed in 1886. It meant that women had the right to keep their children if a marriage ended in divorce. Prior to this, children were seen as the property of the father and women were often refused access to their own children.
- **Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act:** This Act meant women were imprisoned if they had a STD whereas the men with it walked free. Elizabeth's campaign was successful, and the act was repealed in 1886.

An edition of WSPU's Magazine 'Votes for Women' dated 9th September 1910 stated '**If the women of England ever realise what they owe to Mrs Elmy they will put up to her memory a national monument**'. That is what we are planning to do, here in Congleton.

Elizabeth's national significance has been recognised by the Heritage Lottery Fund who contributed its maximum possible donation of £10,000, for community projects in Congleton relating to Elizabeth. (See Appendix for details of how this was spent; such funding cannot be used for artworks.)

Why a Statue of Elizabeth in Congleton?

A statue of Elizabeth in Congleton would raise our town's profile nationally and would increase visitor footfall, both from the immediate surrounding area and national tourism. It would also provide an educational and inspirational focal point for the people of Congleton to appreciate and learn more about our history and heritage. A statue would:

- **Put Congleton on the National Map** of important historic places to visit. The unveiling event, in particular, could attract [significant national media interest](#)
- **Attract people to Congleton** who are interested in history and the Women's Movement from all over the country (and world). Elizabeth's statue will be on the national trail of suffragist/suffragette statues.
- **Provide an educational focal point** for children and young people to learn about Elizabeth and her work, to help them discuss both the history and the ongoing struggles for equality and human rights that continue today.
- **Inspire and provide a conversation point** for passers-by in the Town Centre – a figure of a petite but immensely powerful woman of a certain age. Elizabeth campaigned all her life, into her old age, and our statue will depict her as a mature woman.
- **Involve the community** in commissioning and developing a piece of public art. We plan to ask schoolchildren to help inspire the sculptor with their ideas about Elizabeth, and share the process of making the artwork through video, photos and social media.

Who is the Sculptor?

We are very lucky to have secured the services of nationally-renowned sculptor Hazel Reeves, who created the Emmeline Pankhurst statue in Manchester. Having Hazel involved will immediately raise the profile of our project and achieve [national media attention](#).

Hazel is an elected Member of the Royal Society of Sculptors, a member and former Council member of the Society of Women Artists (SWA), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the advising sculptor for the Hove Plinth initiative. She is notable enough to be the subject of a recent University Challenge question set.

Hazel has a passion for telling stories in bronze of struggles for social justice and redressing the lack of diversity in statuary, particularly the lack of women represented. Such artists are almost always fully-booked and it is testament to Hazel's personal commitment to this project that she has made herself available to fit our timescales. Hazel is very experienced at involving the community, especially young people, and is keen to support these efforts as she has done with [previous projects](#).

What are the Timescales?

We aim to unveil Elizabeth's statue on International Women's Day 2022 - a tight timescale. We hope production of the statue could be completed by December and preparation of the site and installation of the statue, to run concurrently, to be completed by mid-February 2022. Tight, but with CTC's help, it is possible.

What will it cost and what funds have been raised?

Due to her personal motivation around Elizabeth, Hazel Reeves has reduced her quotation for a life-size statue of Elizabeth (without plinth) from £78,500 to £64,400, donating the equivalent of £14,100 of her time to the project.

This will include:

- Materials and equipment ie clay, armature, jubilee clips, smaller gauge scaffolding
- Modelling the maquette, building the armature for the main statue, clay work (unclothed, clothed), liaising with the foundry and installation company, working on the wax, metal and patination at the foundry, working on-site with the installation company, with time for project management and our discussions and/or meetings
- Model costs ie model time and travel (maquette and statue), costs of creating fitted model costume
- Foundry costs including bronze casting process (wax casting and working and reinforcing, shelling-up, bronze pour, metalwork, patination)
- Installation costs, providing RAMS (Risk Assessment), pick up from foundry, delivery to Congleton, installation
- Travel costs for visits to Congleton (including installation and unveiling) and trips to the foundry in East London
- Structural engineer i.e. basic input from an SE in relation to the bronze figure casting and installation.

This does not include planning permission, essential groundworks to prepare for the statue, unveiling costs or any commemorative plaque.


Since its foundation in May 2018, Elizabeth's Group has raised just over £42,000. The successful bid to the Heritage lottery of £10,000 was restricted to heritage-focused work in the community and had to be spent within a specific period, in our case by May 2020. It could not be put towards the statue but had to be devoted to work in the community as listed in the Appendix. COVID-19 intervened and prevented our activities planned for our first Elizabeth's Day in May 2020.

We kept records of our work as required during the Heritage Lottery year and, according to their criteria, our small band of volunteers added just under £16,000 of additional value given free of charge to the project or just under £18,000 if you count those services provided without charge to the Group - such as free market stalls from Greenfinch Naturals, ribbons sashes and displays from Berisford Ribbons here in Congleton and volunteers claiming no reimbursement for travel and time spent.

Our current funds for the statue stand at just over £32,000. This has been raised through a mixture of donations and fundraising activities. Our donors, for whom we are very grateful, have included Redrow Homes, Kanga Health, Tesco Groundwork Trust, Margaret Williamson Trust, Waitrose, The Inclosure Trust, Congleton Town Trust, Aurelius Charitable Trust, The Co-op Community Fund, Biddulph LWE Movement, Heather Seddon, Congleton Osteopathic Practice, Congleton Partnership, Jantex, Berisford Ribbons, Greenfinch Naturals.

We have received non-specific pledges of funding from Graham Construction and Congleton Rotary Club and are following up with both.

	<p>This amounts to just over 75% of our current fund-raising. We currently have bids in to several other charitable funds but recognise that the current competition is substantial given the recent and ongoing crisis.</p> <p>The other 25% has been hard-earned through a mixture of monthly market stalls, attendance at most of the major social events in Congleton such as the Carnival, Christmas Lights Switch-on, Pride and a very successful Ceilidh in the Town Hall just prior to the first lockdown. Raising funds in this way is slow and requires dedication from our volunteers, but of course has come to a halt since March because of COVID -19</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the pandemic our fund-raising is now almost one year behind schedule, and we are concerned about how to raise the remaining monies in time for getting the project on track to unveil in the important Congleton '750th anniversary year', 2022. We are conducting a last fundraising push from local businesses, individuals and trusts and setting a deadline of 31st January for a go/no-go on the target timeline.</p> <p>What is needed from the Town Council?</p> <p>We would like to ask Congleton Town Council's agreement with our plans and support with funding, community involvement, groundwork, marketing and obtaining planning permission to help deliver the statue of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy in the Town Centre.</p> <p>We would then like the Council to help the unveiling ceremony with marketing and event support, and then incorporate the statue into the public realm as street furniture for maintenance by the Town Council budget in future. See proposals.</p>
Environmental Considerations	<p>The project will have a one-off carbon footprint, and the sculptor will be encouraged to use sustainable sources of materials. The final statue will enhance the streetscape in Congleton and have no detrimental effects on the environment. As it is bronze, it will stand for 1000 years and not decompose, unlike some alternative more organic materials, so impact over its lifetime will be very small.</p>
Equality considerations	<p>Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy was an equality campaigner and her statue will prompt conversations and education about equal rights.</p>
Financial Considerations	<p>£10,000 donation to be requested from the Town Council.</p> <p>Groundwork, marketing and unveiling event costs tbc (from existing Streetscape and Marketing budgets (see Proposals)</p> <p>Commemorative plaque (estimated at £200 to supply and fit)</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance, assuming by Streetscape. No special equipment is needed.</p>
PROPOSALS	<p>For Congleton Town Council to contribute the following to the Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy statue project as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement in principle that a statue of Elizabeth (without plinth) should be placed in the centre of Bridge Street at Victoria Street junction, subject to Planning Permission and ground assessment. 2. A recommendation to Council that CTC should make a financial contribution of £10,000. Elizabeth's Group suggests that, should the

	<p>COVID crisis pass and some of the CTC COVID reserves are remaining, this could be contributed to Elizabeth's statue as part of 'build back better' plan to regenerate our town centre. This is especially due to the fact that the pandemic has had a direct impact on Elizabeth's Group's fundraising activities at a crucial moment for the project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. CTC to Investigate with Cheshire East Council the possibility of builders' community contributions – CILs or Section 106 monies – being put towards Elizabeth's Statue fund. Either or both of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. identifying any 'unspent' monies relating to Congleton that could be redirected to the statue project, and/or b. requiring that new building projects in Congleton make a CIL/S106 contribution to Elizabeth's Statue. 4. Take responsibility for Planning Permission submission 5. Co-ordinate the Investigative groundworks - ensure the ground below is solid, dry and able to take steel pins and resin to a depth of 24cm – in consultation with the sculptor. 6. Support Elizabeth's Group with promotion of the project and invitations to donors, via the Town Council's channels (website, Facebook, Bear Necessities, posters/flyers – from CTC Marketing budget). 7. Supply and installation of a commemorative plaque or board beside the statue, to explain its importance and thank contributors. 8. Help to organise the Statue Unveiling Event including street stalls, road closures if necessary, engagement with community groups and schools, and promotional activities (cost tbc from CTC Marketing budget). 9. Commit to maintaining the statue going forward as part of Congleton Town's street art/furniture. Cleaning with warm water and waxing are recommended 2-4 times a year.
APPENDIX	<p>Education, Inspiration and Community Involvement</p> <p>The work to raise the profile of Elizabeth, for which we received a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery fund (not to be used for the statue) has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a professional website to share archive materials, research activity, articles and other materials relating to Elizabeth. • Setting up a popular social media presence – Twitter, Facebook and YouTube • Producing high quality leaflets, booklets, films and other materials using locally commissioned artwork. • Running monthly stalls at local craft food and ethical fairs dressed as suffragettes. These have been very successful in getting Elizabeth's name out there and raising funds. • A presence at most of the high-profile community events in the town including Congleton Pride, International Women's Day, the Christmas Lights switch on and the Maker's Markets 

- Regular coverage for our activities from a range of media, particularly the Congleton Chronicle which has run regular stories, and the [national press](#)
- Coverage by various national organisations including Women's Political Rights, the Working Class Movement Library and Hidden Women.
- Appearances on Channel 5 TV and local radio.
- Establishing a Heritage Trail in Congleton - complete with plaques and maps.
- Setting up an outreach program with schools and other groups in the town.
- Producing materials for use in schools.
- Numerous presentations on Elizabeth and her achievements, highlighting the relevance of her work to many of the issues that are still with us today.
- Producing a booklet for young people about Elizabeth's life.
- Planning for an annual Elizabeth's Day and an annual Elizabeth's lecture - both victims of Lockdown in 2020.
- Producing a series of 6 Lockdown videos, a filmed review of our project for the Congleton Arts and Heritage Festival and, more recently, a series of films entitled 'Talking Elizabeth' (in Talking Heads style) covering aspects of Elizabeth's work.



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur (Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer), R Burgess (Streetscape Development Manager)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	15. Voluntary Co-ordination Point - role for Congleton Town Council		
Summary	<p>Congleton Town Council has been approached by Cheshire East Social Action Partnership (CESAP) about establishing a more formal role as a Volunteer Co-ordination Point for Congleton. Currently the Town Council has been helping to co-ordinate the volunteer response to the COVID crisis by connecting people on our volunteer lists with requests for help which have come in via People Helping People (PHP) or the COVID Community line. We have also been linking with other community groups through the Congleton COVID-19 Community Leads group and informally with the active Congleton Hubbers. Through this work we have become known informally as a 'Volunteer Coordination Point' (VCP) and as such also had access to Cheshire East PHP volunteers should we need them.</p> <p>This closer working with the Principal Authority, sharing practices with other VCPs and closer working within our own community has been recognised as a positive to come out of the current crisis.</p> <p>The volunteer co-ordination role has been largely managed by Ruth Burgess.</p> <p>Over the past year there has been exceptional support from the Congleton community. We have 134 individuals on our volunteer list of local people willing to help with a range of roles from picking up shopping, picking up prescriptions, making friendly calls, delivering school lunches and now also helping marshal at the vaccination centre. We have also developed closer links with many community groups and organisations who have been helping the community.</p> <p>There are several proposed VCPs across Cheshire East and about 50% are Town/Parish Councils. Others are established community groups.</p> <p>The Social Action Partnership would like to build upon this network of VCPs and make them a more permanent feature. See Appendix 1 for information about what this would involve.</p> <p>Jackie MacArthur from the Town Council attended a Cheshire East Teams meeting about the proposal in December and in principle expressed an interest on behalf of the Town Council, with a proviso that the Town Council would need to approve.</p> <p>If we do become a VCP we can apply for a grant of up to £5k. This grant is very flexible and can be used for anything linked to our work providing community support, including staff costs. We are still awaiting confirmation of the details for this grant and application process.</p>		

	<p>There is no requirement to sign up to be a long-term VCP to access this grant.</p> <p>This paper is to check whether Councillors would be happy for the Town Council to formally become a VCP and whether as a Council we are happy to sign up to the principles set out in Appendix one.</p> <p>We have been in contact with the Clerk at Holmes Chapel Parish Council who is happy with a dual VCP approach, with Holmes Chapel taking care of its town and immediate parishes and Congleton Town Council co-ordinating our town and open discussions with our surrounding parishes.</p>
Environmental Considerations	This is about enabling local people to better help local people and is in line with our Environmental and Town Council Business Plan.
Equality Considerations	This is about enabling local people to better help local people and is in line with our policies in our equality.
Financial Considerations	<p>CEC is offering a £5k grant towards costs, although not sure if this will be split across the Care Community and shared with Holmes Chapel.</p> <p>Ruth Burgess is currently leading on the volunteer co-ordination, but when Streetscape come into their busy season this will require more administrative support which the Town Council will need to manage.</p>
PROPOSALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report 2. To commit to becoming a more permanent VCP with the Social Action Partnership. 3. To apply for the grant from CEC to support this work.

APPENDIX ONE

Appendix 1



Cheshire East Virtual Volunteer Network

Volunteer Coordination Points

Development Principles

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cheshire East Social Action Partnership, working in partnership with Cheshire East Council, has helped establish a number of Volunteer Coordination Points (VCPs). This is part of the People Helping People (PHP) response, which has received online and telephone enquiries from people in need of support and those offering their support, including as volunteers.

The VCPs have also formed as a 'virtual' network to share information and best practice. The aim is for VCPs to fully cover all 8 of the Cheshire East Care Communities Areas, which include:

- Bollington, Disley and Poynton (BDP)
- Chelford, Handforth, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow (CHAW)
- Congleton and Holmes Chapel
- Knutsford
- Macclesfield
- Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Scholar Green & Haslington (SMASH)
- Crewe
- Nantwich & Rural

Following engagement with existing VCPs, there has been an expressed interest in continuing to develop their role and functions in support of Covid-19 Response, Recovery, and Beyond. The VCPs have shown what can be achieved by working in local networks, and by coordinating and supporting volunteers locally. PHP is now considered as an essential service by Cheshire East Council. Connections and engagement have never been stronger. All see the value in continuing to build on the principles of mutual aid and the development of local assets, and consider that the VCPs can have a further significant positive impact on resident's health and wellbeing, including through early intervention, prevention and social action.

This document sets out the principles for continuing the 'development journey' as a VCP, including a VCP definition, potential future role/ functions, and the support being developed.

What is a Volunteer Coordination Point (VCP)?

The original aim of a VCP is to offer support to individuals and families that may be impacted upon by Covid-19, or who may be vulnerable. VCPs can be a range of different types of VCFSE organisation, mutual aid groups established in response to Covid-19, or Town & Parish Councils. It is recognised each VCP is different, providing a unique response for their areas.

VCP Definition

A local 'go to' place for people who need community support or who want to volunteer.
VCPs support local networks, build connections, and provide volunteer coordination and help in matching volunteers to vulnerable and isolated people needing help.

VCP Role and Functions – 'the ask'

- Provide coordination of volunteers locally, helping to match volunteers to people needing support (including linking to People Helping People)
- Provide a central point of contact for enquiries
- Signpost volunteers to groups in their local networks
- Help volunteers to access training and pastoral support

- Maintain relevant up-to-date information on local volunteering opportunities
- Share information, data, and intelligence about volunteering in their area
- Help promote the value of volunteering in their local area
- Work closely with the Community Development Officers and CESAP, including helping to codesign future support opportunities
- Provide storage space where practical/ available to assist People Helping People, e.g. for the distribution of equipment to help support digital inclusion in communities
- Work with other VCP's to share good practice, skills, and knowledge
- Help raise the profile of volunteering in communities as positive and beneficial
- Help recognise and celebrate the achievements of volunteers

Support for VCPs – ‘the offer’

- Free access to People Helping People volunteers through SharePoint, including technical support, and forthcoming access to the planned new Ami Volunteering Platform
- Free DBS checks (for volunteer roles where these are needed)
- Access to training resources and support (including support, training, and toolkits for volunteer managers/ coordinators; and training, learning, development, and future opportunities available for volunteers)
- Access to a range of free policy templates and procedures
- Back up support and ongoing help, information, updates, and advice
- Information about available funding and resources
- Invitation to Cheshire East Virtual Volunteer Network meetings to share learning and best practice, and jointly develop proposals, for example for partnership funding bids, supported by CESAP
- Access to offers of free help, e.g. car parking permits to support volunteer roles
- Inclusion in Network marketing and promotional opportunities (including social media, campaigns, communications, and publicity) to help raise the profile of VCPs and impact they are making
- Engagement in volunteer celebration events to recognise volunteers and to showcase the important work and role of VCPs
- Connection to wider community infrastructure to help develop joint priorities, e.g. Neighbourhood Partnerships and Care Communities

VCP Standards

- Maintain safe working practices in line with current Government and Cheshire East Council guidelines
- Adopt/ maintain up to date policies including Children's and Adult's Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Data Protection/ Privacy Policy, and Confidentiality Policy
- Sign up to/ adhere to the principles of a forthcoming Cheshire East Volunteer Charter
- Be able to demonstrate good governance and values
- Be welcoming, positive speaking, active listeners, inclusive, caring, and aspirational role models

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur (Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer), based on a Strategy Working Group meeting on 8th January 2021		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16. Response to the Cheshire East Council Local Transport Plan Delivery Consultation		
Background	<p>Cheshire East Council is consulting on a number of Transport Delivery Plans containing actions to carry forward its Local Transport Plans 2019- 2024. This paper outlines the responses given at the Town Council's Strategy Working Group considering this issue and it is proposed this, along with any amendments made following this committee, will form the basis of the Town Council's response.</p> <p>This paper needs to be considered alongside the detailed information in the consultation document which can be viewed at link to Cheshire East Congleton Local Transport Plan consultation</p> <p>Appendix A contains the 71 Actions recommended by Cheshire East Council. Congleton Town Council supported all these actions in principle.</p> <p>Appendix B contains the additional actions or amendments to the proposed actions that the Town Council recommends in its consultation response.</p>		
Environmental Considerations	Congleton Town Council has considered the environmental considerations when responding to this consultation and noted that the main drive of the Local Transport Plan is about reducing congestion, pollution and where possible promoting safe alternatives to the car for short journeys.		
Equality Considerations	Congleton Town Council was mindful that the plan needs to cater for the needs of all in our community.		
Financial Considerations	This plan is being driven by Cheshire East Council who will be responsible for the financial implications for each action.		
PROPOSALS	To approve the wording in Appendix B as the wording for Congleton Town Council's response to the CEC Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan consultation along with any amendments agreed at this meeting.		

ITEM 16 - Appendix A - Cheshire East Council's recommendations for Congleton in the Draft Transport Plan Consultation Document

OBJECTIVE ONE

These options aim to improve access to the Local Plan development sites within Congleton and ensure that the transport network has capacity to support this growth:

1. Completion of Congleton Link Road which will join the A534 Sandbach Road (to the west of Congleton) with the A536 Macclesfield Road (to the north of the town).
2. Review traffic flows as a result of developments that have come forward and the Congleton Link Road and consider whether further measures are needed.
3. Complementary measures to Congleton Link Road on existing routes (A54/A34) for walking and cycling.
4. Delivery of a walking and cycling Greenway through the Local Plan northern housing development sites, including a new bridge across the River Dane.
5. A cycle route linking new residential developments north of Congleton via Viking Way and Barn Road to the town centre.
6. Introduce a walking and cycling route through Sandy Lane Community Park and linking into paths in the Loachbrook Farm Estate.
7. Completion of a cycleway/footway from the Loachbrook Farm Estate over the brook to Holmes Chapel Road and along Holmes Chapel Road.
8. Gateways to be installed from Sandbach Road to Sandy Lane adjacent to the existing public footpath and additional wayfinding/signage, as part of the Loachbrook Farm Estate development.
9. Deliver a pedestrian and cycling bridge over the River Dane as part of the Astbury Place development connecting to Congleton Park.

OBJECTIVE TWO:

These options aim to improve transport connections along key corridors:

Road Network:

10. Completion of Congleton Link Road which will link the A534 Sandbach Road (to the west of Congleton) with the A536 Macclesfield Road (to the north of the town).
11. Review traffic flows as a result of developments that have come forward and the Congleton Link Road and consider whether further measures are needed.

12. Encourage HGVs travelling to and from A534 / A54 to route via the new Congleton Link Road.

13. Interventions on Holmes Chapel Road to improve visibility and slow the speed of traffic.

Walking and cycling:

14. Improve the cycle route from Buglawton to Lower Heath by providing an off road cycle route alongside A536 Macclesfield Road and an improved crossing point across the A34.

15. Introduce signage on key routes to remind motorists to leave enough space when overtaking cyclists.

16. Introduce a shared path on the A34 between Congleton, Astbury and Kids Grove.

17. Improvements to the canal for walking and cycling north to Macclesfield and south to Alsager.

18. Complementary measures to Congleton Link Road on existing routes (A54/A34) for walking and cycling.

Bus:

19. Improved bus services around Congleton to locations including the Congleton rail station and areas such West Heath, Buglawton and Mossley.

Rail:

20. Work alongside the rail industry to identify potential improvements to rail services, including re-establishing services affected by the Coronavirus pandemic such as Cross Country services stopping at Congleton.

21. Coordinate bus service timetables with train times.

22. Work alongside partners to improve rail station facilities including car parking, cycle parking and waiting areas.

23. Work with partners to introduce a park and ride facility at Congleton Station to increase the number of parking spaces.

Objective Three

A number of options have been developed to improve access to the town centre:

Road Network:

24. Review the impact of Congleton Link Road on traffic flows along the A34 and A54 routes through Congleton including signal timing for A34 and A54 Rood Hill/A34 Clayton Bypass to minimise congestion and improve walking and cycling facilities.

25. Monitor effectiveness of recent improvements to Padgbury Lane and the junction with the A34 and understand whether further measures are required.
26. Junction improvement to increase capacity at Moss Road/Canal Road.
27. Make Ullswater Road 20mph to discourage through traffic on this route.
28. Further traffic calming or traffic management measures on Waggs Road to reduce through traffic.
29. Reduce through traffic on Daven Road.
30. Canal Street and Canal Road traffic calming to reduce through traffic.

Walking and cycling:

31. Delivery of a walking and cycling Greenway through the Local Plan northern housing development sites, including a new bridge across the River Dane.
32. Improvements to the canal for walking and cycling north to Macclesfield and south to Alsager.
33. Replace steps with a ramp to the canal on Park Lane.
34. Provision of a cycle route between Townsend Road and the Mill Street roundabout along Mountbatten Way.
35. Introduce a route alongside the River Dane between Dane Street and Congleton Park.
36. Create a joined up walking and cycling network through the town centre including improvements to Market Street, West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, Lawton Street, Bridge Street, Little Street and Market Square.
37. Make Albert Place 20mph.
38. Safe, secure cycling parking within the town centre.
39. Improved wayfinding and signage for walking and cyclists.
40. Reinstate the footpath near Congleton Library.
41. Create a link from Worrall Street to the footway / cycleway alongside St Stephens Church to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists from Bromley Farm estate.
42. Create a cycle route on Stonehouse Green, parallel to Mountbatten Way.
43. Improved pedestrian and cycling links to the Biddulph Valley Way access from Congleton town centre.

- 44. Replace steps with a ramp on Edinburgh Road to enable all to use the route between the Bromley estate and Hightown.
- 45. Surfacing improvements to the section of road between New Street and Townsend Road.
- 46. Upgrade existing path between Loachbrook Avenue and Blythe Avenue.
- 47. Improve walking and cycling access to Congleton Railway Station via Park Lane, links to Sefton Avenue and improve cycling facilities at the station itself.
- 48. Introduce pedestrian crossings at the A34 Clayton Bypass near the fire station roundabout and near Dane Street.

Parking:

- 49. Consider 'free after 3' within the town centre.
- 50. Work with Northern Rail to consider introducing additional car parking spaces at Congleton Station.
- 51. Introduce electric vehicle charging points.
- 52. Review on-street parking within the town centre.

Objective Four

These scheme options aim to improve connections by all modes of travel to schools and employment within the Congleton area:

- 53. Introduce traffic calming on School Road, 20mph limits and review of school signage on A34 Congleton Road to improve walking routes to Marton & District CofE Primary School.
- 54. 20mph and supporting measures near Eaton Bank Academy on Jackson Road.
- 55. Increase footpath width on Eaton Bank, Jackson Road and Surrey Drive near to Eaton Bank Academy.
- 56. Further walking and cycling improvements on Padgbury Lane which would also benefit those accessing Congleton High School on Box Lane.
- 57. Walking and cycling route between west Congleton, Congleton High School and Lower Heath.
- 58. Cycle route linking new residential developments north of Congleton via Viking Way and Barn Road to the town centre, which also links to businesses located along these roads.
- 59. Improve cycling route along Back Lane to Radnor Park Industrial Estate.

Objective 5

These options aim to improve connections to employment and services for those living in rural areas

60. Safety improvement scheme on the A536 from Congleton to Macclesfield through Eaton.
61. Make the A34 Newcastle Road 30mph and introduce traffic calming through to Astbury.
62. Traffic calming on the A34 Congleton Road through Marton.
63. Introduce a shared path on the A34 between Congleton, Astbury and Kidsgrove.
64. Improvements to the canal for walking and cycling north to Macclesfield and south to Alsager.
65. Improved walking and cycling links to Astbury Mere Country Park via Sandy Lane and A34 Newcastle Road.
66. Improved pedestrian and cycling links to the Biddulph Valley Way access from Congleton town centre.
67. Introduce a pedestrian crossing across Biddulph Road near the Biddulph Valley Way.
68. Protect and enhance the Public Right of Way (PRoW) network within rural areas such as Eaton and Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths.
69. Undertake a review of local roads to consider introducing more footpaths and cycle routes through the Somerford area to support sustainable travel.
70. Linking rural areas such as Marton, Eaton, Moreton, Astbury, Somerford and North Rode to key services via bus services or passenger transport.
71. Extend Flexilink service across weekends and evenings.

Item 16 Appendix B

Congleton Town Council Comments on the Transport Delivery Plan Consultation.

Members of Congleton Town Council raised the following points in connection with the Cheshire East Consultation on the Transport Plan Delivery Plan at a Strategy Working Group meeting held on the 8th of January.

The comments made at the Strategy Working Group will be put forward for approval at the Community and Environment Committee on the 21st January and following CE committee submitted to Cheshire East Council ahead of their closing date of the 31st January.

General

In general Congleton Town Council was supportive of the measures being suggested by Cheshire East Council to deliver the Local Transport Plan for Congleton. At the Strategic Working Group the Councillors agreed in principal with ALL 65 proposals being put forward and also wanted to see additional actions added. This paper documents the additional actions.

OBJECTIVES

The five objectives suggested by Cheshire East Council for the delivery of the Local Transport Plan in Congleton are:

1. Strengthening the transport network to accommodate development sites such as Congleton Business Park extension and residential developments in north Congleton included within the Local Plan;
2. Improving access on key routes to wider Cheshire, the Potteries and Greater Manchester;
3. Improving access to Congleton town centre for residents and visitors to support the town centre economy;
4. Supporting access to education and employment sites including Radnor Park Industrial Estate; and
5. Supporting access from rural communities to key services and employment.

Congleton Town Council (CTC) Response:

CTC supports the objectives, but would like to see Objective Three expanded to:

'Improving access to Congleton town centre and key attractions/destinations (e.g. Astbury Mere, Congleton Park, Congleton Station) for residents and visitors, to support the local economy

Reason: We believe many of the journeys made locally are not just to visit the Town Centre, employment sites and schools and that attention should also be given to areas that attract large numbers of users such as the key attractions and destination points.

Objective One: These options aim to improve access to the Local Plan development sites within Congleton and ensure that the transport network has capacity to support this growth:

Congleton Town Council agreed with the 9 actions proposed but would also ask for the following actions to be added:

- a) New Point: Include a long-term plan to extend the Congleton Link Road to the Newcastle Road A34 (this affects the properties within the development sites)
- b) In point 5 CTC would like to see separate cycle and footway paths on Link Road and adjoining roads – plus suggest additional wording to read 'and connect Congleton Link Road to the town centre with cycle paths and footpaths '
- c) Within Objective 1 Congleton Town Council would like to see more emphasis on bus routes including adding bus routes to the new development sites so that no new home or business is more than 500m from a bus stop with a service at least every 15 minutes into Congleton centre
- d) Within Objective 1 Congleton Town Council would like to see an action Adding bus services to connect from business sites to Congleton Railway Station and Holmes Chapel Railway stations at morning and evening peak times and less frequently during the day, to connect with trains to Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent.

Objective Two: These options aim to improve transport connections along key corridors.

Congleton Town Council agreed with the 14 actions in this section. In addition Congleton Town Council would like to see:

- a) Point 10 - Extend the Congleton Link Road to the Newcastle Road A34.
- b) Point 18 - Cycle and footway should be separate on the Link Road
- c) Point 18 - Add... 'and connect Congleton Link Road to the town centre with cycle paths and footpaths
- d) Point 19 on buses could be strengthened. Congleton Town Council believes that the bus services need to be improved based on the needs of Congleton and surrounding parish residents as follows:
 - Encourage bus use, even by car owners through lower fares, better promotional campaigns and making all tickets cross-company.
 - Improve frequency: Buses between-towns should be at least every 30 minutes and the services extended into the evenings and on Sundays
 - Improve customer experience of bus use: Replace broken bus-stops, add digital displays. Have a local 'bus app' giving all timetables across companies and real-time information
- e) **RAIL:** Make services more attractive, integrated and customer-centric. CTC agrees with points 20 -23 but would like to change the wording to make it clear this is to optimise services based on the needs of Congleton town and surrounding parish residents. CTC also believes it is important to work with the local Rail User groups on improving rail services.
- f) CTC would like to see connecting bus services from **every** part of town to the station without changing buses, to fit with key commuter trains from 7-9am and 5-7pm

- g) Campaign for later trains from Manchester and from Stoke-on-Trent to link with theatre etc.
- h) Explore free bus use with rail ticket
- i) Free parking at Congleton station, or explore cheaper/easier parking options so that the parking charges and time taken to purchase a parking ticket does not deter people from using the train.

Objective Three: A number of options have been developed to improve access to the town centre:

This is the Objective that CTC wanted to alter to read: ‘Improving access to Congleton town centre and key attractions/destinations (e.g. Astbury Mere, Congleton Park, Congleton Station) for residents and visitors, to support the local economy

The Town Council agreed with the 24 actions identified in this part of the consultation and also asked that

- a) Point 37 change to ‘20 mph in relevant residential areas and school streets’
- b) Point 30 – add ‘no right turn from Chapel Street into Albert Place or Canal St’
- c) Point 50 - Congleton Railway Station needs free parking, not more spaces.
 - Car park is half-empty because commuters are parking all down Cross Lane and surrounding areas, ever since the charges were introduced.
 - Parking at the station should be free of charge to encourage public transport use for journeys to Manchester, Stoke and further afield. Or at least it should be cheaper and easier for rail users.
- d) Point 51 – consider discounted parking fees for electric vehicles
- e) Additional action – consider Introducing an Integrated Transport Pass For Congleton Residents:
 - Annual Transport/Parking Pass for Congleton Residents for e.g. £50
 - Pass includes up to 4-hours per day parking as many times as required for one year. This would solve the problem of needing change for parking.
 - Free unlimited bus use included in the same Pass (may encourage car owners to use the bus sometimes)
 - Reduced Cost Pass for those who do not require parking, e.g. £20 per annum.
 - Encourage bus use in short journeys to and from the town centre and to and from Congleton Station – see bus suggestions
- f) Would like to see Walking and Cycling promoted through a multimedia campaign
- g) Add a pedestrian crossing at the end of Mountbatten Way near Aldi, at the roundabout
- h) Improve canal towpath and create separate walking and cycling lanes where possible and automatic lighting in dark areas for winter walking/cycling
- i) Biddulph Valley Way - create separate walking and cycling lanes.
- j) BUS: Encourage bus use, even by car owners (see point 19 on Objective 2)
 - Lower fares and a multimedia promotional campaign to get people using the buses
 - All tickets should be cross-company
 - Improve bus frequency
 - Round-town should be every 15 minutes

- All services to run in the evenings and on Sundays
 - Extend and improve the round-town bus services (90,91,92...)
 - Review routes so they go into estates so no house is more than 500m away
 - Add a West Heath circular route (which has been lost)
 - Add new round-town services for new housing estates
 - Add a bus service between the shopping centres in Congleton (Town Centre, Barn Road, West Heath)
 - Have multi-bus 'town hopper' tickets for a day/week/month/year – low-cost
 - Improve customer experience of bus use
 - Replace broken bus-stops
 - Add digital displays
 - Have a local 'bus app' giving all timetables across companies and real-time information
- k) Review traffic speed in Leek Road, Manchester Road, Macclesfield and other main routes –
- consider average speed cameras
 - Improve signage and better enforcement
- l) Refuse trucks should avoid major roads and school routes at peak times.

Objective Four These scheme options aim to improve connections by all modes of travel to schools and employment within the Congleton area:

- a) Congleton Town Council agreed in principle with the 7 actions lists in under this objective, however a in line with the other Objectives the Town Council does believe that the bus options for school and employment sites also needs to be strengthened.
- *“In comparison with figures for England, bus service use in Congleton is 7% lower and rail use is 2% lower than the national average.”* There is little in the current proposals to improve this situation. Our current transport infrastructure encourages people not to use public transport for commuting to schools and work: For example:
 - The bus services in Congleton are week-day-time only, do not support commuting to work and are infrequent and more expensive than using a car.
 - Parking charges at Congleton station have meant that many people living on the north side of Congleton now drive to Manchester or Stockport instead of using the train
 - In addition many train commuters now block the roads around the station by parking there in preference to paying the charges.
- b) School buses need a radical overhaul - they are often a poor experience for many – expensive, requiring a long-term commitment, subject to overcrowding and concern for pupil welfare.
- c) There is virtually no option to travel to work or school on the bus in Congleton. Apart from the dedicated school services there is little bus connectivity for schools. Any pupils involved in after-school activities do not have a public service bus to take them home.
- d) Congleton Town Council would like to see Improved surface and lighting on Tommy's Lane and evaluate feasibility of pedestrian crossing on Brook St at the end. This would help pupils for Havannah, Buglawton and Eaton Bank.

- e) More efforts put into organising 'walking buses' to primary schools across the town – promote and engage the community. Also – cycling buses – especially for high schools
- f) Pedestrian crossing on A34 Newcastle Road near the Mount
- g) Pedestrian Crossing at Mossley Traffic Lights – a key walking route from Henshall Hall and Woburn Drive to Mossley Primary School.
- h) Review air quality outside schools and implement 'anti-idling' campaigns
- i) Refuse trucks should avoid school roads at school times
- j) Incentivise or set up 'car share' schemes in Congleton area

Our responses to the earlier Objectives also apply here:

- 1. Make bus services frequent, cheap and available all day and evening
- 2. Make parking at the station free
- 3. Connect bus and rail with timed services for commuters
- 4. Have integrated bus/rail/parking tickets for commuters and leisure travellers alike
- 5. Encourage bus and rail use with a multichannel promotional campaign.

Objective 5 These options aim to improve connections to employment and services for those living in rural areas

Congleton Town Council agreed with the 11 actions suggested under this objective and would also ask Cheshire East Council to consider

- a) Bus services – consider linking village bus services to the new housing developments on the outskirts of Congleton e.g. Eaton with the Manchester Road area and Somerford with Back Lane, then into Congleton Town Centre.
- b) Point 71 – Promote Flexilink service more.
- c) As many of these proposals were outside of the Congleton Boundary the views of the parishes are very important as they will best understand their communities.
- d) Consider bus links to Brereton Heath and Astbury Mere, and review parking in these sites

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur (Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer), based on a Strategy Working Group meeting on 8th January 2021		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	17. Response to the Cheshire East Council Car Parking Survey Consultation		
Background	<p>Cheshire East Council is carrying out a borough wide consultation on car parks. This is considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • role of parking in accessing town centres (current and future) • the level of parking charges in Cheshire East and scope for harmonisation • on-street parking restrictions • improving parking services. <p>This paper outlines the responses developed at the Town Council's Strategy Working Group on Friday 8th January considering this issue. It is proposed this, along with any amendments made following this committee, will form the basis of the Town Council's response.</p> <p>This paper needs to be considered alongside the detailed information in the consultation document which can be viewed the link to the Car Parking Survey</p> <p>The public survey has been designed to be answered by individuals, and therefore there are certain questions that are not appropriate for the Council to answer. The draft response in Appendix A contains issues raised at the Strategy Working Group to put forward in our joint response.</p> <p>The consultation period closes on the 31st of January 2021</p>		
Environmental Considerations	<p>Congleton Town Council has considered the environmental impact when responding to this consultation and the role that car parking charges can play in encouraging more people to use local facilities, and in encouraging other modes of transport where possible and appropriate. As the number of electric cars increase, the environmental fears of pollution caused by cars will reduce.</p>		
Equality Considerations	<p>Congleton Town Council was mindful that we need to cater for the needs of all in our community.</p>		
Financial Considerations	<p>No direct financial implications for the town council, however there is a concern that any harmonisation of charges across paying Cheshire East Council car parks could have a detrimental impact on the ability of Congleton Town Centre to recover from COVID and to thrive.</p>		

PROPOSALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the wording in Appendix A as the wording for Congleton Town Council's response to the Car Parking Consultation along with any amendments agreed at this meeting. 2. To actively encourage members of the Congleton community to respond to this consultation.
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Appendix 1

DRAFT TEXT FOR RESPONSE FROM CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL TO CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL ON THE CAR PARKING CONSULTATION

Members of Congleton Town Council discussed how it wished to respond to the current Cheshire East Council Car Parking Consultation Strategy Working Group held on Friday 8th January 2021. Following this Strategy Working Group, the key points raised will be included in a paper for the Community and Environment Committee for approval by committee before being submitted to Cheshire East Council. The survey closes on the 31st January 2021.

Members of the Council can respond as an individual via the consultation portal

<https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/VZTQ7T/>

Suggested Response from Congleton Town Council:

CTC has considered the Parking Consultation and developed its collective response to each of the questions. Our responses are consistent with the current circumstances in Congleton. If in the future, as set out in the Transport Delivery Plan, there were cheap, convenient and reliable alternatives mode of travelling to the town centre and other destinations rather than private motor car then the car parking policies would have to be reconsidered in line with the offer.

Future Role of Car Parking

1. Cheshire East Council should be providing both short and long stay parking in Congleton Town Centre. Councillors believe the biggest need is for short-stay parking for shoppers. The current balance of short stay closest to the Town Centre (Fairground and Antrobus Street) and longer stay car parks slightly further out of town seems the right approach. Princess Street started as a short-stay car park in 2011 but was amended to cater for both long and short stay car parking as this is the car park used by the Market Traders on a Tuesday and Saturday.

Accessing Town Centres

2. Cheshire East Council should provide parking as it does today, but in line with actions proposed in the Local Transport Plan delivery plan should also actively seek to make it easier and safer for residents and visitors to access our town in other ways.
 - a) We do not want to see additional cars on our roads
 - b) It should be possible to catch frequent, low-cost bus services into and out of each of our towns in Cheshire East.
 - c) We would like to encourage non-car travel for short journeys (< 2 miles) and local transport services should support this.
 - d) The Congleton Link Road gives us an opportunity to re-plan bus services and make them reliable and frequent in Congleton.

Comments/ Views of the Future of Parking in Congleton Town Centre

3. Parking in Cheshire East future ideas

- a) Initial free period on car parks (2 hours) would really help to stimulate and encourage people to use Congleton town centre businesses and help to revitalise the Town Centre. Local people often opt to use Barn Road, West Heath Shopping Centre, Biddulph Sainsburys or Talke Retail – all of which offer free parking, and all of which in normal times are busy centres with high occupancy.
- b) Congleton Town Council would like to see 'Season Tickets' introduced so that, for example, a Congleton resident can park all year for up to 4 hours at a time in any Congleton car park for a single annual payment. If possible, we would like to see this parking ticket linked to free bus use, to encourage car users to take the bus occasionally.
- c) Possibility of seeing if rather than a town-wide season ticket, Cheshire East could introduce a borough-wide ticket allow parking across Cheshire East car parks.
- d) Advertising/sponsorship of parking tickets with local shopping discounts
- e) Opportunity to provide passes for e.g., shop workers and others who are driving the local economy. Note many shop workers may work 16 hours a week, across several shifts so the current passes do not help them

Harmonisation of Car Parking Charges

4. How Strongly do you agree that there should be harmonisation of car parking charges across Cheshire East with all town paying for car parking?

- a) Congleton Town Council does not agree with harmonisation of parking charges as each Cheshire East town has very different characteristics, offer and needs. Where demand outstrips supply of spaces for parking, it may be possible to charge more, but this needs to be considered on a town-by-town basis.
- b) It would seem fairer if parking were charged in all towns across Cheshire East Borough and not just the 8 that currently have charges. When car parking charges were introduced in Congleton in 2011 as part of 'harmonisation' across the former three boroughs the understanding was the parking charges would be introduced in the other towns 'as soon as possible'. There is a cost to car parks and it seems unfair that the 8 charging towns are subsidising the costs for the non-paying towns.

5. Should all Car Parks in Cheshire East with Car Parking Charges be charging the same?

- a) The offers of the various towns are quite different. Users may be willing to pay more where there is a strong offer. Where a town needs support to attract more

users, increasing charges is likely to have the opposite effect and discourage customers. Congleton believes at the current time and post COVID-19 we need help and incentives to drive our local economy.

- b) Congleton will be the town likely to be most affected if Cheshire East were to harmonisation of charges across all paying car parks. If the harmonisation aimed to maintain the same overall income, it could see prices on Congleton car parks almost doubling. If Cheshire East offers other towns the same price structure as Congleton, we would not object.

6. Chance for other comments on Harmonisation of Car Parking

It is noted that Cheshire East Council has received or allocated major funding for regeneration in both Macclesfield and Crewe and that the vast majority of regeneration resource is focused on these two towns. Congleton town centre like many of the other towns has no focused resource for regeneration, aligned to the fact that key development sites in the town, some owned by Cheshire East Council, have no plans for development. Congleton, and other key service towns should not be viewed in the same way as Crewe and Macclesfield when it comes to car parking charges.

7. How much should be charged for one-hour parking.

Congleton Town Council believes that Cheshire East should be giving one hour – and ideally two hours – free of charge to encourage people into our Town Centres.

8. How much should be charged for 6 hours to 10 hours parking?

- a) Congleton Town Council was disappointed to see that scale starts at £3.50 - £4.00 when the current charge in Congleton is £1.60.
- b) Congleton Town Council believes that if there were two hours free parking then the longer-stay parking of 6 – 10 hours could increase by a maximum of 25% e.g. £2 for 6-10 hours.

9. How much do you agree that CEC should charge for car parking in the car parks that it owns? Would car parking charges encourage you to change your mode of transport

- a) Congleton Town Council accept that there is a real cost to managing car parks and understand that CEC needs to cover this cost, however pricing needs to be strategic. Ease of parking and parking charges affect where people choose to shop and their dwell time in the town centre. Many town centre shops rely on people browsing. The future of towns is a social place where people can meet. When people are paying to park, they will be more focussed on what they must get done and the opportunity to browse and socialise is reduced.

- b) Currently there is very little option to choose a different form of transport when coming into Congleton town so parking charges are unlikely to affect mode of transport.

10. Views on General Principles of Parking

- a) Congleton Town Council would like to see two hours free parking to encourage use of the town centre businesses.
- b) We do not believe it is possible to encourage a modal shift to bus use by charging more for car parks. First there is a need to introduce regular and reliable bus services
- c) We need to be aware of the needs and demographics of our population as well as the physical features of the town. Car Park charges is not the only factor in deciding whether to drive into town. However, car parking charges may help to determine where a person chooses to drive to. Once a person is in a car, in many cases it is as easy to drive 20 minutes as it is 10 minutes – you are probably most likely to travel to a destination where there is a good chance that you can achieve what you are setting out to do.
- d) Consider parking in proportion to spend. If you are popping into town for a paper, you will not pay 80p to purchase a 70p paper - you will go to somewhere where you can park for free. This is an opportunity lost to other shops that the person picking up their weekly paper may have also spent money with.

11. Are there areas where on-street parking enforcement could be better.

- a) Yes

12. – 14 asked for sites to be listed

- a) Cross Lane / around Congleton Station area. Commuters should park at the station not on the road. Station parking should be easier and more affordable
- b) Swan Bank – parking on double yellow lines
- c) Lawton Street – overstay, especially near the traffic lights at Park Lane
- d) Sandy Lane – Astbury Mere
- e) West Street - near to Top Nosh – overstaying the 30-minute limit.

15. This question was about experience when visiting other towns and not appropriate for the Town Council to answer as a body.

16. Views on Parking in residential areas and how the parking pressures could be managed.

a) More use of Parking Enforcement Officers in residential areas.

This would be welcomed particularly in areas around the train station and roads adjacent to town centres, especially if visitors could park for two hours free of charge in CEC Car Parks.

b) Pay and Display at Business Parks

Not sure this would be possible in Congleton, Business Parks are not owned by CEC and are largely out of town and self-managing. Encouragement of car sharing schemes could be worth exploring as mentioned in the Transport Plan Delivery actions

c) Pay and Display on residential streets

This would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and is likely to have a big impact on town centre residents without private parking spaces. Not appropriate in Congleton

d) Park and Stride near Schools

This sounds like an excellent scheme that could help with safety, congestion and pollution around schools if adequate space can be found. Consultation would need to be carried out with parents. Questionable if parents would be prepared to pay to park when walking their child for the last part of the journey.

e) Resident Parking Permit

Can be a good solution where there is problem near an attraction – however needs full consultation with the residents involved and consideration needs to be made for carers who may need to park close to the housing.

17. Comments on suggested options for CEC Car Parks

- a) Congleton Town Council welcomes opportunities to encourage greener use of transport and would welcome cheaper parking for low emission cars.
- b) Congleton Town Council disagree with Sunday and night-time parking charges. However, if the choice were between two free hours of parking or free Sunday parking the preference would be for two free hours parking.
- c) Congleton Town Council believes charging for evening parking could affect our evening economy in a negative way and result in more people parking on the roads. Currently we understand the main usage of the car parks in the evenings is from people living in the town centre who have no parking space near their house

18. Which suggestions would we most like to see introduced in Cheshire East Car Parks

- a) Season ticket for residents to purchase a year's parking with a Congleton Travel Ticket (which could also include bus use)
- b) Congleton Car Park tickets being transferrable across all Congleton Car Parks Consider use across other Cheshire East Towns
- c) More electric charging points, cycle parking and cash-free payment.
- d) More secure parking / lockers for cycles
- e) Premium spaces for large vehicles
- f) Congleton Town Council does not agree that cash free parking is acceptable as the only alternative to pay for parking. We believe this discriminates against the elderly and anyone who struggles with accessing technology.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	18. CTC Response to the Police Crime Commissioners Consultation		
Background	<p>On the 12th of January 2021, David Keane, the Police and Crime Commissioner wrote to all Cheshire Town and Parish Councils to inform them of a public consultation seeking views on police funding and priorities. The consultation closes on the 24th of January. Mr Keane asked that Town and Parish Councils were part of the conversation and wanted to hear our views.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council has a good relationship with our local Congleton Policing Team and meets regularly with Police team members both via the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group, Community and Environment Committee and on an ad hoc basis as appropriate and required working with the community.</p> <p>A copy of the letter is attached as appendix one.</p>		
Actions	<p>There appears to be two main asks of the Town Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage residents to complete the online survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can do this through social media and direct contacts with groups and organisations 2. The view of the Town Council on the questions asked in the consultation. <p>Most of the questions that are in the survey are personal perceptions and experience of the Police. I believe there are two critical questions that the Town Council may wish to take a view on for a Town Council response:</p> <p>a) Cheshire Police is set to receive no extra funding from government to meet its operational demands and pressures. The Chief Constable has confirmed that without this increase Cheshire Police would be unable to maintain the existing level of service.</p> <p>Should the public be asked to pay an additional £1.25 per month (for the average band D household) as part of their local council tax payment to help Cheshire Police invest in community policing and tackle serious and complex crime?</p> <p>The survey asks the public for simple yes or no answers. As a Town Council we may wish to expand further on our response to this question. It is clear from the Crime Commissioners letter that he finds the situation</p>		

	<p>regrettable but there it appears a very stark choice of increasing charges or reducing the quality and quantity of the service.</p> <p>b) Which do you think should be our top priority for Policing in Cheshire?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dealing with anti-social behaviour 2. Dealing with burglary / theft 3. Dealing with serious organised crime including county lines drug activity 4. Encouraging safer use of our roads 5. Engaging with community to prevent crime 6. Increased Police visibility 7. Reducing violent incidents 8. Responding to online crime 9. Responding to rural crime 10. Solving crime 11. Supporting victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault 12. Tackling drugs / alcohol offences 13. Tackling hate crime 14. Tackling knife / gun crime 15. Youth crime prevention / service opportunities 16. Other, please state below <p>In the survey members of the public can only opt for one option. All of the options actions are ones that we look to the police to either lead on or be actively involved in and it is a difficult task to prioritise.</p>
PROPOSALS	<p>To form an opinion on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Town Council wish to respond as a corporate body? 2. If yes is there a collective opinion on question a 3. If yes is there a collective opinion on question b 4. Officers to write a response based on the discussion tonight to be signed by the Mayor and Chief Officer on behalf of Congleton Town Council.



David Keane
Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

**To: All Parish & Town Council Chairpersons
in Cheshire**

Stockton Heath Police Station
Grappenhall Road
Stockton Heath
Warrington
WA4 2AF

Date: Tuesday 12 January 2021

Our Ref:
PCC/20210112

Your Ref:

Tel:
01606 364000

Email:
police.crime.commissioner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Dear Chairperson

2020 was one of the most challenging years in living memory and I know that many of us are anxious about the future. The pandemic has shown us just how important policing and other key public services are when it comes to protecting our communities.

I believe it's now more important than ever that we understand the public's view of policing. As key representatives of our communities, I want Parish and Town Councils to be a part of that conversation. I have launched an online consultation to find out Cheshire residents' priorities for policing and community safety. As well as asking residents what their top priority for Cheshire Police is, I want to know how safe residents feel in our communities and what your views are on police funding.

I am currently consulting with Cheshire residents following the release of the Government's Provisional Police Funding Settlement which sets out local police budgets for the next financial year. Funding for Cheshire Police has been cut significantly by the Government over the last decade. Cheshire Police has made more than £60 million of savings during this time, whilst striving to ensure this vital service remains effective.

During this period, I've maintained my commitment to bring back real community policing to Cheshire. With the support of Parish and Town Councils and the public, I have been able to increase officer numbers to ensure every community in Cheshire has its own dedicated Police Constable and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made the future financial position for policing even more challenging. The extra funding that the Government boasts about in its Provisional Police Funding Settlement is dependent on local residents paying more in council tax (£1.25 a month for the average Band D property) over the next year.

The Chief Constable has advised me that without this increase, Cheshire Police would be unable to maintain its existing level of service and would be unable to meet the additional operational demands and pressures that we face. As your voice in policing, I want to hear your views on this proposal and I want to know what your policing priorities are for the coming year.

Please may I request that you take the time to complete a short survey and have your say here: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/siam/surveylanding/surveylogin.asp?sk=160759151682>

The online consultation (which closes at midnight on Sunday 24 January 2021) will be supported by virtual public engagement sessions that I will hold with Chief Constable Darren Martland during

the next two weeks. They will provide residents with the opportunity to talk to us directly about their views on both community safety issues and the precept.

The virtual public engagement events will take place on the following dates:

- Saturday 16 January, 1pm-2.30pm
- Tuesday 19 January, 6.30pm-8pm

If you would like to attend one of the virtual sessions please email your name and address, the date of the session you'd like to attend and your question for the Commissioner or Chief Constable to pcc@cheshire.pnn.police.uk. Please note that registration for each session closes 24 hours before it takes place. The link to join the sessions will be emailed to those registered shortly before each session.

Questions can also be submitted by those unable to attend the sessions to pcc@cheshire.pnn.police.uk using the subject title 'question'. You can also call the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 01606 364000 to register your interest to attend the virtual sessions or to submit a question.

Please may I request that you share this letter with your Parish/Town Councillors for information?

Yours sincerely



David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner