



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

4th March 2021

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 11th March 2021

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, on **Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7.00pm.**

NOTE THERE WILL BE AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE THIS MEETING WHICH WILL START AT 6pm AND USES A SEPARATE ZOOM ACCOUNT.

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 11th March 2021.

Meeting ID: 813 0721 0049

Passcode: 150222

- **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 21st January 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 9.

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. 750 Year Charter Anniversary plans (Enclosed)

To receive a short presentation from Jo Money from Congleton Community Projects on the Congleton 750 years anniversary celebrations and to discuss and agree to the Town Council's involvement in wider project.

9. Updates Paper from the 21st January Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an updates paper from the 21st January 2021 highlighting any issues.

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

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 4th March 2021.

11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes (Verbal report)

To receive an update from the meeting on the 8th March

12. Congleton Green Working Group Notes (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the meeting on the 21st January 2021

13. White Ribbon Working Group Update (Enclosed)

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

14. Update on Streetscape Waste – Climate Change Emergency (Enclosed)

To receive a report from the Streetscape Development Manager on changes in practice since Congleton Town Council signed the Climate Change Emergency

15. Proposed Response to CEC Air Quality Consultation (Enclosed)

To consider and approve Congleton Town Council's response to the current Cheshire East Council Area Quality Consultation

16. Introduction of Civic Pride Awards for Congleton (Enclosed)

To discuss alternative options to the Mayor's Ball in 2021

17. COVID-19 Congleton Community Update (Verbal)

To discuss and note a report highlighting current work relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To: Members of the Community & Environment Committee

CLrs: 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 21st JANUARY 2021

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next committee meeting on 11th March 2021

Conducted via Zoom –Meeting ID: 854 3356 3243

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 21st January 2021](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)
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 Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr James Smith

Also present: CTC Officers David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur, Debbie Coxon
2 Members of the Press, 1 Cheshire Police Officer, 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from committee members Councillors Sally Ann Holland (Ex-Officio) and Cllr Martin Amies

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/38/2021 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & 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.

Councillors David Brown, Rob Moreton and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council and Cllr Kay Wesley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14 as a trustee of Elizabeth’s Group.

4. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings. See minute note 8.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There was a question from Lisa Miller that was in 3 parts. The first part was enquiring about a tree group in Congleton – this will be dealt with in a response to the e-mail which contained the question. The other 2 parts related to Enforcement, Tree Preservation Orders and planting to replace agreed tree removal, this will be picked up by the Planning Committee.

6. Urgency Items

There was no Urgent Items mentioned.

7. Cheshire Police

PCSO Amy Heath from Cheshire Police provided updates to the Committee see Appendix A for details. Waiting for this)

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

CE/47/2021 Resolved to accept the report giving updates on Domestic Abuse Clinics, Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park, Moody Hall, Christmas Lights, COVID-19 response, School Meals and Child Care Training.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

CE/48/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group](#) held on 7th January 2021.

10. Congleton in Bloom Working Group Notes

CE/49/2021 Resolved to **CE/48/2021 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group](#) held on 7th December 2020. The Chair updated on the progress with the unicycle planned for the Park Lane Roundabout.

11. Congleton Green Working Group Notes

This meeting was held earlier in the day and the notes will be sent out with the 11th March agenda and added to the [Congleton Green Working Group](#) page. The chair gave a brief update.

12. Health and Well Being Working Group Update

CE/50/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Health and Well Being group held on](#) the 10th December 2020.
(CHECK LINKS TO PAPER AND NOT PAGE)

13. White Ribbon Working Group

The minutes of this group's meeting will come to the meeting on the 11th March and can be viewed on the [White Ribbon Working Group](#) page.

14. Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy Statue

CE/51/2021 Thanked members of the Elizabeth Group for a professional presentation and
Resolved to approve points 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 as set out below

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.
3. CTC to Investigate with Cheshire East Council the possibility of Cil/ S106 contributions
4. CTC take responsibility for Planning Permission submission
5. When appropriate CTC co-ordinate the Investigative groundwork
6. CTC to support Elizabeth's Group with promotion
7. CTC to supply and install a commemorative plaque or board
8. CTC to help to organise the Statue Unveiling Event
9. CTC to commit to maintaining the statue

Point 2 – the recommendation made for financial support was withdrawn from the proposal and will be submitted to the Council to consider at a future date.

15. Volunteer Co-ordination Point for Congleton

CE/52/2021 Resolved to

1. To note the report
2. To commit to becoming a VCP with the Social Action Partnership.
3. To apply for the grant from CEC to support this work.

16. CTC Response to the Cheshire East Council Local Transport Plan

CE/53/2021 Resolved to approve the wording given as an appendix to the paper as the wording for Congleton Town Council's response to the CEC Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan, but to delay sending the response to Cheshire East until the minute has been ratified at Council on the 11th of February. *Note the appendix is attached to these minutes as Appendix B*

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

CE/54/2021 Resolved to approve the wording for Congleton Town Council's response to the Car Parking Consultation.

To actively encourage members of the Congleton community to respond to this consultation.

Note the appendix with these words is attached as Appendix C

18. CTC Response to the Police Crime Commissioner's Consultation

CE/55/2021 Resolved to

- a) Send a response to the Police Crime Commissioner on behalf of Congleton Town Council
- b) To say that it is not the Town Council's role to comment on the Police Precept level
- c) To reiterate how the important role of the local policing to be able to respond and react to the needs of the local community so not possible to give one priority.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

Appendix 1 – Police Update 21/1/21

The following report was given by PCSO Amy Heath as Item 7 of Community and Environment Committee. All figures are for the past six weeks in line with our priority period. They are all similar Year on Year (YOY)

Drugs and Alcohol

No reported hotspots currently however work ongoing to target Organised Crime Groups in Congleton.

Total ASB Incidents: 64 or 1.5 a day

ASB Repeat locations

- Tetton Court working with Plus Dane
- McDonalds - Emerging location working with the premises

Local Priorities

Mow Cop – Covid/vehicles/Anti Social Behaviour.

Op Paw – Dedicated COVID Patrols & Patrol Plan

Op Delivering – Patrol Plan for vulnerable sites

Total Domestic Violence Incidents: 50 **Total Sexual Offences:** 9

Congleton Priorities

Team: Mow Cop (ASB/Covid/Vehicles)

Person: Eastern Nominal for Drug Offences

Place: OP Piloted – Drugs Op, Place and Tactics TBC

Total COVID Related Incidents: 26

Focus shifting to enforcement

COVID Repeat Locations

- Rumba x 2 Licensing visits conducted, Engage, Explain, Booklets given
- Mow Cop Castle

PCC Promise in Lockdown:

- Surgeries still online and once a week per ward
- Street a week conducted remotely by letter – moving online
- Last Street a Week conducted at Westlands

Appendix B - TRANSPORT RESPONSE: (COMMITTEE ITEM 16)

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

APPENDIX C - CTC RESPONSE TO THE CAR PARKING CONSULTATION

Item 17 - Appendix 1 V 2 - with amendment for 2a

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** replace with **Congleton Town Council has requested significantly enhanced public transport services; if they are provided and maintained by CEC we should aim to ensure there are no 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	Jackie MacArthur (Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer) and Jo Money, Manager Congleton Community Projects		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7. 750 years Charter Anniversary Plans		
Summary	<p>In 2022 Congleton will celebrate 750 years since the town was given a charter allowing men of the town the right to hold land through the payment of rent rather than by personal service to the Lord of the Manor. It also gave the inhabitants of the town the right to elect a Mayor – and an ale taster.</p> <p>In 1972 the 700-year anniversary of the Charter was celebrated for the duration of the year with some very large and memorable events.</p> <p>The issue of what to do in 2022 was raised in Bear Necessities in January 2020 and was already part of the thinking for many groups. Following the article a number of groups and organisations made contact with Jo Money from Congleton Community Projects to discuss ways to be part of the 750 Charter Year Celebrations. At tonight's Community and Environment meeting Jo Money will give an overview of the work already carried out on Charter 750 celebrations.</p> <p>This is a great chance to bring people of Congleton together to celebrate our town, its history and all the many things that are special about Congleton. It will hopefully offer an opportunity for the town to come back together after months of social distancing and cancelled events and a chance to gain wider exposure of Congleton at a regional and national level.</p> <p>As Jo will explain, she is acting as a conduit to enable organisers of 2022 events to link their events into what promises to be a special year for Congleton. Jo has also started discussions with funding bodies for some of the projects associated with the 750 years of Charter.</p> <p>It is envisaged that there will be many project groups working on aspects of 2022 and small 'steering group' that the project groups will link into.</p> <p>As the organisation at the civic centre of Congleton it is envisage that the Town Council will want to play a key role in the town's celebrations. As the figurehead for the Town Council the Mayor will have a lead role in the Town Council activities. The role for the Town Council is likely to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting the decorating of the Town including heraldic flags, appropriate bunting and banners. 2. Decorating of the Town Hall 3. Supporting the marketing of 750 years charter year 4. Hosting a week-long history event in the Town Hall 		

	<p>5. Hosting a civic event and bringing 750 years into other events such as the Mayor's Civic Parade.</p> <p>6. Creating town centre entertainment opportunities</p> <p>7. Making space for a hand illustrated town crest piece of artwork</p> <p>8. Funding and designing the plaque in the park for 750 year celebrations</p> <p>9. Encouraging more people in Congleton to get involved.</p> <p>10. Other projects that the Town Council wishes to get involved with.</p> <p>Note these are headlines that each need a project plan to support them.</p>
Environmental Considerations	The Environmental impact of each aspect of the project will need to be considered with all participants reminded of the need to be mindful of the overall pledge to the Climate Change Emergency.
Equality Considerations	All residents of Congleton will be actively encouraged to join in aspects of the year long celebrations with every effort made to reduce any barrier to participation.
Financial Considerations	Congleton Town Council will need to discuss making budget available for this programme of activities. Some activities may be able to be funded through the Town Centre and Tourism budgets for 2022-23.
PROPOSALS	Congleton Town Council supports the programme of events being developed for 2022 and that a working group is formed to work on the details of the Town Council's involvement.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th March 2021	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9. 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 the previous Community and Environment Committee and are 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/52/2021 Volunteer Co-ordination Point – this is waiting for further feedback from Cheshire East Council and the Social Action Partnership before progressing.</p> <p>CE/53/2021 – Cheshire East Council Local Transport Development Plan consultation – the closing date for this consultation was extended until the 31st March, it will be submitted following the approval of the minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>CE/54/2021 –Cheshire East Council Car Parking Consultation - the closing date from this consultation remained the 31st January 2021, so the response as discussed at the meeting on the 21st January was submitted</p> <p>CE/55/2021 – Police Crime Commissioner Consultation – a response was submitted in line with the minutes of the meeting on the 21st January.</p>		
PROPOSALS	1. To note the report		

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Zoom Call – Thursday 4th March 2021

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Denis Murphy, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Rob Moreton, Glen Williams, Stg Paul Brunton – Cheshire Police, David Bestwick (CEC), Jackie MacArthur (CTC) Ruth Burgess (CTC)

Apologies, None

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
1	Notes of 7th Jan	Notes went to CE on the 21 st January 2021		
2	Action Log	<p>Reviewed Action Log Outstanding Actions</p> <p>West Street CCTV - carried forward</p> <p>Bamboogie Youth Event- Keen to process when possible</p> <p>Non-alcoholic beer – cold tap draught beer not currently supplying but keep on the agenda</p> <p>Tetton Court - arrestable injunction issued and being monitored</p> <p>McDonalds – was more to do with queues – currently only drive through</p> <p>Tall Ash Avenue – with legal department of Police</p> <p>Parking at Cloud – COVID related out of area – Police checked no evidence out of area.</p> <p>Bromley Wood – off road bikes - part of a 12 week Police Operation</p> <p>Silk Mills – blocking of Right of Way and ASB in the area - CEC PROW team confirmed issue of ROW resolved with landowners and residents. ASB to be reported to CEC and Police</p>	<p>JMac & DMurphy RMoreton DMurphy & PubWatch</p> <p>Police – closed for ASB</p> <p>Police – keep monitoring</p> <p>Police – closed for ASB</p> <p>Police - closed for ASB</p> <p>Police – next meeting. Closed subject</p>	
3	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Hotspot Areas	<p>No hotspots in our repeat demand currently however work extended under Operation to tackle drug dealing along Biddulph Valley Way. Some Initial success with 3 arrests, numerous intel generated.</p> <p>Suggested create more interest in Cockshoots so area becomes more public</p>	<p>Ongoing Police</p> <p>CTC</p>	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
5.	Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Areas	<p>28 reported cases to the Police - reduction of 36 incidents on last period or reduction of 19 Year on Year.</p> <p>Current ASB Repeat locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Heath Shopping centre (2) – 4 youths, joint response with school, parents & ASB team Argos (0) – 1 Male Remains homeless intermittently in the area <p>Should Speeding come into ASB or Integrated Transport Working Group – speeding is an issue for Congleton and could do with a mechanism to report – Jackie to make suggestion for next group and speak to Speedwatch</p>	<p>Police – ongoing</p> <p>Police/ CEC ongoing</p> <p>Jackie MacA</p>	
7	Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences	<p>50 incidents equal to last period and up 16 YOY</p> <p>Total Sexual Offences: 5, 4 down on last period and 2 down Year on year</p> <p>Issue raised about the death of a 45-year old woman in Congleton on Tuesday 2nd March. Police investigation. Man arrested and due to appear in court 4th March. Not a domestic violence case and ongoing</p> <p>Clir Wesley attended meeting of school heads – interested in work with Cheshire Without Abuse and several heads requested information</p> <p>Need to work with licenced premises when re-open.</p>	Police – Ongoing	
8	Police Priorities	<p>POLICE</p> <p>TEAM: Rural Crime – education around lambing season and rural offences & problem premises and patrols</p> <p>PERSON: Warrant development on West</p> <p>PLACE Op Piloted – Bromley Area</p> <p>GROUP</p> <p>Question about dog crime. Police not aware of a big issue in the Congleton area – it appears there has been one dog stolen. Another was found in a hedge.</p>	<p>Police – ongoing</p> <p>No Action.</p>	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
9	CCTV Updates	CCTV contract signed and prices frozen for next three years - agreed current cameras are all required. Would still like to see a camera on West Road and Jackie to see if CEC could test a redeployable camera in this area CCTV – for Community Area has arrived and was promised for installation in January - contacted Cheshire East Lighting as this is not in place	JMacA to keep chasing	
10	COVID-19 Updates	54 reports in period, no COVID repeat locations Op Paw – Dedicated COVID Patrols & Patrol Plan Op Delivering – Patrol Plan for vulnerable sites Note Cloudside Shooting Club is in the Staffordshire Area	Police – On-going	
11.	LGBTQ+	All group aware of survey and survey results. Some issues were raised by the LGBTQ+ group about reluctance to report to the police and feeling unwelcome at some churches, clubs and pubs. Meeting with the churches being held. Subject to be discussed at PubWatch. Police to take on board the comments. Agreed Hate Data would be added to the agenda. In the last six weeks nothing from the LGBTQ+ community but one on race and one on disability. Both being dealt with by the police.		
12.	Purple Flag	Purple Flag accreditation shows that an area is a good, safe, welcoming area to go out in the evening. Agreed to investigate what steps would be needed for Congleton to get a Purple Flag and then see if there is support in working towards one.	Jackie to carry out initial work.	
10	AOB	Group agreed that zoom meeting work well for this group and would like the next meeting to be by zoom even if face to face meetings are allowed.	Jackie to set up	
11	Date of Next Meeting	13 th May 3.30pm – 5pm - via ZOOM	ALL	

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 21st January 2021 **Location:** Via Zoom **Time:** 5pm - 6pm

Present: Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Suzy Firkin, Councillor Kay Wesley, Barry Speed, Jackie MacArthur.

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Sally Holland, Peter Aston Cllr Mark Rogan		
2	Actions from meeting 10 September a) Bike Doctor b) Smart Targets	Arrange to come into the town in the New Year when more appropriate Agreed to change to a excel sheet and add progress column and target column and get updates from the various groups on actions. To be published on the Working Group web page	JMacA JMacA	When appropriate Feb 21
3	Carbon Offsetting Options Peat Bogs	Martin Varley from CWT to speak to group. CEC – Ralph Kemp suggested speaking to Karen Corbin and Brendan Flanagan about Carbon off-setting projects (need to be clear on ownership of projects) CEC is creating an application form, toolkit and crowd funding platform for across CEC. Check out what other Town Council are doing and process in place to look at budgeting for off-sets	MG/JMacA JMacA JMac/DMcG	End of March Feb 21 April 21

4	Carbon Footprint Baseline Report for 2019/20 - work being carried out to the same methodology as the 2018/19 report.	<p>Barry shared update for 2021.</p> <p>Agreed it would make sense for an officer to work alongside Barry so that staff can fully understand the methodology and help to plot the reduction of carbon footprint.</p> <p>Repeating the process in 2019/20 revealed some mistakes from 2018/19 which Barry will look to correct to ensure consistency.</p> <p>Noted that the carbon footprint increased in 2019 due to the purchase of the stone for the cenotaph, and other purchases.</p>	<p>BS</p> <p>JMacA</p>	March 2021
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6	Update on E-Learning Course	Team meeting with TMC on a fortnightly basis. Evaluating text then the visual design. Progressing well and should complete by the end of March	JMacA/ SF/KW/ MG	March 21	
7	Update on Podcast Development	Peter Aston gave apologies	PA	Next mtg	
8	Wider Community Involvement in Green Initiatives	<p>Plus Dane keen to link with the group both as a landlord and for community engagement with tenants.</p> <p>Care Homes with be added later, currently COVID dominating work.</p> <p>Ten top tips for local companies to reduce their Carbon/Environmental Footprint as part of the 'Build Back Better' movement.</p> <p>Residents – Sponsor a Tree in memory of a loved one – find out if this is this an option through the Tree initiatives</p> <p>Still looking at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Mow May • Walk to School Week – 18th May • Green Fayre for World Environment Day – 5th June will not be a Fayre in the Town Hall – but may be possible to celebrate the day in another way. Possibly hold Green Fayre in October. • Clean Air Day 8th October – to make more of in 2021 <p>To check details of the CE Climate Alliance Group Noted that CECA is collating a Matrix of Councils' Climate Actions.</p> <p>To be confirmed</p>	<p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>PA</p> <p>MG</p> <p>JMac</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>When appropriate</p> <p>March 21</p> <p>Later in the year when planting</p> <p>Feb 21</p>	
9	Any Other Business				
10	Date of Next Meeting				

Minutes of the White Ribbon working group meeting held on

14th January 2021 at 10.00am

Meeting conducted remotely via Zoom

Meeting ID: 897 6200 4388

Passcode: 528275

In attendance

Cllr R Hemsley (Chair) Cllr K Wesley, Cllr R Douglas, Residents P Munro, R Walton, Chief Officer D McGifford

1. Apologies

Were received from Cllr Rogan, K Johnston (Cheshire Police)

Cllr G Hayes advised that he would not be able to continue on the group due to current work commitments

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of November 2020 were approved

3. Feedback from the White Ribbon Day Stall on 28th November 2020

Successful day despite adverse weather conditions and Covid restrictions.

- 20 people made the promise.
- Donations received.
- Became aware of 10 survivors.

Agreed that there should be at least 2 White Ribbon stalls per year to coincide with the Makers Market or major community events

4. Review of Action Plan

Complete review of the Action Plan attached- agreed actions are highlighted in yellow

5. Outreach

Items related to outreach are captured within the Action Plan

6. Date of next meeting

Proposed date for next meeting on the 25th March 2021 10.00am

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	25 th February 2021	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager Ruth Burgess		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Update on Streetscape Waste- Climate Change Emergency Declaration		
Background	Following on from the commitment that the Town Council made on the 19 th September 2019 towards a climate change emergency, the Streetscape Team has been looking into different ways to help with the pledge to reduce the Town Council's Carbon Footprint.		
Updates	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Street Cleansing and Grounds Waste</u></p> <p><u>Where does the waste go</u></p> <p>Maintaining the quality of Congleton's local environment through litter picking, sweeping streets and roads, emptying litter bins, fly tips etc. is a high profile and vital service. The waste generated by this work is often contaminated and therefore difficult to recycle.</p> <p>With an increasing awareness of the harm that our waste can cause to the environment and the need to offer as many opportunities to recycle as possible, the Town Council would like to see a further increase in the number of opportunities to recycle 'on the go'. This will mean a move away from a traditional litter bin only and the introduction of bins that enable residents to recycle their waste. These bins have initially been located in high footfall area of the Town Centre and Congleton Park.</p> <p>The General Street cleansing waste – the general litter waste is sent to be turned into energy from the waste facility in Runcorn, whilst any larger recyclable items are sent to local reprocesses. ANSA on behalf of Congleton Town Council is managing the recycling/reuse of road sweepings through a contract at a facility located in Wolverhampton. The street sweepings are recycled at a plant near Wolverhampton with the silt being used to make materials for land restoration and aggregate.</p> <p>Fly tipped bulky waste collections, carried out by Cheshire East third sector partner St Paul's Centre, whose work is focused on innovative and enterprising sustainable services that generate hope and confidence. They make opportunities by providing resources, facility development and teaching new skills. Using the process of collecting and redistributing items 'furniture and bikes' they engage with local people looking for change and challenge.</p> <p>Garden waste (grass cuttings, hedge and shrub prunings etc) is sent to Ansa's own in-vessel composting site on the outskirts of Crewe that is run by a contractor, Wastewise. Here the garden waste is pasteurised and processed into quality compost and then distributed to local agriculture and horticulture outlets.</p> <p>With this wide range of methods to dispose of different waste channels we are confident that Congleton Town Council's Streetscape Service does not send any waste to landfill and processes are in place for all waste to either reused, recycled or turned into energy.</p>		
Proposal	To note that all the waste collected by Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team is now disposed of in a way that avoids landfill.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Congleton Green Group Chair Margaret Gartside, Officer Jackie MacArthur		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	15 Proposed Response to Cheshire East Council Air Quality Action Plan Consultation		
Summary	<p>Local air quality management is a statutory process introduced by the Environment Act 1995 (Part IV), which places a legal duty on all principal local authorities (Cheshire East Council for Congleton) to regularly review both the current and future air quality within their areas. These reviews must follow Government guidance that sets health-based objectives, which are considered to be acceptable given the known effects.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council is currently consulting on its updated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and is seeking comments and ideas by 5pm on Friday 12th March 2021. You can download the consultation at Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025 Consultation (PDF, 2.11MB) Anyone can respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Congleton Green Working Group has considered a response for Congleton Town Council. The suggested response is attached as Appendix A.</p> <p>The response includes comments on Cheshire East general actions, on the actions specific to Congleton and some suggestions for other areas that the working group believes should be investigated further in the next couple of years.</p> <p>If accepted, this response will be submitted tomorrow and placed on a new page on the Town Council Website which will contain copies of the Town Council's responses to consultation documents.</p>		
Environmental Considerations	This has been considered as part of the response. The paper is about improving and monitoring air quality.		
Equality	This response has value for all members of the Congleton community.		
Financial Considerations	This is a consultation response to a Cheshire East document is not directly related to our budgets. If Congleton Town Council were minded to do even more work on greening roadsides than it has already committed to this would may have budgetary considerations that would need to be discussed separately.		
PROPOSALS	Community and Environment Committee adopts the Congleton Green Working Groups proposed response in appendix one, with the inclusion of any amendments made by this committee, and submits to CEC on the 12 th March.		



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CILCA

APPENDIX ONE ITEM 15

DRAFT RESPONSE – AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

FOR CONSIDERATION AT COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Congleton Green Working Group has considered the draft Air Quality Action Plan and is submitting the following comments. These considerations have been approved by Congleton Town Council's Community and Environment Committee.

In considering our responses Congleton Town Council has also considered its Strategic Objectives, aspirations in our draft Neighbourhood Plan and local knowledge of councillors and Green Working Group members.

On a superficial level, Congleton is pleased to see that over the past few years the Air Quality Annual Reports is showing continuous improvements in the town's three known Air Quality Management Action areas. However, we are concerned that these areas are only tested for nitrogen dioxide levels and would like to see the areas monitored for particulate matters as these levels do not necessary decrease in line with nitrogen dioxide levels.

We also question whether averaging NOx measurements over a month gives an accurate picture or really protects the health of residents. This does not comply with WHO standards, which recommend hourly as well as yearly averages. We understand that hourly measurements are expensive, but we would like Cheshire East Council to consider some real-time measurements at least one day a month at each of the AQMA sites.

We believe testing a peak-times is particularly important for the three AQMA area where the road is within a few feet of family homes. We are also concerned that within a year monitoring of this area may cease at a time when other Cheshire East Council strategy documents include policies which encourage more local traffic to use Rood Hill rather than using town centre routes. With the potential for increased traffic, Congleton Town Council would like to see monitoring continue in the Rood Hill area even if the levels stay below 40 for the third year. Traffic patterns in Congleton are likely to change with the opening of the link road and it is important that this area is kept under review.

Where	Declared	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020
West Road	1/05/05	61	66	56	49	44
Rood Hill	1/05/05	60	47	41	38	36
Lower Heath	1/04/08	47	68	61	49	47

We are pleased that CEC is now monitoring Holmes Chapel Road (CE308) and believe it is important for Cheshire East to be proactive in this area of work; not just monitoring the known sites but checking for emissions at other potential hot spots across the borough. In Congleton we are aware of many roads where cars are often queued and where front doors are within feet of the cars. We also suggest spot checks outside schools and shopping centres at times of high pedestrian footfall mixed with parking congestion.

Technology will play a big part in reducing emissions levels and so improving Air Quality and it is reasonable assumption that there are far more low emission vehicles on the road in 2020 than in 2005. At the same time there has been an increase in the number of cars on the road and although the NOx levels may have fallen the particle levels from brakes and tyres are not necessarily decreasing – which is why we believe these levels need to be checked for the health of our residents.

WHO and EU both recommend strict limits, especially on PM2.5. DEFRA has diluted this to 'work towards reducing emissions'. Given the health danger to the public, we would like to see Cheshire East take a proactive approach particulate monitoring and use a real-time sensor at again known hot spots at peak times.

Congleton Town Council noted that the Air Quality Annual Report states that to reduce the NOx levels in Lower Heath would require a 22.23% reduction in traffic. To reduce the levels on West Road would require a 12.5% reduction in traffic. While the soon to be opened Link Road will remove some of the through traffic from these two roads, the Congleton area is increasing by almost 4,000 new houses (increasing housing stock by around a third). We cannot assume that the Link Road will solve the emission problems.

We are also conscious that traffic is not the only source of pollution. Some recent Air Quality monitoring carried out by the Congleton Sustainability Group found that a large proportion of particulate emissions is from house heating (coal and wood) and from industry. The action plan in the document says nothing about non-vehicular particulate emissions. We believe this is a mistake and even if Cheshire East Council has limited powers over industrial and residential emissions, the problem should not be ignored.

GENERAL MEASURES

The consultation document contains 22 General Actions Measures for the Cheshire East Council area. These seem reasonable and but is alarming that some of the campaigns were introduced a decade ago and suggest that more urgency is needed. Where it is possible to work in partnership the Town Council would consider helping to promote these general measures.

GN8 School Travel Plans – more energy is needed in this area and a more target campaign to stop mixing idling cars and young children at the start and end of the school day.

GN9 – Encouraging Company Travel Plans – we would be happy to assist with this in the Congleton Area.

GN11 – Active Travel – this action should also consider the role of walking and public transport.

GN12 – Anti Idling - we could do an article on this in the next Bear Necessities (encourage CEC to get children to learn how to test as part of science lessons?)

GN15 – Weight Restrictions on AQMA areas – this wouldn't work for Congleton as the AQMAs are along main arterial roads for servicing the town

GN18 – More electric charging points – can we see the plans for Congleton? Approximately three years ago we were fighting to keep our charging points in Princess Street car park! We would like to see more fast charge sites

GN22 – Encouraging Roadside Planting – this is an area that Congleton In Bloom and Streetscape are interested in for Congleton and it has been an area that members of the public are keen to get involved with. We would be interested in seeing Cheshire East's Plans for Congleton and working on enhancing them.

Please can you supply more information on the dismissed GN9 action on page 31 not pursuing the NOx busting paint – on hold for further research as we understood this to be used on Rood Hill wall.

FIVE CONGLETON SPECIFIC ACTIONS

It is questionable whether all of the specific actions for Congleton are in line with other Cheshire East Council policy documents such as the Active Transport Plan Development Plan.

The actions appear to have been developed with the idea of keeping vehicles moving to reduce pollution – but the actions proposed may be detrimental for walking, cycling and public transport - moving bus stops so that vehicles don't get stuck behind buses, reviewing pedestrian crossings so that vehicles don't have to stop as often, reviewing the need for lights at Rood Hill.

Cong 1 – building the link road, to remove much of the non-local traffic from the town centre roads. Although we all hope that the Link Road has the desired effect of removing much of the through traffic through Congleton, the housing built within the Link Road area is likely to create more local traffic, so the impact of this action will need to be kept under review.

Cong 2 Review need for Traffic Signals at Rood Hill and more priority to Rood Hill - need to also be conscious here that in another policy the aim is to direct all traffic up Rood Hill rather than through the town centre so this needs to be taken into account with the lights

Cong 3 – Review the crossing at Lower Heath – Puffin and lights. We need MORE safe crossing points if more people are going to be persuaded to walk or cycle for local journeys.

Cong 4 – Review West Bound Bus Stop by Tesco express – if public transport is going to be successful the buses need to stop where people want to get on and off.

Cong 5 – Improve Cycle network around Congleton – Congleton Town Council are in support of this.

We would welcome feedback on our comments from Congleton. As a Town Council we are as concerned as you about the importance of good air quality for our residents and would welcome an active conversation on how we can work together to achieve this in Congleton.



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CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st January	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur Deputy Chief Officer Communities and Marketing Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16. Introduction of Civic Pride Awards Scheme for Congleton		
Summary	<p>Many town councils hold an annual Civic Pride Award event to recognise people in their communities that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support and help their community.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council doesn't currently hold annual awards - apart from The Jeanne Whitehurst Award which is given to an outstanding young person at the Annual Town Council. Congleton residents are often successful in borough-wide awards such as the Silk FM Local Heroes Awards.</p> <p>2020-21 has been an exceptional year where many local people have stepped up and gone above and beyond to help people in Congleton. But even before the COVID-19 pandemic we have been aware of many, many fantastic volunteers, businesses, clubs and community groups serving our town.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council via Councillors and social media has been asked to consider hosting an award ceremony for local people.</p> <p>The paper is to see if Councillors would be in favour of introducing a Civic Award scheme for Congleton.</p>		
	<p>Researching other town's Civic Awards the number of categories vary widely and there are a large number of categories that we may wish to consider. There is also a decision on whether to hold the event as part of the Annual Town Council meeting, the Annual Town Meeting or to create it as an independent event.</p> <p>If Councillors wanted to see this happen the next steps would be to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree if this will be linked to an existing event or stand-alone event. Merits in both – also budget considerations • Agree the number of awards that we wish to give and the eligibility criteria • Agree how people can be nominated and advertise. • Agree who would be on the awards panel – such Mayor, Chief Officer and three councillors? • Agree budget for the awards and order prizes/ certificates <p>As it is already mid-March and the Annual Town Meeting is likely to be end of April or early May it is may be sensible to start with a Community Involvement Civic Award for 2021 and to develop the full suite of awards for 2022?</p>		

	If so a Community Involvement Civic Award could recognise individuals, or community voluntary groups, who have made a positive contribution to the town during the COVID-19 Pandemic and we could seek local nominations
Environmental Considerations	This should be able to be achieved with minimal environmental impact. Local scheme
Equality Considerations	The awards would be open to all members of the Congleton community.
Financial Considerations	The cost factor will be dependent on the number of awards the Town Council wishes to give to the community. Costs could be minimised by holding the awards as part of the Annual Town Meeting or Annual Council Meeting.
PROPOSALS	Congleton Town Council to introduce a Civic Award scheme starting with Community Involvement Awards for 2021. The development of the 2021 scheme will be delegated to the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Community and Environment Committee with a report on the development of a larger scheme for 2022 to come back to Committee.