

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021](#)

#### **PRESENT:**

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Dawn Allen

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Robert Moreton

Cllr Jean Parry

Cllr Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Margaret Gartside (Deputy Mayor)

Non-Committee Members: Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr David Brown

Also present: CTC Officers Jackie MacArthur, Ruth Burgess and Martha Hayes  
1 Members of the Press, 1 Cheshire Police Officer, 5 members of the public

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

Apologies for absence were received from committee members Cllrs Paul Duffy and Mark Rogan.

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**CE/01/2122 Resolved to** approve the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as a correct record with the addition of noting that Dawn Allen had given apologies.

#### **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, Sally Ann Holland and Rob Moreton declared a non-pecuniary interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

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

See Item 9 for updates from the Community and Environment Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## 5. Questions from Members of the Public

**Four questions were received – for responses see Appendix 1**

- Questions from Val Scaresbrook re Pedestrian bollard near B&M.
- Question from Val Scaresbrook re Sunken area near the Betting Shop, Mill Street.
- Question from Neave Stanway re speed limits on Canal Road and Canal Street.
- Question from public about the speed limit on Giantswood Lane

## 6. Urgency Items

No Urgent Items were raised at the meeting.

## 7. Cheshire Police

PC Iain Bell from Cheshire Police gave a verbal on Policing matters affecting Congleton. See Appendix 2

## 8. River Dane Crossing – Havannah Lane to Jackson Road

To receive a report from Cheshire East Council Walking and Cycling Champion Councillor Suzie Akers Smith and a short presentation from local artist Becca Smith re artwork and improving the River Dane Bridge between Jackson Road and Havannah Lane in Buglawton.

**CE/02/2122 Resolved to** approve Congleton Town Council organising an initial clean-up of the area.

**CE/03/2122 Resolved to** consult with Cheshire East Council on the bridge safety reports and review Cheshire East's proposals for the long-term future of the bridge.

**CE/04/2122 Resolved to** delegate responsibility to the Integrated Transport Working Group to consider the investment needed to carry out all the proposals in the paper including the artwork.

## 9. Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee

To receive an updates paper from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 highlighting any issues.

**CE/05/2122 Resolved to** accept the report which updated on Moody Hall, Elizabeth's Statue, Volunteer Co-ordination Point, Air Quality Strategy and Civic Awards.

## 10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

**CE/06/2122 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021.](#)

## 11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes

**CE/07/2122 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Congleton In Bloom Working Group from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.](#) Thanks was given to Cllr Amanda Martin who has now stepped down from the In Bloom team after many years.

## 12. Integrated Transport Working Group Meetings

**CE/08/2122 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.](#)

**13. White Ribbon Working Group Update**

**CE/09/2122 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the White Ribbon Working Group on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#).

**14. Congleton Green Group**

A verbal update was given by the Chair of Congleton Green Working Group covering the e-learning project, Town Hall energy audit, Green Fayre and Tree Planting.

**15. 750 Celebrations Working Group**

**CE/10/2122 Resolved to** receive the notes of the working group held on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021.  
**CE/11/2122 Resolved to** receive a report and approve in principle the 10 proposals for Congleton Town Council led events as part of the Congleton 2022 celebrations and to delegate responsibility to the working group to work on these initiatives within the budgets to be agreed at Council.

**16. Christmas 2021**

**CE/12/2122 Resolved to** approve the change of day for the 2021 proposed Christmas switch on event to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November and approved the outline plans for the event.

**Cllr Kay Wesley  
(Chair)**

## APPENDIX ONE: PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT CE – ITEM 6

1. **Val Scaresbrook - resident. Not in attendance.** For some months, the bollard at the Bridge St end of the restricted traffic area has not been used. Instead, a traffic cone is used, which drivers can easily remove (but don't replace), resulting in cars, vans and taxis using this street during restricted hours for loading/unloading or as a rat run, exiting on Little St because Duke St does still have a bollard in use. When will the Bridge St bollard be back in use?

**Response:** Officers have been liaising with Cheshire East Highways on this matter as the bollard is part of the Highway scheme. The Town Council's Streetscape team are responsible for the daily installation and removal of the bollard, but all the street furniture, including the bollards are owned by Cheshire East Council. From previous experience it has taken a while to get street furniture replaced and in the meantime a cone is being used. We will continue to chase.

2. **Val Scaresbrook - Resident – Not in Attendance:** For what seems a long time, a traffic cone has been placed on a sunken services access cover on the newly surface pavement in Mill St (by the betting shop that is opposite the Bulls Head). The cone is moved about so often not on top of the sunken area, so people risk tripping or turning their ankle if they don't notice, have poor sight, or poor mobility. When will this surface be restored?

**Response:** This area has been reported to Cheshire East Highways a number of times as it is a sunken cover. We understood that the work was going to be carried out when recent repairs were carried out in the Mill Street area, and it is unclear why this was missed. The issue has been raised again with Cheshire East Highways and we are waiting to hear a date for the repair but agree this is something that needs to be repaired.

3. **Neave 13 Stanway RESIDENT – In Person** Neave gave a statement and the results of a local survey that she had conducted into residents opinions on the speed of traffic on Canal Street and Canal Road. She asked the Town Council's to support a campaign to make Canal Road and Canal Street a 20mph zone to make it safer for people to walk and cycle.

**Response:** The answer to this question was given with the answer to Q4.

4. **Morgan Chappell, resident not present.** Giantswood Lane is the only safe walking and cycling route north out of Congleton. The residents are concerned about the speed of the traffic that currently travels along Giantswood Lane and the impact on road safety for non-motorised. The traffic signs adjacent to the last house do not give enough notice to vehicle users to reduce their speed limit. The traffic is speeding up along that section of road, and still doing 60mph which is too fast for the road. Drivers trying to come out of their driveway are impinged and this speed limit does all but encourage people to walk. Many residents feel this is the case and we would like to ask for the current 60mph reduced to 30mph along this road to Hulme Walfield.

**Response:** The chair thanked Neave for her detailed observations and comments and for taking the time to speak to Committee. In response to the questions 3 and 4, I have spoken to the Chair of the Integrated Transport Working Group and would suggest that rather than individual roads being considered in isolation, that the Integrated Transport Working Group consider the area as a whole and come back with workable recommendations that could feed into the Cheshire East Speed Management Strategy due out in November 2021.

In May 2020, the Town Council wrote to Cheshire East Council listing 18 town centre roads that it would like to see made 20mph. This included Canal Street – but only as far as New Street.

## **APPENDIX 2 - UPDATE FROM THE POLICE - ITEM 7**

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

- Work extended under Op Piloted to tackle drug dealing in East Congleton - Total 4 Arrests to date.
- Continued with visits with youth workers & enforcement teams to Dane In Shaw Pastures where large groups congregate.
- Dedicated Night-time economy patrols in post lockdown period for town centre.
- Additional patrols for year 11 school leavers – no issues.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Current ASB Repeat locations:

- Dane-in-Shaw pastures (3 Incidents)
- Intermittent Homelessness at Argos

### **Domestic Abuse (DA)**

Total of 39 incidents a reduction of 10 on last period and reduction of 9 year on year.  
Total Sexual Offences: 3, 2 down on last period and 1 up year on year.

### **COVID Related**

- Repeat location (2) Astbury Mere – 1 incident closed, 1 incident 4 fines given.
- Op Paw and Op Delivering continue.

### **Congleton Beat Priorities**

- TEAM: COVID and Licensing and green space patrol plan, joint visits conducted at each easing step.
- PERSON: Problem Solving Package DA/ASB/Crime Congleton East.
- PLACE: Op Piloted – Congleton East.

### **AOB**

- Week of Action on Speeding: Gawsworth/Chelford/Odd Rode – Increased TruCam.
- New Inspector: Jim Adams, looking forward to working with.
- Congleton and Sandbach are forming a new Local Police Unit with its own command team, largely based in Congleton.