



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

1st July 2021

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 8th July 2021

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 8th July 2021 at 7.00pm.**

- The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions the numbers in the room will be limited to 25 with priority given to voting members and presenters. If you wish to attend this meeting as an observer, please can you email info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or call 01260 270350 ext 1 as places will be limited. When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted normal meeting protocol can resume.
- 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 3rd June 2021](#) 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 Agenda 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. Home-Start in Congleton

To receive a short presentation from Sue Taylor on the workings of Home-Start.

9. Updates Paper from Previous Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an [updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 3rd June 2021](#).

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

To receive a verbal update from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group meeting held on 8th July 2021.

11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes (Verbal)

To receive a verbal update from the Congleton In Bloom Working Group.

12. Integrated Transport Working Group Meetings (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on 3rd June 2021](#)

13. White Ribbon Working Group Update (Verbal)

To receive a verbal update from the White Ribbon Working Group held on 8th July 2021.

14. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group](#) held on:

- 17th June 2021
- 24th June 2021

15. Increasing the Remit of the Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To consider a report to increase the remit of the Congleton Green Working Group to include the Biodiversity and Nature Crisis remit.

16. Launch of the Congleton Sustainable Living E-learning Course (Enclosed)

To receive an update on the launch of the Congleton Sustainable Living E-Learning Course.

To: Members of the Community & Environment Committee

Cllrs: Kay Wesley (Chair), Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

Dawn Allen, Paul Duffy, Suzy Firkin, Robert Hemsley, Amanda Martin, Rob Moreton, Jean Parry and Mark Rogan

Ex Officio: Cllr Denis Murphy (Town Mayor), Cllr Margaret Gartside (Deputy 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 Information Centre.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3rd June 2021

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next committee meeting on 8th July 2021

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 3rd 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/64/2122 Resolved to approve the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 11th 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 11th 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/65/2021 Resolved to approve Congleton Town Council organising an initial clean-up of the area

CE/66/2021 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/67/2021 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 the 11th March 2021 highlighting any issues.

CE/68/2021 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/69/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 11th May 2021.

11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes

CE/70/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting from 8th March, 30th March and 20th 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/71/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting 21st April 2021

13. White Ribbon Working Group Update

CE/72/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group on 25th 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/73/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the working group held on 1st April and 20th May 2021.

CE/10/2021 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/11/2021 Resolved to approve the change of day for the 2021 proposed Christmas switch on event to Friday 26th 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's 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 own command team, largely based in Congleton.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	8th July 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Grand Hall, Town Hall
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/51/2021 Elizabeth Statue: – A proposed location was discussed at Council where the committee supported the statue but wanted all the sites reconsidered before making a final preference on the preferred site. An options paper has been prepared and the matter is due to be discussed at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>CE/52/2021 Volunteer Co-ordination Point - A webinar is planned for either the 12th or 14th July 2021 facilitated by the Social Action Partnership to work through logistics. Cheshire East Council (CEC) has given Congleton Town Council (CTC) £700 towards a thank you party to be organised for volunteers who have helped with the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>CE/65/2021 Havannah Bridge - The initial clear up of the area by the Havannah Bridge is planned to take place in August 2021 co-ordinated by the Congleton in Bloom Team and Streetscape.</p> <p>CE/66/2021 Havannah Bridge - Cheshire East Council carried out an inspection on 22nd June 2021 and are awaiting the report. The inspection report from 2019 found the bridge to be in fair condition but recommended painting to prevent further corrosion.</p> <p>CE/67/2021 Havannah Bridge - The Integrated Transport Working Group will discuss the other issues raised in the paper at its next meeting.</p> <p>CE/10/2021 750 Year Celebrations - A follow up paper was submitted to Council and approval was given for £10k finance towards the 750 Year Celebrations in this financial year and £15K in the next financial year. The 750 Working Group will now progress with the bookings.</p>		
PROPOSALS	To note the update report		

Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING – Meeting called to discuss CEC Bus Back Better Response and Way Forward

Date: Thursday 3rd June 2021

Location: Bridestones Suite

Time: 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Present: Cllr Suzie Akers Smith (Chair), Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Ant Bolding (Active Travel), Jackie MacArthur.

Apologies

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Duncan Amies; Cllr David Brown, Cllr Margaret Gartside		
2	<p>Cllr SAS gave a summary of the meeting with CEC Councillors following the submission of the Bus ideas for Congleton. It appears our assumption that CEC would be able to get a fair share of the £3bn bus back better funds is not correct and there is no Government or CEC funds available for improving our bus services. If we want to see improvements the emphasis was on CTC finding the funds and working through CEC Transport Services Solutions team to deliver. CEC agreed to help in practical terms and if we gave them our top 2-3 ideas, they would cost out prices.</p> <p>Discussion was held on various options and more research needed before group able to give CEC any recommendations to get a price.</p> <p>Survey people at Congleton Station to see if they would get a bus rather than pay for parking – and what the barriers are.</p> <p>Data for rail use at Congleton (suspect timings and usage will have changed significantly since COVID-19)</p> <p>Ask Beartown Buses is feasible for the Number 90 to reroute to include Bath Vale - or if not into Bath Vale, then to the bridge leading into Bath Vale</p>	<p>Carry out a general residents' survey on bus use – Kay to write first draft, group to refine, Jackie to distribute via Bear Necessities and social media</p> <p>Suzy F to draft survey - members of team to agree when and who will go to train station</p> <p>Jackie contact the Rail Service to ask for data</p> <p>Contact the Bus company to see what is possible. if yes to survey Bath Vale (knock and drop) to see if households would use the survey.</p>	<p>KW / JMacA</p> <p>SF/ team</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA – ask KW – draft survey</p>	<p>June/July</p> <p>July?</p> <p>W/c7 June</p> <p>W/c 7 June</p>

	<p>Look at the cost of running the no. 90 bus free for a set time to encourage behaviour change rationale – 90% of passengers ‘free’ anyway so likely low cost, deprived area so there may be need, some people get taxis home with shopping so this may really change behaviour and save them money</p> <p>Ask Beartown Buses to give an approximation of funding needed to deliver the proposal given at the meeting in April.</p> <p>Potential interest in a service to cover Lower Heath and West Heath – but rather than following route of 38 to take in Daisy Bank and Giantswood Lane?</p> <p>Other areas to get an idea of price/ feasibility</p> <p>Free local buses around Congleton on a Saturday Re-route 91 to take a loop around Kestrel and Goldfinch Close</p> <p>What are the rules/ insurances around the Partnership minibuses – could they be used for a shuttle service for the public to use?</p> <p>Data on Bus use in Congleton</p>	<p>Jackie to contact Bus Company and see what is possible</p> <p>Jackie to contact Bus Company on these issues</p>	<p>AM –delivery JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>W/c 7 June</p> <p>W/c 7 June</p>
3	<p>AOB - Ant Bolding gave out a flier about the Rickshaw Project and asked for help with finding a location to store the Rickshaw – would need regular access to the bike.</p> <p>SAS mentioned that electric charging points for electric buses but also other vehicles will be important part of the transport mix</p>	<p>Ideas for storage of the bike</p> <p>Add to a future meeting</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JMacA</p>	
5	Date of Next Meeting	To be agreed		

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 17th June 2021

Location: Via Zoom

Time: 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Present: Councillor Margaret Gartside (Chair), Councillor Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Barry Speed, Jackie MacArthur.

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Peter Aston Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Suzy Firkin		
2	<p>Actions outstanding</p> <p>a) Bike Doctor</p> <p>b) Cheshire Wildlife Peat Bogs</p> <p>c) Care Home Plans for Greening</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Rogan getting in contact with the Bike Doctor so that a date can be sorted</p> <p>Meeting arranged for the 24th June 2021</p> <p>Not yet actioned</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>When appropriate</p> <p>June 21</p> <p>Summer 21</p>
3	Confirmation of Chair	<p>Cllr Margaret Gartside happy to continue as Chair. Asked if anyone had objections to say so before the next meeting.</p> <p>Vice Chair to discuss as next meeting.</p>	<p>MG/JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>End of March</p> <p>Feb 21</p>
4	Confirmation of other members	<p>Barry Speed happy to continue on the group.</p> <p>Peter Aston confirmed he is also happy to remain on the group</p> <p>Heather Seddon would like to join the group – to discuss at next meeting</p>	JMacA	June 2021
5.	10 point action plan	<p>Shared an excel spread sheet. Agreed that it needs populating with KPI that are meaningful.</p> <p>Create an Action Log with the discussions that have been held, meetings held and conclusions to meetings re reducing carbon footprint.</p> <p>Appreciate that Streetscape, Town Hall and other working groups are exploring options and costs to reduce carbon footprint but also working</p>	JMacA	

		<p>on expansion programmes to enable CTC to do more for the town – which may be overall more environmentally friendly for Congleton, but could increase the Town Council’s footprint in some areas.</p> <p>Put summary of actions on the spread sheet.</p> <p>Add in facts where we have changed policy or buying practices.</p> <p>Work out travel of staff and councillors to meetings (use paper on Hybrid meeting)</p> <p>Importance of a Green Budget for 2022/23 and moving forward</p>	<p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>Councillors</p>	
6.	Air Quality	<p>Chase up CEC for an update on Air Quality.</p> <p>Barry Speed spoke about the equipment that he has been able to borrow for a month – had been out today at various sites as part of Clean Air Day. Will need to download and share results.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needs volunteers who are willing to go on a rota to use the equipment 2. Needs to get the equipment insured 3. Can the Police help 	<p>JMacA</p> <p>Barry Speed</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	
7.	Streetscape Rewilding	Streetscape looking at 13 areas where rewilding can happen. CEC (who contract CTC to carry out the work) have agreed in principle as long as public are consulted and happy. Going to THAS committee. Signs have been ordered and a letter written to go out to households. New letter and leaflet being worked on	Margaret to report back	
8.	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 July	JMacA/	July 21
9.	AOB	Congleton Repair shop - one mentioned in Get Involved – check on facts	JMacA	
10.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 24 th June - Carbon Offsetting		

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting – focus on Carbon Offsetting and Cheshire Wildlife Trust

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 24th June 2021

Location: Zoom

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

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

Guest : Joe Pimblett, Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies		
2	Cheshire Wildlife Trust Joe Pimblett gave an introduction to the work of Cheshire Wildlife Trust in relation to the nature and climate Emergency . The group was particularly interested in the local work on creation of carbon insetting schemes, the development of carbon metric measures, the audits of peatlands in Cheshire East and the acceleration of woodland creation. Group keen to understand costs of creating peat land schemes. Would want any schemes to be either in Congleton or as close as possible.	To work with Joe Pimblett on an article for Bear Necessities and more detailed information to put on the website. Find out more about the Moss Rooms Peatland – (Peter Aston to send article from Inclosure) Promote the Moss lane/ Mossley Peatland as an important area to restore. Joe to work with the group on developing a worthwhile local project that for the sequestration of the CTC carbon emissions that will remain once all measures taken to reduce emissions. Predicted to be around 130 tonnes Group/Joe to look at potential for buy in from Congleton SMEs that want to off-set their carbon footprint. Potential for CTC/CWT to work together on promoting options for SME Check legalities around Council spending on Carbon off-sets especially around location	JMacA/JP PA CTC JP/MG/SF Group JMacA	Early July June 2021 2021-2023 Autumn 2021 Autumn 2021 June 2021
3	Frequency of Meetings and Potential New Members. Discussion around increasing the frequency of meetings and new members that the group believe would strengthen the ability to work on projects.	The Chair to approach Heather Seddon, Chair of Plastic Free Congleton, Adam Linnet from Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Matt Axford from Cheshire East Countryside Rangers. Meetings to continue to be held by zoom. Group suggested monthly, 3 rd week of the month to avoid clashes with Congleton Sustainability Group and alternative day time/ evening to allow	MG/JMacA JMacA JMacA	End of March Feb 21 July 21

		members working full time to attend. One month Thursday morning. Next month Wednesday evening. Various members to become more knowledgeable and lead on areas. Regular agenda items for start of meeting. Biodiversity, Waste, Carbon Footprint.		
4	Chair and Vice Chair	<p>CLlr Margaret Gartside happy to continue as Chair</p> <p>CLlr Suzy Firkin as Vice Chair</p> <p>*Barry Speed suggested that the chair should be rotated – which will consider at the annual review</p>	JMacA	May 2022
5.	<p>Update on Rewilding</p> <p>Paper going to Town Hall and Assets Committee on the 1st July. 13 areas where rewilding is going to be piloted, although first need to let residents know what is happening and why.</p>	<p>Important that CTC shows leadership on this and helps people to understand the nature emergency and why it is important to give more back to nature. More promotion of the messages – Bear Necessities, press and social media</p> <p>Important that Streetscape team understand the messages as they are frontline staff who are often asked questions – check with Ruth. Check if there is a training session the CWT could do for staff and councillors on biodiversity.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>SF</p>	June 2021
6.	<p>Air Quality - Barry Speed has been able to borrow some professional equipment for the next month. So far 4-5 volunteers have stepped forward to help. Concern about how to answer questions would be answered if collecting data outside industrial premises</p>	<p>Check with Cheshire East Air Quality re rights to check areas and report back to Barry Speed.</p> <p>Find out what Cheshire East Council will do with the information</p>	<p>JMacA</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>June 2021</p> <p>June 2021</p>
8.	<p>Green Fayre</p> <p>Issue with the booking for the Green Fayre as the Friday that the group wished to move the booking to has another booking. Group aware all bookings are subject the NHS not needing the Town Hall. As Town Hall not available for Friday 29th October other options were considered.</p>	<p>Group thought best option would be to close the High Street and erect a Marquee on the field behind the Town Hall. Costs for Marquee around £1500 plus costs of security and road closures. Option to be developed further along with ideas for funding. Further discussion at CSG early July.</p>	JMacA/	July 21
9.	AOB	Ran out of time		
10.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 22 July 10am		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	8th July 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Grand Hall, Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	15 Increasing the Remit of the Congleton Green Working Group		
Background	<p>The Congleton Green Working Group was set up in response to Congleton Town Council signing a Climate Change Emergency. The Working Group reports into the Town Council's Community and Environment Committee.</p> <p>In addition to the Climate Change Emergency, there is also a Nature Emergency. One million of the 9 million species on earth are under threat and it is estimated that half of the UK species are in decline with one in ten species threatened with extinction.</p> <p>In May 2021, the UK Government announced amendments to the Environment Bill that would include a legally binding species target for 2030 that will drive action and halt the decline of nature and wildlife.</p> <p>The Town Council was approached about setting up a Biodiversity Working Group to investigate ways in which the Town Council can contribute towards reducing the Nature Emergency.</p>		
Current Objectives of the Green Group	<p>The Terms of Reference for the Congleton Green Working Group can be seen in Appendix One. The Working Group is developing schemes related to 6.1- 6.9 of the Town Council's Business Plan, although the main objectives are around reducing the Town Council's Carbon Footprint.</p>		
Updates	<p>Rather than setting up a separate Biodiversity Working Group, it is proposed to update the Terms of Reference of the current Congleton Green Working Group to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider actions that can make more space for nature, provide a net gain for wildlife, and protect and enhance biodiversity in the Congleton area. <p>Meetings will be increased to once a month with Biodiversity and Carbon Footprint as standard agenda items. Ruth Burgess, Streetscape Development Manager will join the working group for discussions on Biodiversity as well as Cheshire Wildlife Trust. It is also envisaged that additional subject matter experts will be co-opted as appropriate.</p> <p>The biodiversity element of the Congleton Green Working Group will also need to be built into the Neighbourhood Plan and Congleton Town Council's comments on some Planning Applications.</p>		

	<p>It is noted that the Environment Bill which requires Developers to provide 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on sites, is expected to come into force in Sept 2023. The work of both Streetscape and Congleton in Bloom will also be influenced by a drive boost biodiversity in our town.</p> <p>The Working Group with Ruth Burgess, Streetscape Development Manage, will take forward any actions agreed at the Town Hall, Assets and Services Committee with regard to the rewilding strategy due to be discussed on the evening of the 1st July 2021.</p>
Environmental Consideration	The regular monthly meetings will help the Town Council to stay on track with its Climate Change and Nature Emergency activities and give more urgency to these important matters.
Financial Considerations	The impact of additional meetings and staff time can be accommodated in current work patterns.
Equality Considerations	The working group will ensure the Town Council's Equality and Inclusion policies are considered in all issues covered by the working group.
PROPOSALS	For the Community and Environment Committee to agree that the Congleton Green Working Group's remit is increased to investigate the Nature Emergency and the role and actions that Congleton Town Council can take to mitigate it.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference – Congleton Green Working Group (Feb 2020)

This a Working Group of the Town Council that reports into the Congleton Town Council Community and Environment Committee.

It is chaired by a member of the Town Council and its membership is made up of interested town councillors (8) plus local experts at the discretion of the group. It will meet as needed but at least four times a year. It is anticipated that task teams will meet frequently. Minutes will be taken by Town Council staff and the intention is to circulate draft minutes to the chair and forward to the group within a week of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the Town Council website and noted at Community and Environment Committee.

Congleton Green will work closely with:

- Cheshire East Council and other bodies focussed on the same objectives
- Local Businesses and the Chamber of Commerce
- Congleton Sustainability Group (Partnership)
- Congleton Integrated Transport Group (Town Council)
- Plastic Free Congleton (Voluntary Group)
- Trees for Congleton (Independent Group)

The Groups objectives are in line with the Town Council's Business Plan **Strategic Objective 6 (SO6)**
Congleton Town Council to reduce its Carbon Footprint to neutral by 2025 and work towards creating a sustainable and carbon neutral town.

- 6.1 Reduce the net Carbon footprint for the Town Council's Assets and Streetscape Service
- 6.2 Through partnership working and engagement with the adjoining parishes plant and maintain 30,00 new trees by 2024 (Trees for Congleton)
- 6.3 Review existing facilities for recycling and develop new where necessary
- 6.4 Develop and deliver a campaign(s) for promoting the need and facilities for recycling
- 6.5 Create awareness of training opportunities
- 6.6 Maximise opportunities for the retention and enhancement of Green Open Spaces (Neighbourhood Plan)
- 6.7 Support the development and delivery of the Congleton Sustainability Group's Initiatives
- 6.8 To work with partners on recycling initiatives
- 6.9 To improve the air quality in Congleton.

Working practice of the group: - Agreed that Agendas will not be printed out for the meeting but projected onto the wall. Papers will be emailed out and paper copies only by request.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	8th July 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Grand Hall, Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Launching the Sustainable Living in Congleton E-learning Course		
Background	<p>In May 2020 CTC83/1920 approved the Congleton Green Working Group to work on an e-learning sustainable living course for Congleton. This course is now going through a review with the aim of going public w/c 12th July 2021.</p> <p>The course takes inspiration from the face-to-face Sustainable Living Course that has been, and post COVID-19 will continue to be, delivered by the Congleton Sustainability Group.</p> <p>Funding for the development of the course has been split between Congleton Partnership and the Town Council. Members of both groups are on the task and finish group that has been responsible for the course's development.</p> <p>The objective of the e-learning is to create a localised learning platform to encourage more residents to understand the importance of their own carbon footprint, why a large carbon footprint is creating a problem and actions and local support is available to help them reduce their carbon footprint.</p> <p>The course will be housed on the Town Council's website with links to the Congleton Partnership Website. The course will be free to for local people to access and residents can complete the modules in their own time. The number of participants will be monitored, subject matter reviewed and the Town Council marketing team are able to modify and update the material in the course subject matter as the subject matter and local support evolves.</p>		
Environmental Considerations	This course is designed to help local people to reduce their carbon footprint. It is an on-line course so involves little or no energy or resources to complete.		
Equality considerations	The course is available to all and built on a platform that conforms to the website accessibility standards. The course can be downloaded onto phones, laptops, tablets or desk top computers. Leaflets will be placed in the library where library members can access free use of a computer for an hour a day.		
Financial considerations	Council staff will maintain the website and technical support brought in if significant changes are needed in the future.		
PROPOSALS	To note the report		