

TOWN COUNCIL INITIATIVES

1. Reducing Energy Use in the Town Hall- the Council is already using a green energy supplier and are taking actions to reduce energy usage. A recent energy audit gave the Town Hall a C rating
2. Reducing fuel emissions- Streetscape routes have been rationalised to reduce mileage. More eco-friendly vehicles will be considered when the leasing contract is renewed
3. Actions to reduce staff and councillor travel though using Zoom meetings and encouraging walking and cycling where possible
4. Actions to reducing Town Hall plastic use, removing all single use plastic where possible
5. Reducing grass cutting- we are currently looking at 13 pilot areas
6. Reducing paper use in the Town Hall
7. Using more eco-friendly cleaning products in the Town Hall
8. Local Purchasing- the Town Council purchases and sources locally where possible
9. Careful disposal of all waste. No waste from the public bins or Town Hall is sent to landfill
10. Considering ways to off-set the residual carbon footprint

GREEN LIVING IN CONGLETON

The Green agenda is massive and can be overwhelming! To make it easier for people living in Congleton to understand how to reduce their own carbon footprint Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership have developed a FREE online Green Living course. The on-line learning is available at learn@congleton-tc.gov.uk. The course took inspiration from the Congleton Sustainability Group's Sustainable Living in Congleton course but removes the pressure to attend classes. On the site you can find out more about options on energy, food, travel and stuff we buy. Please give it a go. There is also an opportunity to register for local updates.



REDUCING WASTE

With the closure of the Congleton Household Waste & Recycling Site in September, Congleton residents are urged to carry on recycling! The Town Council opposed the closure of the site. Our nearest Cheshire East sites will now be Lyme Green in Macclesfield and Alsager.

WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE?

Could someone make good use of the product that you no-longer require? In Congleton we have six charity shops – League of Friends on Lawton Street, YMCA and Oxfam on the High Street, Northwest Air Ambulance in Market Street, Cancer Research in the pedestrian area, and Mencap and Barnardo's at West Heath Shopping Centre. Some charities have collection bins for clothes and shoes on car parks – Salvation Army on the Fairground Car Park, Donna Louise Trust on West Street Car Park, various at Tesco Car Park. There are also several recycling online platforms such as freecycle, gumtree, eBay, Vinted, Depop.

RECYCLE - SILVER BINS

Congleton households can have a Silver Bin where you can place many of the products that you would take to the HWRC including:

- Aerosols (empty without lids)
- Cans
- Cardboards
- Cartons
- Foil
- Fruit and Veg Punnets
- Glass and Plastic bottles (rinsed, lids on or off)
- Junk Mail (best to cancel)
- Microwave film
- Paper and envelopes
- Plastic toiletry bottles
- Plastic trays
- Wrapping paper (not glittery!)

Remember to RINSE all recycling to avoid contamination and KEEP IT LOOSE – do not put recycling inside bags or other containers.

TERRACYCLING

For hard to recycle goods there are a number of sites across Congleton which will collect your products – a full list is on the Town Council website.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU TRAVEL...

In the UK, travel is likely to account for around a quarter of your emissions. Active Travel Congleton is a volunteer group that is campaigning for improvements to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle – see www.atcongleton.uk

Buses

Much of Congleton is poorly served by buses. The Town Council is keen to learn about your experiences and what would make you use a bus more frequently. The Government is putting more funding into



buses and we would like to see Congleton benefit. Please complete our quick survey by scanning the QR code. Also available at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Wanted! Rickshaw Riders

Active Travel Congleton has purchased a Rickshaw with the aim of providing a service for people of all ages who are experiencing limited mobility or social isolation. The idea is that volunteer, trained riders will be able to take people out for a ride on the tricycle in areas such as Congleton Park, Astbury Mere and Biddulph Valley Way. If you could help with administration or are willing to train to be a rider, contact Ant Bolding on **07734 509739**.

UNSURE ABOUT CYCLING?

Many people haven't ridden a bike in years and are concerned about cycling on the roads. Active Travel Congleton has set up a cycle buddy scheme to help solve this. If you can ride a bike, but need your confidence building up the group can link you with a free 1:1 cycle buddy who will help ensure your bike is roadworthy and that you have the basic skills. To link with a buddy call Ant on **07734 509739** or see www.atcongleton.uk

PLANT TREES

Trees for Congleton is working on an ambitious project to plant 30,000 trees in and around Congleton. The group has already planted more than 3,000 new trees. Several areas have been planted and more are planned for Autumn 2021. If there is an area near you where you would like to see more trees or hedges please contact treesforcongleton@gmail.com. The new planting season starts soon. The group is particularly interested to hear from landowners who would be prepared to allow trees or hedges to be planted on parts of their land.

APPLE JUICE

Don't forget you can start donating your unwanted surplus apples to make Congleton Apple Juice. You can leave bags of unwanted apples at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre or drop off at the Old Saw Mill in Back River Street from 16th August.

Lots on offer at Congleton's Information Centre

CONGLETON INFORMATION CENTRE (CIC) is here to help visitors and residents make the most of their time in Congleton. The Centre is the main reception for the Town Council and Town Hall dealing with calls and enquiries as well as a much-valued resource that supports the Congleton community. The centre has a variety of gifts and souvenirs from local suppliers ranging from cushions, tea towels and mugs specially designed with Congleton in mind to handmade felt decorations, notebooks and jewellery. In addition, the CIC stocks a small selection of food and drink such as

traditional Congleton gingerbread, locally sourced honey and apple juice from The Old Saw Mill.

If you are looking to explore the great outdoors, the CIC has a selection of books, maps and guides available to purchase in addition to a number of free leaflets on walking, cycling routes and attractions. The CIC sells tickets for local events as well as performances taking place at the Daneside Theatre, and shows at Gawsorth Hall, RHS Tatton Flower Show and the Cheshire Show. Opening hours are Monday-Friday 9am – 4.30pm and Saturday 10.15am – 1.45pm.

Contact 01260 270350, email info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or Facebook search Congleton Information Centre



Congleton Harriers Half Marathon

CONGLETON HARRIERS RUNNING CLUB are pleased to announce that the 37th Congleton Half Marathon is back and will be taking place on Sunday 3rd October 2021. The race starts from Back Lane Playing Fields, this is a short walk from the parking at Congleton High School as in previous years. Entries are now open and all entrants will receive a medal and t-shirt. This year the race is chip timed to make sure you can record your personal bests! The organisers want everyone to have a fun and safe experience and so all necessary steps have been taken to comply with COVID-19 guidelines.

The charities for this years' event are: East Cheshire Hospice, Ruby's Fund and The Storehouse.

To find out more about this event, register for the race or help out by volunteering on the day, more information and contact details see: www.congletonhalfmarathon.co.uk

Call For Volunteer Artists

CONGLETON will be celebrating having its charter for 750 years next year and as part of this celebration, Congleton Community Projects and The Electric Picture House will be creating and decorating large heraldic flags to be displayed throughout the town centre.

They are looking for volunteer artists who would like to take part in the design and painting processes. Six workshops in community centres around the town are planned for the Autumn season. These will be open to the public to observe the flags in production and learn more about the heraldic tradition. The town centre flags will be very pertinent to Congleton, using a modern twist which reflects the market town.

If you are an artist and you are interested in taking part please contact Congleton Community Projects or The Electric Picture House tel. no. **01260 270908** or email: electricpicturehouse@gmail.com



Space at Congleton Pride!

CONGLETON PRIDE will return to the town centre on Saturday 21st August. The first Pride event, organised by the Congleton LGBTQ+ friendly community in July 2019 was a great success, and this time the promise is for more stalls, entertainment and fun! To make the event safer for all, Pride has closed the High Street to allow more room to move around, it also delayed the event from its planned July 17th date.

Ronan Clayton, Chair of Congleton Pride said: "Congleton Pride aims to create a safe environment regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion and sexual orientation – we are working hard to ensure that the event can be held as safely as possible in the climate of COVID-19 and ask those attending to be mindful and respectful of fellow attendees."

The event is open to all and promises to inject colour, music, stalls, entertainment, food, drink and fun into the town centre with stalls from 10am – 4pm and entertainment until 5.30pm. Tickets for an evening event at the Vale Club are selling fast! For more information see Congleton Pride on social media platforms and www.congletonpride.co.uk



PADDLING POOL UPDATE

THE TOWN COUNCIL is aware that the delayed opening of the paddling pool has caused disappointment. The delay has largely resulted from health and safety guidance on the operation of chlorinated water pools which was made clear when staff attended a training course on pool operation and maintenance in early June. If we continued as normal, we would have been operating outside of the required guidelines.

A new Normal Operating Procedure (NOP) for the paddling pool was commissioned, which includes procedures and analysis of the pool, the quality of the water, the surrounding area, the equipment, the use and storage of chemicals as well as its management and supervision. In developing this document other issues and areas of concern have arisen, which we are trying to resolve as quickly as possible. In some cases new parts have been required, and delivery times are uncertain.

We have also been told that numbers in the pool area must never exceed 140 people. We realise that this will create an issue as it is half our previous limit and are working to put an effective and fair booking system in place so people know that they can access the pool. Updates will appear on our website and social media.

Jazz and Blues Returns

CONGLETON JAZZ AND BLUES

2021 is back for the August bank holiday weekend, Saturday and Sunday 28/29th August.

The 2021 festival has more than 50 gigs and some new venues, with the aim of offering something for everyone. The Physic Garden will host the community events on the Saturday. The Town Council has stepped in as a main sponsor to help the hard-hit independent hospitality industry to ensure that this well-established festival could happen in 2021.

All gigs comprise 2 x 45 minutes sets, top tip – the second set is often much quieter! There are lots of established jazz and blues favourites to look forward to and a sprinkling of new artistes too! The venues are independently run local businesses, all keen to treat you to a great experience.

The Congleton Jazz and Blues team wants everyone to feel able to join this great community experience. It asks those



attending to respect that after 18 months of COVID-19 some people still feel vulnerable, everyone wants to enjoy the festival in a way that is safe and secure for them, and for all of us. Programmes will be out the week before the festival, more information at www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk

Wheely Great News!

RESIDENTS can look forward to seeing some top national and international cyclists racing through Congleton on Thursday 9th September when the Tour of Britain visits the area. It was hoped that Congleton could host the start of the race, as it did in 2016, but concerns around the ability to limit numbers in the town centre meant this was not feasible.

The race will start at Alderley Park and it is expected that the race will enter Congleton via Astbury and Moss Lane. There will be a sprint race along Leek Road before the race climbs up Reades Lane, though Timbersbrook and along Brookhouse Lane before leaving Congleton on the Buxton Road.

It is sure to be a great spectacle. Let's keep up our reputation for being a friendly, noisy and welcoming town!

For the latest information see www.tourofbritain.co.uk for local details see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **11th October**. All contributions should be sent by **20th September** to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High St, Congleton CW12 1BN, or Tel 01260 270350 or email jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Know Your Councillor

CONGLETON is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower Heath and Newcastle Road. Each ward is represented by 10 Councillors.

All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2023 are:

 Duncan Amies (I)	 David Brown (C)	 Robert Douglas (LD)
 George Hayes (C)	 Sally Ann Holland (C)	 Rob Moreton (I)
 Denis Murphy, Mayor (LD)	 Mark Rogan (I)	 James Smith (LD)
 Kay Wesley (WEP)	 East Ward Councillors	 West Ward Councillors
 Dawn Allen (C)	 Martin Amies (I)	 Russell Chadwick (I)
 Paul Duffy (LD)	 Suzy Firkin (LD)	 Margaret Gartside Deputy Mayor (LD)
 Robert Hemsley (LD)	 Amanda Martin (C)	 Jean Parry (C)

C = Conservative; **LD** = Liberal Democrat; **I** = Independent; **WEP** = Womens Equality Party.



Official Dedication of new look Congleton Cenotaph

ON SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, the recently renovated Congleton Cenotaph will be officially opened with a dedication ceremony and procession. The procession starts from West Street, forming up in the car park from 11.30am, to leave at 12 midday and parade through the town centre, around the back of the Town Hall, across to Bank Street and down Lawton Street to finish outside the new Cenotaph. There will be a short programme of speeches, hymns, poems and prayers, thoughtfully put together to commemorate the event. If conditions allow, the event will conclude with a fly over by a Spitfire at 1pm. Further details will be released closer to the time, if you wish to be involved in the parade please contact martha.hayes@congleton-tc.gov.uk.

Cllr Murphy is the new Town Mayor

IT'S THIRD TIME LUCKY for Congleton's latest Mayor! Cllr Denis Murphy was elected Mayor at a virtual ceremony in May and will remain Mayor until May 2022. He was previously Mayor in 2008-2009 and 2014-2015. Mrs Joan Myatt will be his Consort and Tom Gilman, Explorer Scout with Dane Valley Scout Group his Mayor's Cadet. The Mayor will raise funds for various local charities but will be focusing on The Christie Cancer Unit at Macclesfield Hospital and local youth cadet services.

A Civic Service to welcome the new Mayor will take place on Sunday 12th September 2021 at 3pm. Dignitaries and guests will parade from the back of the Town Hall to St Peter's Church, leaving at 2.45pm. Businesses, groups or organisations wishing to take part should contact Linda Minshull: linda.minshull@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Previous Mayor donates funds

THE PREVIOUS Town Mayor, Cllr Sally-Ann Holland donated almost £6,500 to local charities and schools following her two years as Mayor. Many



planned fund-raising activities, including the Mayor's Ball on both years, were cancelled due to COVID-19. Visyon and League of Friends for Macclesfield and Congleton Hospitals each received a cheque for £2685. Seven schools received cheques for the proceeds of their Mayor-School calendar sales. Cllr Holland thanked everyone who contributed. And finally...we are still waiting for the winner of Mayor Bear to make contact. Several messages have been left!

Protect Yourself and Your Community

FROM SEPTEMBER it is expected that the over 70s, clinically vulnerable patients and health and care staff will be offered COVID-19 booster jabs as well as a flu jab free on the NHS. This programme is then expected to be widened to cover all people aged 50 and over, 16-59-year-old people in flu or

COVID-19 at risk groups and household contacts of some at risk patients. It is hoped that these booster jabs will be available in the Town Hall for residents registered locally. The flu and COVID jabs are designed to prolong protection and prevent as many vulnerable people as possible from becoming seriously ill over the winter months. If you are offered a jab, please respond for your benefit and for the benefit of your community.

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Congleton In Bloom Going for Gold!

AFTER A YEAR of no competitions, Congleton plans to wow the judges and retain its GOLD status with this year's In Bloom competitions. The North West In Bloom judges visit on Tuesday 3rd August for a town tour and to meet the eight 'It's Your Neighbourhoods'. The Britain in Bloom judging will be virtual and the team will submit, pictures, text and a short video for each of the three chosen categories; Planting with a Purpose, Cultivating Your Community and Green Solutions.

As part of the In Bloom projects the community polytunnel at the park will be filled with brightly coloured wheelbarrows and Back-to-Back Gardens planted up by groups ranging from pre-



schools and nurseries up to care homes. The theme is 'Colours of the Rainbow' to bring colour and cheer to the tunnel, as well as appreciation to the NHS! Congleton In Bloom covers a lot of volunteering aspects, if you would like to get involved or know more about it, please email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

COVID-19 Heroes to be unveiled

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL wishes to thank everyone that nominated their COVID-19 Heroes for a special civic award from the Town Council. We have been overwhelmed with the quality of entries; Congleton is fortunate to have so many exceptional people living in the town who have undertaken extraordinary things to support others through the pandemic. The judges found it impossible to pick winners and so it was agreed that all those nominated will receive an award and certificate and will be invited to a Congleton thank you party to be held in conjunction with Cheshire East People Helping People team in the Autumn.



Supporting residents with Dementia

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONGLETON has received praise from local families after delivering more than 80 gift packs to Congleton people living with dementia in their own homes. The free support packs comprise games and activities. The group is now working on developing a lending/exchange

scheme for activities and games in good condition and looks forward to re-starting face to face activities later in the year. For further information on Dementia Friendly Congleton see Discover Congleton/ Dementia Friendly Congleton pages at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or contact Diane Ritherdon on **07770 724932**.

Domestic Abuse Clinics

THE CONGLETON DOMESTIC ABUSE CLINIC has been running since September 2020 offering face to face or remote sessions. Almost 100 Congleton residents have benefitted from the service. The Congleton Domestic Abuse Clinic is held every Thursday afternoon starting at 1pm at the Old Saw Mill. Once a month the team is joined by

Cheshire Police which allows Congleton residents the chance to meet with a trained domestic abuse (DA) officer, to talk about their concerns, get an update on an existing complaint, make a complaint or just to get to know the local DA police a bit better. For more information call **0300 123 5101** or see www.mycwa.org.uk

Support your Community

CONGLETON has more than 90 retail shops, 85 service businesses and 50 places to eat and drink in the town centre that are looking forward to welcoming you. After the devastating effect of the pandemic, please show the local businesses a little love. Research has shown that for every £1 spent locally 63p stays in the local community. This year why not try to shop local, drink local, buy local, enjoy local and support your local community. For a full list of shops see: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or to add your business, email: martha.hayes@congleton-tc.gov.uk



NEWS IN BRIEF...

TWO NEW DEFIBS

Congleton Lions working with Congleton Partnership has introduced two new 24/7 defibrillators in Congleton. The new life-saving heart devices can be found on the outside walls of Congleton Library and the Park toilets. A full list of defibs can be seen on the front of www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

CHRISTIES FOR MACCLESFIELD

Christie's needs your help in raising £23 million for a new cancer care centre in Macclesfield! The new world class centre will be amazing for local people who currently need to travel to Manchester for treatment. Can you help? See www.christie.nhs.uk

GET READY TO PLAY!

Congleton Play Day will return to the pedestrian area on Thursday 19th August from 10am – 2pm. There will be a chance to join in the fun and games in the town centre and learn more about the importance of play. The event is organised by Congleton Community Projects with help from Cheshire East Council, Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership.

ROTARY BONFIRE

Congleton Rotary Club hopes that it will be safe to light up the skies and raise funds for good causes at its annual Bonfire and Firework display in Congleton Park. Planning is underway for Saturday 6th November. For the latest details, see: www.congletonrotary.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The revised Congleton Neighbourhood Plan will be going out to Regulation 14 consultation over the summer once approved by Council for consultation. Local people will have a chance to comment on the policies in the draft during a six week consultation. There will then be a further consultation later this year and a referendum in 2022.

Working for a Greener Future

The world is experiencing more extreme weather conditions: intense heat, droughts, floods and storms. The polar ice caps are melting. Global temperatures are up by 1.2°C and increasing by 0.2°C per decade. At the same time, the planet is also facing a nature emergency with a million of the nine million species facing extinction.



THE WORLD LEADERS are meeting in Glasgow for COP26 from October 31st - November 12th to draw up binding international treaties and commitments to protect the planet. COP26 stands for Conference of the Parties. Previous conferences have led to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.

COP26 aims to:

- Secure global carbon emissions to net zero by mid-century and keep a 1.5 degree temperature rise within reach
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilise at least £100bn in climate finance per year
- Work together to save our planet

Both Congleton Town Council and Cheshire East Council has signed a Climate Change Emergency pledge to reduce their carbon footprint to zero by 2025. In this Green Supplement we consider what we are doing and can do in Congleton to play our part in this enormous task.

GIVING NATURE SPACE TO FLOURISH

In the UK our insect populations have suffered drastic declines, which have far reaching consequences for both wildlife and people. With a third of our food crops and as many as 87% of other plants pollinated by insects there is a lot to lose. Much of our wildlife, be it birds, bats, amphibians, small mammals or fish rely on insects for food. Without them we risk the collapse of our natural world.

To help combat this, Congleton Town Council, with support from local people has changed its mowing regimes starting with 13 pilot areas. Instead of mowing fortnightly to keep grass short and reducing flowers and wildlife from flourishing, we will look to add

native wild flowers in the grass and allow it to grow naturally to make it an attractive place for people and wildlife. These areas will be cut twice a year to get rid of dead vegetation and prevent the plants from growing too tall. Residents living near to the 13 pilot areas have been contacted and have been largely supportive.

You can play your part by cutting your grass less frequently and allowing more space for nature.

REDUCING CHEMICAL USE

Following concerns over the effects of Glyphosate weed killer, Congleton Town Council stopped using it in and around 'official' children's play areas managed by the Council's Streetscape team in July 2020. The Town Council no-longer uses Glyphosate in the following areas:

- Grassy areas which are 'unofficial' play areas used by children
- Near schools
- Around trees
- Around street furniture

The Town Council is looking to further reduce the use of Glyphosate in public spaces, footpaths and estates, and are exploring suitable alternative methods of controlling weeds in a planned and effective way.

CONGLETON CLIMATE FESTIVAL AND GREEN FAYRE

In the week leading up to COP26 Congleton Town Council and Congleton Sustainability Group are working together to host a Climate Festival. There are already many exciting activities planned for the week – from practical opportunities such as tree planting and apple juicing, to talks, visits, films and guided tours.

The week will end on Saturday 30th October with a Green Fayre held in the closed High Street with stalls and a range of green transport to view. The fayre is from 10am – 4pm. We would love as many businesses, organisations and individuals as possible to get involved in the week and fayre. Tell us what you are doing! info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

