



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

16th September 2021

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 23rd September 2021

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 7.00pm**.

- The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note that due to COVID 19, 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 tel 01260 270350 ext 1 as places will be limited. When
- 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 8th July](#) 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 10.

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 PC Helen Weeks and PSCO Karen Linnet from Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

8. Social Supermarket for Congleton (Enclosed)

To receive a presentation and report from The Green Tree House Project about a Social Supermarket for Congleton.

9. Congleton Domestic Abuse Clinic (Report to Follow)

To receive an update from My Cheshire Without Abuse on the first year of the Domestic Abuse Clinics in Congleton and the next steps. To hear the story of a Congleton Domestic Abuse survivor.

10. Support for Safe Pedestrian Access to Bath Vale (Enclosed)

To receive a report from a resident asking for Congleton Town Council's support for actions to improve pedestrian safety in the main access to the Bath Vale estate.

11. Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive an updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 8th July 2021.

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

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 8th July and a verbal update from the 16th September 2021.

13. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes (Verbal Update)

To receive a verbal update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group on the judges visit.

14. 750 Working Group Meetings and Update (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the CTC 750 Working Group held on the 2nd September and an update report from the Town Centre and Events Officer on events planned by Congleton Town Council for the 750 year charter celebrations.

15. White Ribbon Working Group Update (Verbal Update)

To receive a verbal update from the White Ribbon Working Group.

16. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on the 22nd July and 18th August 2021, and a verbal update on the Climate Week and Green Fayre from the Chair of the Congleton Green Working Group.

17. Action against Inconsiderate Parking (Enclosed)

To agree a new downloadable leaflet that residents can use to alert drivers to their inconsiderate parking.

18. Feedback from the Congleton Town Council Bus Survey and Next Steps (Enclosed)

To note the responses to a Congleton Town Council survey into Bus Use in Congleton and the next steps.

19. Cheshire East Council's Proposed Car Parking Consultation (Enclosed)

To discuss Congleton Town Council's actions to the forthcoming Cheshire East Council consultation on Car Parking Charges.

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 8th July 2021

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of this Committee

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 8th July 2021](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Dawn Allen

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Chair)

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Jean Parry

Ex Officio members: Cllr Denis Murphy and Cllr Margaret Gartside

Non-Committee Members: Cllr David Brown

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers: David McGifford and Jackie MacArthur.
One member of the press, one Cheshire Police Officer, one member of the public and Sue Taylor presenting on Home Start.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee members: Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Paul Duffy and Cllr Robert Moreton

Non-Committee member: Cllr Suzanne Akers Smith

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/13/2122 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 3rd June 2021](#) as a correct record with the deletion of Deputy before Mayor against Denis Murphy's name.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors David Brown, Sally Ann Holland and Denis Murphy 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 on 3rd June 2021.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

Two questions were received from a member of the public who was not in attendance at the meeting. Responses to these questions were to be forwarded to the provider and members of the committee by senior officers.

6. Urgent Items

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

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police

Sergeant Paul Brunton from Cheshire Police gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1

8. Home-Start in Congleton

Sue Taylor from [Home-Start](#) gave a useful and informative presentation on the work that Home-Start carries out in Congleton and looked to build closer connections with the Town Council.

9. Updates Paper from Previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/14/2122 Resolved to receive an updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 3rd June 2021. This covered the Elizabeth Statue, Volunteer Co-ordination Point, Havannah Bridge and 750 Year Celebration.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

Cllr Amanda Martin gave a verbal update from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group meeting held on 8th July 2021.

11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes

Cllr David Brown gave a verbal update from the Congleton In Bloom Working Group.

12. Integrated Transport Working Group Meetings

CE/15/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on 3rd June 2021](#)

13. White Ribbon Working Group Update

Cllr Robert Hemsley gave a verbal update from the White Ribbon Working Group held on 8th July 2021.

14. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/16/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 17th and 24th June 2021.](#)

15. Increasing the Remit of the Congleton Green Working Group

CE/17/2122 Resolved 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.

CE/18/2122 Resolved to receive an update on the launch of the Congleton Sustainable Living E-Learning Course.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

All figures are for the last 6 weeks in line with the Police priority period.

Drugs and Alcohol

- Work continues tackling drug supply. New enforcement locations are being developed.
- Night-Time Economy – No real increase. Increased patrols for Euro dates and post lockdown weekend.
- Working with Pubwatch/Council to educate staff & licensees around new types of drugs and effects. Town Council has funded kit for their use.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

- 62, decrease of 28 on last period and decrease of 42 Year on Year

Current ASB Repeat locations:

- Mere View (3) – Noise
- Dane-In-Shaw (2) – Beat/Rural Crime/Youth Workers
- Lower Heath Community Park (3) – Youths Drinking/smoking – attended all 3, NT

Domestic Violence Incidents:

- 65, 26 increase on last period and 13 increase of Year on Year
- Total Sexual Offences: 3, 3 up on last period and 7 down YOY

Hate:

- 1 Incident – (graffiti) – Schools officer/school discipline/assemblies

Congleton Priorities:

TEAM: Retail Engagement/Demand Reduction.

- Retail Traders Group/shopwatch/CCTV/ISO/design out visits/review of highest risk/floating surgeries
- PLACE: Op Piloted – Bromley

COVID Related Incidents:

- 4 (3 Night time Economy related)

AOB:

- Andrew Cotterill of Bank House Drive - 2 Year Criminal Behaviour Order not to contact 999, 111 or 101 and comply with Drug/Alcohol rehabilitation. Around 90 calls in 5 months threatening operators /violence on attendance.


CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy CEO, Communities and Marketing Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 Social Supermarket for Congleton		
Background	<p><u>The Green Tree House Social Supermarket</u> has been running in Biddulph for the past five years. At the Supermarket customers can purchase 10 goods for £4.50, 20 goods for £9 or 30 goods for £13.50. The group realised that many of its customers in the store in Biddulph were coming from Congleton.</p> <p>The LOL foundation offered the café some free space in their buildings in Lawton Street which the charity accepted to get a quick start in Congleton, although ideally, they would like more space for customers. The shop intends to be open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am – 2pm.</p> <p>Sean Thompson, one of the directors of the Charity will give a short presentation to Councillors to explain more about the project which hopes to open in the next few weeks.</p>		
Note	The Green Tree House Social Supermarket will be applying to the Town Council's Finance and Policy Committee for some funding to support this venture.		
Proposal	To note the report.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Support for Safe Pedestrian Access to Bath Vale		
Background	<p>The Committee has received a paper from resident Helen Taylor and the Borough Walking and Cycling Champion Councillor Suzie Akers Smith looking for practical, lobbying and financial support from the Town Council for making the pedestrian and cycle access out of the Bath Vale Estate safer.</p> <p>A paper is attached explaining the issue and Helen Taylor will give a short talk to the committee to explain the difficulties that residents face.</p>		
Financial Considerations	Need to establish the cost of road signs as usually Cheshire East has provided signs and any Road Traffic Orders that would be needed in association with the signs.		
Environmental considerations	Making safer routes for residents to feel safer to walk and cycle for local journeys is in line with the Town Council's Business Plan and Climate Emergency pledge.		
Equality considerations	These proposals would benefit all residents in the Bath Vale area – 126 houses plus visitors to the estate.		
Proposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ask the Streetscape Manager to assess the area for inclusion in the maintenance programme if possible. 2. Write to Cheshire East Highways and Cheshire East Council supporting the concerns of residents in the area and asking for path agreed in the planning application to be installed. 3. Speak to Highways about the need for signs and how this is financed and if appropriate apply to finance and policy committee as the Town Council does not have a budget for Highway signs. 		

BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE, CONGLETON
WALKING SAFARI REPORT
CLLR SUZIE AKERS SMITH, CYCLING AND WALKING CHAMPION

ITEM	BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE		
DATE AND TIME	REPORT: 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021 Walking Safari: 9th September 2021	LOCATION AFFECTED: Bath Vale connecting, bridge to Bromley Farm, Schools and the town centre	IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL USERS IN ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN TO WALK TO SCHOOL AND NON-MOTORISED USERS TO ACCESS THE AREA
OVERVIEW	<p>PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO WALK TO SCHOOL IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER NON-MOTORISED USERS TRAVELLING INTO AND OUT OF THE BATH VALE ESTATE.</p> <p>In my role as cycling and walking champion for Cheshire East Council I have offered any group, town, village or individual a visit to cycle and walk around the local area to view their existing infrastructure for cycling and walking and understand the problems faced with the lack of accessibility and road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users especially vulnerable people such as those using mobility aids, parents with pushchairs and young children. The proposals in this report, if implemented, support residents to encourage walking or cycling in that area by making it easier, safer and more enjoyable.</p>		
WARD COUNCILLORS	Cllr Rob Moreton - East Ward Councillor		
BACKGROUND AND CONCERNS	<p>I met with Helen Taylor a resident of Bath Vale having been in an email discussion from the 11th August 2021. Helen contacted me because of her concerns over pedestrian access to the Bath Vale Estate from Bromley Farm and to the local primary and secondary school.</p>  <p>Helen has concerns about how residents are to access the Bath Vale Estate if not using a vehicle. The access to Bath Vale is over the old railway bridge at the end of Bromley Road. There is no footpath over the bridge although approved plans show there were plans to build a footpath on the bridge. This was included on a revised layout and on the planning approval notice 7th July 2011 on planning application 10/1269C,</p> <p>Helen contacted the council to find out why the pavement has not been built and the response was: "The officer that dealt with this application is no longer employed at the</p>		

BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE, CONGLETON

WALKING SAFARI REPORT

CLLR SUZIE AKERS SMITH, CYCLING AND WALKING CHAMPION

Council and so unfortunately we are unable to determine why the footway was not included at the time"

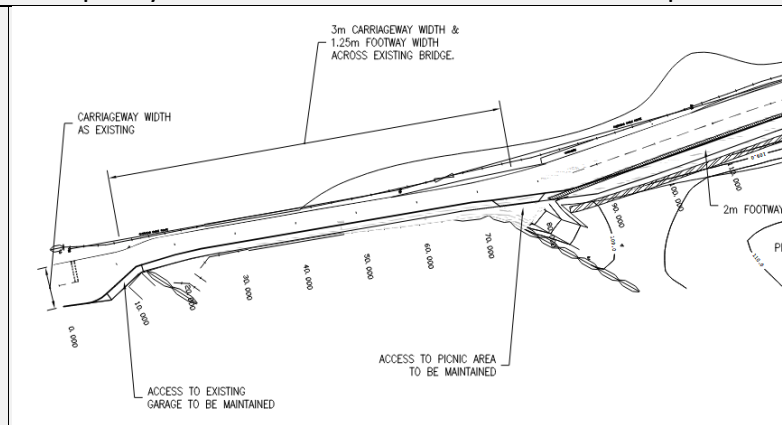
The development incorporates affordable housing attracting young families and those who don't drive. With at least 126 homes, families with young children as pavement is critical to enable residents to walk to and from the estate. Reducing speed limits will help people feel safer walking.

As this route is the only walking route to school the safety concerns of Mrs Taylor need addressing. The PROW of the Biddulph Valley Way is not an acceptable alternative for 6 months of the year with inclement weather and steep deep steps and you still have to cross the bridge to access the PROW.

The Equality Act 2010 mean councils have to make pedestrian routes accessible and safe.

PROPOSALS AND SOLUTION

1. Contact Bovis Homes and find out why they have not built the pavement as in the planning approval documents and why it wasn't enforced and find out if they will build it now.



10. The highway access shall be constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the Pedestrian Provision Road Safety Audit Stage 2 report submitted with the application.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety and to comply with Policy GR9 of the adopted Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review.



The location of the bridge and the importance of it as a pedestrian and safe cycle route that connects Bath Vale to Congleton cannot be underestimated.

BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE, CONGLETON

WALKING SAFARI REPORT

CLLR SUZIE AKERS SMITH, CYCLING AND WALKING CHAMPION

2. Ask Congleton Town Council for financial support for 20mph speed limits and priority pedestrian space signage. Add to the regular maintenance programme throughout the year.

We are looking for town council support from Streetscape, they state they **Maintain the verges and outdoor environment on new housing estates.** Could they visit the area once a year to cut back the overgrowth.

Pictures before and after the intervention of the two councillors:

BEFORE








AFTER



AFTER



BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE, CONGLETON
WALKING SAFARI REPORT
CLLR SUZIE AKERS SMITH, CYCLING AND WALKING CHAMPION

<p>3. Priority Pedestrian Space and signage</p>	<p>The only signage alerting drivers to any danger is a sign that says concealed access below a 'other danger' exclamation mark sign.</p>   <p>Other danger; plate indicates nature of danger</p> <p>Until the footpath is built at the very least a sign indicating there are pedestrians in the road ahead similar to the one below.</p>  <p>Pedestrians in road ahead</p>
<p>4. Initial enquiry states road safety is not the responsibility of highways. So who is responsible for road safety?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reference: 3429053</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Current Status: Passed to CEC Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Last updated: 04/06/2021 - 09:38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your enquiry regarding: BATH VALE, CONGLETON. The Road Safety issue is not the responsibility of the Highways Department, so it has been forwarded to our colleagues in another team to assess. They will be in touch with you shortly to provide you with an update on the status of your enquiry.</p>
<p>5. Priority over oncoming vehicles sign with a reduced road width to slow traffic down as well as 20mph signs.</p>	  <p>Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles</p>

BATH VALE CONNECTING BRIDGE, CONGLETON
WALKING SAFARI REPORT
CLLR SUZIE AKERS SMITH, CYCLING AND WALKING CHAMPION

<p>6. Reduce the road width for vehicles so a pavement can be built and add some low level solar lighting.</p>	<p>There is no doubt, with this highway route being the only in and out access to the development there needs to be a pavement. As it currently stands people drive too fast to feel safe walking. The overgrown hedges mean people walk into the road and there is not space on the pavement for parents with pushchairs and mobility scooter users. The pavement is to be a continuation of the pavement leading up to the bridge and to meet the pavement on the Bromley Road side.</p> <p>Drivers need to be made aware that one way has priority over oncoming vehicles and if the road has speed reduction measure put in place, gradually resident confidence will be renewed to walk and possibly cycle for shorter journeys.</p> <p>Low level solar lighting would enable residents to feel safe walking across the bridge at night time.</p>
<p>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</p>	<p>The recommendations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Bovis Homes and find out why they have not built the pavement as in the planning approval documents dated 7th July 2011, planning ref 10/1269C and why it wasn't enforced and find out if they will build it now. 2. Ask Congleton Town Council for financial support for 20mph speed limits and priority pedestrian space signage. Add to the regular maintenance programme throughout the year. 3. Priority Pedestrian Space and signage 4. Initial enquiry states road safety is not the responsibility of highways. So who is responsible for road safety? 5. Priority over oncoming vehicles sign with a reduced road width to slow traffic down as well as 20mph signs. 6. Reduce the road width for vehicles so a pavement can be built.
<p>Links</p>	<p>http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=10/1269C https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/traffic-signs https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/streetscape-services/ https://www.bovishomes.co.uk/</p>

Cllr Suzie Akers Smith

Cycling and Walking Champion
Cheshire East Council
suzie.akers-smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk
M: 0777 929 5011

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee		
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 including advice from the Cheshire East Cultural Economy Team and considering the national government and Arts Council strategy for local artworks. Elizabeth’s Group is using the information gathered to decide its next steps and progress will be presented for discussion at the next full Council meeting.</p> <p>CE/52/2021 Volunteer Co-ordination Point – Members will be updated from a meeting held on the 16th September. Note that the CEC/CTC party for COVID volunteers nominated for awards or nominated by CEC People Helping People will be held on Wednesday 29th September at the Cricket Club.</p> <p>CE/65/2021 Havannah Bridge – A plan for works has been developed with Streetscape and the Congleton In Bloom Working Group with further works notified to Cheshire East Highways.</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>		
PROPOSALS	To note the update report.		

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Zoom Call – Thursday 8th July 2021

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Denis Murphy, Glen Williams, Stg Paul Brunton – Cheshire Police, (CEC), Derek Bosons (Cheshire Fire Service), Jackie MacArthur (CTC)

Apologies: Ruth Burgess (CTC), Julia Pestell Hassall, Cllr Dawn Allen

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
1.				
2.	Notes of 8th March	agreed by group		
3.	Action Log			
	a) CCTV camera (Denis/Jackie)	Highways has promised installation at Lawton Street by the 29 th July. Still a desire for West Street - CEC to do a site review.	Jackie/Denis re CEC	May
	b) Pub Watch Low Alcohol	Agreed to take this off the agenda	Item CLOSED	May
4.	Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Still an issue on East Ward and some enforcement plans being developed by Police including plus increased patrols. Swan Bank and Sheldon Avenue areas of concern. Police to liaise with Trading Standards	Congleton Police	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
5.	Anti-Social Behaviour	62 incidents in past 6 weeks - decrease of 28 on last time and 45 down Year on Year. Areas of most complaint – Dane in Shaw Pasture, Mere View and Lower Heath Community Park. Turned out to all calls but no-one caught. People intensive. Police to put a business case together for use of a drone. CTC ASB group to support the case. Paul to consult the Drone Sergeant. Request for a check on the legislation around electric scooters – more of them about and can be dangerous. Fire brigade reported no deliberate or non-deliberate fires in past couple of months. Fire Brigade has been pushing campaigns on social media	Paul Brunton / Jackie Mac Paul Brunton	
6.	Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences	65 Domestic Violence cases – up 26 since last period. Up 13 year on year. 3 Sexual Offences cases – up 3 on last time and 1 Year on Year. Domestic Abuse clinics have seen 149 people in last three months – 99 adults and 50 children , in 13 clinics. Mix of physical meetings and virtual meetings. This October the clinics will have been running for a year. Will arrange a report to CE Committee	Kay - end of Sept	
7.	Youth Related Issues	Has been some issues around gatherings in Dane in Shaw and Lower Heath as mentioned item 5.		
8.	Police Priorities	Engagement with retail groups - looking at Town Centre issues. Continue to seek to stop drug dealing Note Odd Rode, Alsager, Sandbach and Congleton will be merging to form one Neighbourhood Policing Unit. Carrying out a Residents Voice Survey - use the link below https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162331758266	All to fill in the survey	
9.	Update on CCTV	Group comments – highly value CCTV, Quick response and believe it is preventative. Good co-operation with the police. Not sure how the link with shop and pub watch radios is working – to check.	Jackie to check for the next meeting	
10.	COVID-19	Nothing to report – remove from next agenda	Jackie	
11.	Hate Crime	One incident at a school, being dealt with well by the school	No further action	

CTC 750 Working Group - Minutes
Thursday 2nd September 2021

Attendees: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Jenny Unsworth, Jo Money, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jess Imber, Debbie Coxon, Jackie MacArthur, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Martha Hayes

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Paul Duffy, Cllr Sally-Ann Holland, David McGifford
2. **Update on previous meeting; 20th May:** Approved £10k at Council and a further £15k for 2022.
3. **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** ACTION MH to amend total cost of grant approval.
4. **Update from last 750 Marketing Meeting (DC):** This group last met in June. It has been working on creating awareness. 750 vinyls window stickers have been added to the British Heart Foundation shop, banners have been up on the Town Centre entry boards. The domain name 'congleton750.org' has been purchased. Website holding page added to the CTC main site, The page will be added to with more information, history and details of events for 2022. The Information Staff are researching merchandise to sell in the lead up to Christmas and then to be sold throughout 2022 (t-shirts, tea towels, stationery, jigsaws, badges, finger puppets, possible calendar...) Cllr Wesley is to join this group and suggested creating a Facebook event for the year to create awareness/ excitement.
5. **Update from Jo Money re; 750 Wider Event:** Flag project for the Town Centre to have 80 hand painted flags to decorate. Different workshops to create these.
Agreed a sub-group to target schools and get them engaged and involved for the year.
6. **Designate lead and budget for each CTC event;**
 - a.) Mountbatten Way Banners- JMac & KW. Have costings, just need design and then to start the planning application process. Double sided banners to decorate MBW and by the Firestation Roundabout to be sponsored by businesses.
 - b.) Ale Taster & Catchpole- SF, DB & MH. To start the year of events by appointing the Ale Taster at an Ale Festival in the Town Hall. ACTION MH- to contact local brewers to assist and to create a 2022 ale for the year. Catchpole has been appointed for Douglas Parker. SF speaking to Camra about this.
 - c.) Monthly Town Centre Activities- MH. Agreed to hold a Medieval style event in the Town Centre on the first Saturday of each month from April-October.
 - d.) Mayor Making- Linda Minshull and team as Civic Administration.
 - e.) Beating of the Boundaries- SAS, MG & Jeremy Condliffe (Chronicle). Suggested for 10th April and then to create a legacy map so people can still complete the walk after the one day event. SAS would like to see horses included with this.
 - f.) Civic Parade- Linda Minshull and team as Civic Administration.
 - g.) Platinum Jubilee- MH & JMac. Suggested for Friday 3rd June, 12-5pm, picnic in the park type of event with entertainment from the Bandstand.
 - h.) Town Hall Exhibition- JU. Schools Exhibition that could potentially be opened up for the public to view. Lots of historical sections of what times were like 750 years ago and the typical characters of this period. To include practical demonstrations also.
 - i.) Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park- CTC Officers, JU, DB, MG, JMon. Saturday 13th August, Congleton Park and Jousts booked.

j.) Medieval Banquet at Town Hall- CTC Officers, SAS & JU. Agreed date; Friday 23rd September to tie in with the finish of the Heritage & Antiques Festival. To follow the same format as the banquet that took place as part of the 700 years of mayoralty celebrations in 2018.

7. **Agree method of working:** Have sub-group meeting, led by names highlighted above and then report back with 4/5 minute update at the next full meeting. Preferred for this to be of issues going forward rather than reporting on what has been done. All agreed.

8. **AOB:**

- ACTION JU- to create a timeline of significant events from 750 years ago to present day.
- Another potential event for a Medieval Band, could be combined with the Banquet in the Town Hall.
- Alsager Theatre interested, need more details from them of what they can do- ACTION SF & MG.
- ACTION DMcG- to speak to the Carnival group about its future
- Look into creating a charter to give the children at the history exhibition with a seal or stamp.
- ACTION MH & MW to look into Town Hall decorations with JU.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Monthly meetings on first Thursday of the month at 11am. Thursday 7th October, 11am. Bridestones Suite will be booked for this. MH to send out a re-occurring calendar event.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 - 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Martha Hayes, Town Centre and Events Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	14		
REPORT TITLE	750 Charter Year Celebrations Update		
BACKGROUND	<p>At the Communities and Environment Committee on the 3rd June 2021, CE/11/2122 resolved to 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 750 Working Group to work on these initiatives within the budgets to be agreed at Council.</p> <p>A budget of £10k was agreed at Council to enable the group to start reserving dates, making bookings and commissioning work. This paper is to update Councillors on the plans.</p> <p>A summary sheet of the Town Council led events is attached in Appendix one. The events in yellow are ones that the 750 Working Group is leading on. There are more events planned for the year-long celebration, but these are being co-ordinated through other groups and organisations.</p>		
UPDATES	<p>All 10 Congleton Town Council (CTC) led events have been assigned a lead and work has started on some of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountbatten Way Banners- Costings sourced, design and planning permission to agree. • Ale Taster & Catchpole- Catchpole assigned and currently in discussion with local brewers for the 2022 Ale and event. • Beating of the Boundaries- horses to lead the event have been sourced, route being planned – proposed day for the event 10th April 2022 and then a walk that people can do themselves. • Platinum Jubilee- Congleton Park booked for Friday 3rd June 2022, now investigating entertainment to cover the 1952 – 2022 era. • Town Hall Exhibition- Jenny Unsworth is concentrating a lot of time towards this event, creating costume, information and diagrams, sourcing equipment and volunteers. The event will be from the 4th July 2022 for a week • Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park- Congleton Park booked for Saturday 13th August 2022, Jousts also, sourcing other entertainment acts and stalls. • Streetscape staff have tried and tested the Town Centre flag holder on the Cheshire brick of Brown's Jewellers. It was firm when installing and withstood the heavy rain from previous weekends. Now this is known to be a secure fixing, the fittings can be ordered from Belmont and will start to go up in the new year, with the hand-painted flags added in March. Congleton Community Project will be hosting flag making workshops from late September. 		

Financial considerations	Congleton Community Projects was successful in gaining a heritage and lottery grant for the flag making workshops. The Town Council has ringfenced £10k in this financial year and will be looking to set aside a further £15k in next year's budget.
Environmental considerations	The 750 celebrations are primarily aimed at creating activities for local people. Normal Town Council policies being mindful of reducing carbon footprint will apply to decision making and purchasing.
Equality Considerations	All event planning will be mindful of accessibility issues for all residents and visitors and try to reduce all barriers to involvement.
Proposal	To note the report.

Group 2022 – Ideas and Activities – Last updated 16/9/21 - Item 14 Appendix 1

Date	Themes/Existing Festivals	Activities/Events
January	Flags up on Mountbatten Way	Add the banner flags to Mountbatten Way for the year
January	Decorate the Town Hall	Add inside decorations to add a medieval flavour
March 5/6	Unplugged Weekend	Devise a special 'Music through the Centuries' Commission a music composition for an event in h St Peter's originally a chapel of Ease in 14 th century
	Elect an Ale Taster with possible Ale Festival in Town Hall	Idea in development Ale tasting event, Ale trail, brewery tours
March 8th	Unveiling of Elizabeth Statue - Town Centre	Work with plans already in place Develop work on women's history through the ages
Late March	Heraldic Flags to go up through the town	Work created by CCP in Autumn 2021 will be put up in the town by Streetscape team.
April 10 th	Beating the Boundaries - Mayoral Event	Walk/ ride around the boundaries of the town & map for walks through the year
April 23rd	Choral Society	Concert in the Town Hall all depending on restrictions being lifted in time re singing groups
May – October	Town Centre Activities	First Saturday of every month – historic activity in the town centre
May	Mayor Making	Decorate the Hall in medieval style
May	Bath House Open day	Usual open day but with bigger event on history of herbs and medicinal practice from 12 th century
Early June	Mayor's Civic Parade	Grow size of parade – add 750 details to the service and reception
Friday 3 June	Royal Platinum Jubilee	Event in the Park
June 12th	Food and Drink Festival	Medieval slant, stallholders dressed up, related events to medieval food, Ale, ale making and Ale Taster medieval entertainment, cooking through centuries
June 24/25/26	Quilters Exhibition	Town Hall Quilt Exhibition June 2022. Tie our group quilts, to the Charter Year colour theme or any other theme that might have been suggested by the Council or other groups. We also run a group challenge each year, the results being displayed at the exhibition, and again it would be good to link this in with the Charter if possible.
July 4th – 9th	Congleton Town Hall	Transform Town Hall into a Medieval scene to show life of the days. Organise educational visits from schools over the week and open to the public at weekends, depending on volunteer capacity
July 23 rd	Congleton Pride	Event in the Town Centre
August 13 th	Medieval Festival in the Park	Re-enactment, living history workshops, food stalls, music
August 20 th	Congleton Pride	Town Centre event
August 27/28th	Jazz and Blues	Relate to above or develop other ideas – madrigals etc
September 10 th – 24 th	Heritage and Antiques Festival	Publication of a history book on the Bath House and physic garden and history of medicinal herbs 2 Open Days planned, May and September – tour of herb garden by Barbara Wilkinson Antiques Roadshow – Capesthorn Hall??
September 23	Medieval Banquet in the Town Hall	Ticketed event to finish off History and Antiques Festival

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 22nd July 2021

Location: Zoom

Time: 10am – 11.30pm

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

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies Adam Linnet invited		
2	Minutes of meeting on the 24 th June 2021	Accepted as a true record - add to Working Group Page	Jackie	August
3	<p>Biodiversity – objective setting for the group (Cllr Suzy Firkin) - Cllr Suzy Firkin gave a definition and discussion around biodiversity. Discussion on things that we have done and things we could do. Importance to have Ruth and Adam on the meetings for this section to give professional input and updates. Group alerted to the Cheshire East Biodiversity Net Gain Draft Planning document.</p> <p>Ruth needing help to put out blue hearts and signs on the rewilding sites – Cllrs SF, KW and MG offered to help.</p>	<p>WHAT WE’VE DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified potential tree planting locations across the town Supported tree planting programme Identified verges for wildflower planting Identified pilot schemes for reduced mowing regimes Ceased the use of Glyphosate on defined sites <p>WHAT WE COULD DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify open spaces where hedges can replace fencing Write to Cheshire East Council urging permission to be given for tree planting on highway verges Starting writing to planning applicants to encourage tree planting / replacement planting Sow wildflower meadows on appropriate sites 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install bug hotels at appropriate sites • Install bat and bird boxes in our open spaces • Organise an annual bulb planting programme • Launch a campaign to promote hedgehog holes and highways • Work with landowners to identify the potential for wildlife corridors • Identify ponds for planting improvement schemes • Encourage landowners to plant trees and hedges to connect wildlife corridors • Make more allotment space available. • Stall at the Makers Market to promote biodiversity. <p>Create a plan around these actions. Also important to protect what we have, In the Autumn Bear Necessities more on treasure and value your hedge. Find out more about what we have done on each of these areas.</p>		
4	Rewilding – update on CTC work - Cllr Margaret Gartside gave an update on the 13 areas that CTC is piloting as	<p>Check the details on the Town Council Website</p> <p>Ruth needing help to put out blue hearts and signs on the rewilding sites – Cllrs SF, KW and MG offered to help.</p>		
5.	CTC Targets – updates and plans	<p>To update the list and add to the website</p> <p>To include an Action Log showing all the work and meetings that have been held in working towards reducing the targets.</p> <p>Gas is one of the biggest contributors to our carbon footprint and one of the more difficult areas to resolve at present. Group recommend that move away from gas must be done whatever the price.</p> <p>Vehicle leasing also not easy at the moment as the vehicles that we need (tipper trucks) are not available as electric vehicles.</p> <p>Look at plans from other councils – eg Salisbury City Council Green Plan</p>	Jackie	For next meeting
6.	Update on Air Quality survey (Barry)	Barry has carried out 12 sessions, preliminary data raises more questions than answers. Now has two sensors – high degree of certainty. Likely to continue for longer. Want to check school areas when schools return in		

		September – Schools not a true picture as many have had staggered start during COVID-19. Barry will organise more sessions need volunteer support. Insurance needs to be updated for additional time and additional sensor.	Barry Barry/ Jackie	
7.	E-learning – update	Almost there – still a bit of coding needed by TMC to help with the flow Need to be in a position to push out by early August for the Councillors and others.		August 21
8.	Green Fayre	Now organising a week of events prior to the Green Fayre on Saturday 30 th October. The Green Fayre will be in the High Street. Meeting to take place straight after this meeting – Barry/Jackie/Peter/ Margaret.	JMacA/	July 21
9.	AOB	Offsetting – need to work through actions from meeting of the 24 th and get a report back from Adam for the September meeting. Need to chase Joe Pimblett for actions and news on Peat Bogs	JMacA add to agenda	
10.	Date of Next Meeting	Would like the August meeting by Zoom –Margaret on AL. Cllr Suzy Firkin will chair meeting. Ruth to be invited to at least first section. Jackie can sort minutes. Next Meetings: Wednesday 18 th August – 5.30pm - 7pm Thursday 16 th September – 10am – 11.30 Wednesday 20 th October 5.30 – 7pm Thursday 18 th November – 10am – 11.30 LEAVE DECEMBER Wednesday 19 th January 5.30pm – 7pm Thursday 17 th February 10am – 11.30am Wednesday 16 th March 5.30pm – 7pm		

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 18th August 2021

Location: Zoom

Time: 5.30pm - 7pm

Present: Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair), Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Peter Aston, Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Ruth Burgess, Adam Linnet

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jackie MacArthur		
2	Minutes of meeting on the 17 July 2021	Accepted as a true record - add to Working Group Page	Jackie	August
3	<p>Biodiversity – next Steps BS asked for details about which organisations/authorities are responsible for managing green spaces in town.</p> <p>Ruth needing help to put out blue hearts and signs on the rewilding sites – Cllrs SF, KW and MG offered to help.</p>	<p>Agreed that CTC to look at a way forward and then discuss this with relevant organisations responsible for various parts of Congleton.</p> <p>To look at the Knutsford model and the ‘friends of’ groups that it has created using their three headed campaign. 1. increasing Wildlife planting, 2. Plant a tree for each resident, 3. Improve Biodiversity. SF to circulate.</p> <p>Include Biodiversity info in the Climate Festival/Green Fayre publicity</p> <p>Work with local groups to create bug hotels and bird and bat boxes</p> <p>Get developers to add less fences and more hedges.</p> <p>Set targets for what is needed</p> <p>All to read the Lawton Report – Adam to send</p>	<p>CTC</p> <p>SF All</p> <p>JM</p>	<p>Sept</p> <p>Sept</p> <p>Sept</p>

		Publicise opportunities to landowners and farmers – grant schemes for nature		
4	Rewilding – update on CTC work - Ruth Burgess gave an update on the 13 areas that CTC is piloting	Ruth to circulate details of which sites are live, which are being consulted on – along with maps to show where the sites are located.	RB	Aug/Sept
5.	CTC Targets – updates and plans	To add to the September Meeting	Jackie	For next meeting
6.	Update on Air Quality survey (Barry)	Barry will send out to the group the Air Quality measurement figures and full feedback. Note there may be an option for some collaborative work with Manchester University.	Barry	
7.	E-learning – update	Ironing out glitches so that it can go live.		August 21
8.	Green Fayre	Currently 15 events and a number of stalls booked into the Green Fayre. By mid-September looking to add another 10 events and 10 stalls. Looking for around £2k for the publicity materials – budgets being sorted. Green group needs a budget moving forward as currently not a CTC budget that it fits neatly into.	JMacA/	August
9.	Off-setting Martin Barley from CWT will speak at the next meeting. Joe Pimblett is now working elsewhere.	Invite Martin to the next meeting	JMacA	August.
	AOB Barry concerned that CTC doesn't know how to calculate Carbon Footprint Suzy Firkin concerned that our Climate Change Plan is not progressing fast enough. CEC putting £2m in Air source pump heating in Macclesfield and localised heating in Crewe. Currently only one of our vehicles can be replaced with an electric vehicle.	Barry to sit with new RFO - Serena – to teach her how to do this. Need to be costing up our plans so that we can apply for grants. Find out how the grant was obtained from CEC and whether funding opportunities are available to us. What external advice is available to improve the sustainability of the Town Hall. Need to source electric charging points	Barry SF Ruth	September September August

10.	Date of Next Meetings	Thursday 16 th September – 10am – 11.30 Wednesday 20 th October 5.30 – 7pm Thursday 18 th November – 10am – 11.30 Wednesday 19 th January 5.30pm – 7pm Thursday 17 th February 10am – 11.30am Wednesday 16 th March 5.30pm – 7pm		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	17 Action against Inconsiderate Parking		
Background	<p>Councillors and Officers regularly receive complaints from members of the public about inconsiderate parking in their area. This is especially prevalent in areas around the railway station, town centre, Astbury Mere and other places where people visit by car.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council on their website has a section on Nuisance Parking and how to report it. Cheshire East Council will try to help find solutions, but it is not always straightforward which councillors involved with trying to help Congleton residents with nuisance parking are aware.</p> <p>Making a new traffic change (yellow lines, banning pavement parking etc) usually involves a Traffic Road Order which is a time consuming and expensive process - it takes up to two years and requires extensive public consultation. When a restriction is in place, a Civil Enforcement Officer employed by the Borough Council can enforce the parking rule.</p> <p>Where people are parking inconsiderately but there are no restrictions – e.g., if they are blocking a driveway or putting people at risk by parking within 10m of a junction, or make it unsafe to cross the road, the Borough Council recommends reporting it to the Police via the non-emergency 101 contact number.</p> <p>Due to pressures on Police time and resources, parking issues cannot always be dealt with quickly. Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Unit, in partnership with the Town Council, has designed a poster that people can download from the Town Council's website and place on parked cars that are causing a nuisance. We believe that many drivers may not understand the problems they are causing. People are also asked to keep a note of the problem as useful evidence for a potential future highway scheme.</p>		

<p>Update</p>	<div data-bbox="413 136 751 618" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Congleton Town Council will add a suite of downloadable posters on its website and publicise their availability on social media, Bear Necessities and the local press.</p> <p>There will also be a Parking Notice to warn against parking on grass verges and to warn against pavement parking.</p>
<p>Financial Considerations</p>	<p>There is no cost to the scheme. The Police Support Teams have developed the Junction and Pavement Poster and the Town Council has developed the grass verges poster.</p>
<p>Environmental considerations</p>	<p>Posters will only be printed off as needed so little Environmental impact.</p>
<p>Equality considerations</p>	<p>A small supply will be kept in the Congleton Information Centre for those without access to a printer.</p>
<p>Proposal</p>	<p>Town Councillors to note this report and encourage residents to use the downloadable posters.</p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy CEO, Communities and Marketing Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	18		
REPORT TITLE	Feedback from the Congleton Town Council Bus Survey and Next Steps		
Background	<p>On the 15th of March 2021 the UK Government released a National Bus Strategy for England. This strategy sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England, through ambitious and far-reaching reform of how services are planned and delivered.</p> <p>On the 19th of July Cheshire East Council Highways and Transportation Committee endorsed setting up an Enhanced Partnership for local buses and developing a Bus Improvement Plan in consultation with bus operators, passenger groups and other stakeholders, the initial plan will be reported to the Highways and Transport Committee in September to meet tight government deadlines.</p> <p>The Government has made £100,000 available to Cheshire East, and each Local Transport Authority, to support the development of Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP). A further paper on this will be discussed at Cheshire East's Transport and Highways Committee on the 21st September.</p> <p>The Town Council's Integrated Transport Working Group met with the local bus provider and put forward some suggestions to Cheshire East Council in line with the Town Council's response to the Delivery Plan of the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>According to the Cheshire East report bus use across Cheshire East has declined progressively and consistently. In 2016/17, there were approximately 4.5 bus passenger journeys per resident with bus patronage declining by 22% since 2009/10. These statistics place Cheshire East within the bottom five Local Authorities for the lowest number of passenger journeys per head and amongst the lowest number of trips per head of resident population in England.</p> <p>Cheshire East corporate documents and strategies stress the importance of an enhanced public transport and bus network for attaining key strategic objectives such as improving local transport, reducing air pollution, achieving carbon neutrality, enabling housing and employment growth, improving quality of place and protecting the environment.</p> <p>The Integrated Transport Working Group conducted an online bus survey to start gathering local opinions to share with CEC.</p>		

Bus Survey Results

254 people responded to the online bus survey. The 94% respondents came from CW12 Congleton town areas and 6% from the surrounding parishes with the most responses (23%) from West Heath.

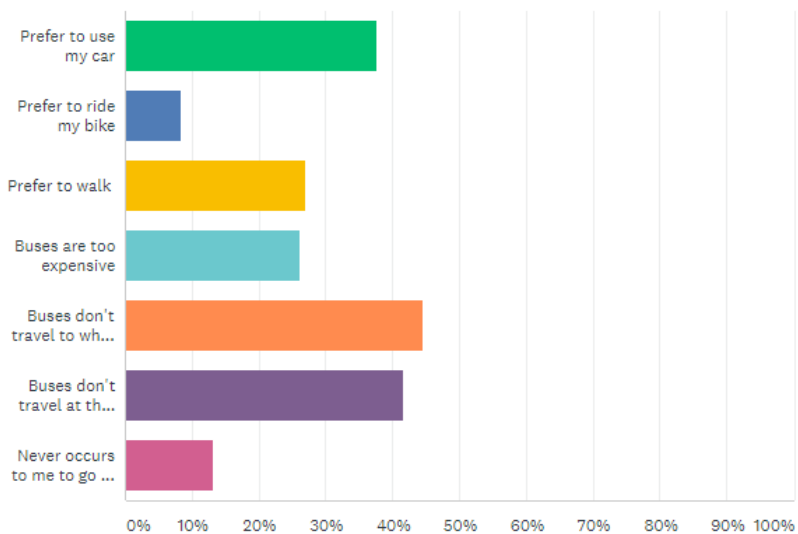
58% of the respondents were in the 26 – 59 age group, 31% in the 60 -76.

Just over half of the respondents had never been on a bus in Congleton (26%) or use a bus less than once a month (27%). 11% used the buses daily and 15% about once a week.

For the people that didn't use the bus the reasons given were:

If 'never' say why not - tick all that are relevant

Answered: 130 Skipped: 124

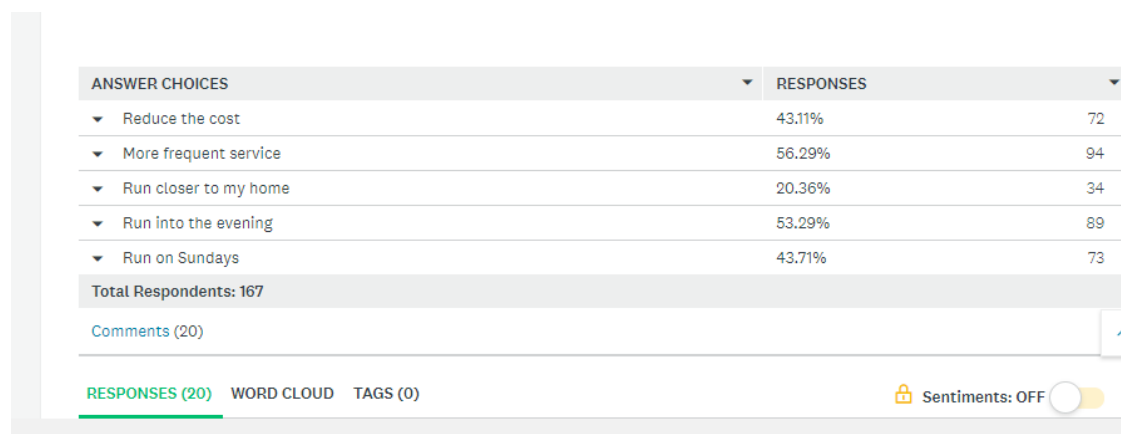


In the comments there were concerns about hygiene, methods of paying and buses not running in their area. Most people chose to walk or drive. Over half the respondents came into town more than once a week.

Interestingly **81% said that they would use a bus to travel if a bus stop was within 5 mins of their home** and buses were more frequent and reasonable.

When asked **how they usually travelled into Congleton Town Centre** 41% said by car, 38% walked, 14% by bus, 3% by bike and 1% by taxi.

When asked about why they didn't use the buses and what needed to be done to improve them responses were around



Other suggestions were around weekly or daily tickets - the Bear Buses are £1.50 per journey and drivers often don't have change and people usually make a return trip. People also wanted to see tickets that could be transferred across bus companies and downloadable or cashless payments.

There were comments that the 91 and 94 need to be more spaced out in timing and the 92 could be combined with the Macclesfield service.

People thought there was a need for buses to run to Barn Road, the business parks and Macclesfield tip

Would like to look at a more circular Congleton Bus network rather than an indirect route where everything must come into the centre first, before changing buses to get to a chosen destination.

When asked about how much people thought a trip into town by bus should cost the most common answer was £1, followed by £1.50 (which is the current fee). 50p was the 3rd most popular choice and some said up to £3.50. There were comments that with more than two people it was cheaper to get a taxi, and some parents commented on the expense for a family wishing to travel by bus.

There was a wealth of useful and thoughtful comments given by residents on their experiences on buses and ways to improve buses. The most common themes were around suggestions for additional destinations, need for tickets to be transferable, buses to train stations and Barn Road, cashless tickets, day and weekly tickets, regular (even if once a week) buses to other destinations such as Leek, Wilmslow, and a bus to Macclesfield hospital. There were also some concerns raised by families and people with disabilities. All the comments will be given to Cheshire East.

The results of the survey were consistent with the recommendations that Congleton Town Council's Integrated Transport Working Group (ITWG) had sent to and discussed with Cheshire East Council.

Actions

Congleton Town Council needs to have conversations with Cheshire East on how the Bus Improvement Strategy Plan and the Enhanced Bus Partnership can improve bus services in Congleton and what role CEC is looking for Town and Parish Councils to take. The ITWG will continue to work with Cheshire East to improve services in Congleton and bring proposals to Committee in due course.

Financial Considerations	We know that Cheshire East Council's budgets are under pressure. The Town Council does not subsidise any bus services.
Environmental Considerations	In our business plan Congleton Town Council is committed to reducing the town's carbon footprint and improving accessibility around and to the town. The survey shows that better bus services will enable residents to make greener choices on how they travel, and that our residents are interested in doing this.
Equality and Diversity Considerations	Improved regular affordable bus services are vital for the whole community. They will particularly benefit the elderly, disabled and those on low incomes who do not have their own transport.
Proposals	That the Integrated Transport Working Group engages with Cheshire East Council on the development of the Bus Services Improvement Strategy. That all ideas given by our residents are shared with Cheshire East and we lobby for improvements in bus routes and frequencies for Congleton, then bring proposals for improvement back to the Committee for approval.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd September 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy CEO, Communities and Marketing Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	19		
REPORT TITLE	Cheshire East Council's Proposed Car Parking Consultation		
Background	<p>Cheshire East Council (CEC) has notified Town and Parish Councils that it is planning to hold a 30-day statutory consultation on car parking charges starting at the end of September. A decision on the future charges for car parks will then be discussed at the CEC Highways and Transport Committee on the 16th of November and any proposed changes in car parking would not come into force until January 2022.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council will agree whether or not this consultation goes ahead at its Highways and Transport Committee on Tuesday 21st September. If the consultation does not go ahead this paper can be pulled.</p> <p>This paper outlines the key points highlighted in the pre-publicity notice for this consultation, details of the Town Council's response to the first round of consultations on the standardisation of car parks and highlights some actions that the Town Council may wish to take if the proposals outlined in the paper to the Transport and Highways Committee on the 21st September are passed for consultation.</p>		
Situation	<p>From the publicity send out in advance of the consultation at the end of September it says the main proposals before the CEC committee are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Standardise the approach to parking charges across the borough b) Introduce parking charges in places where parking is currently free c) Introduce Sunday parking charges d) Introduce waiting restrictions at some on-street parking locations to encourage the use of car parks. <p>Cheshire East Feedback on the consultation held earlier in the year, responded to by more than 3,700 people, is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 51 per cent of respondent agreed that hourly parking charges should be the same across the borough's car parks 2. 59 per cent supported greater enforcement of illegal and inconsiderate parking 3. Support for a greater range of payments options, including cash-free payments 4. Support for more electric vehicle charging points in council car parks. <p>Although b),d) and 2, 3 and 4 are likely to be welcomed by the Congleton Town Council, a), c and 1 will have implications for our Town Centre.</p>		

Currently Congleton is the only town in the former Congleton Borough Council where Cheshire East [charges for car parking](#). Parking charges were introduced in 2011 by Cheshire East as part of the levelling up agenda. Parking charges were intended to be added to in other towns but due to legal or logistical reasons this never happened. Congleton's charges were set less than those in Nantwich, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Wilmslow etc as it was based on what was seen as reasonable for the town's offer, viability and local competition. At the time the free car parks in Congleton were nearly always full so there was a need for some management of car parks. It was also recognised that there is a real cost to managing and upgrading car parks.

Income from Congleton's car parks (as shown on the Cheshire East Website) is

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Income from Congleton car parks	£196,568	£182,279	£84,123
Overall surplus from all CEC carparks	£1,866,587	£2,186,698	£1,614,450

It now looks as though Cheshire East Council is intending to introduce standard rates of charges across the whole borough. Previously we were promised that a one size fits all would not happen, understanding that the needs and issues facing the various towns were different and charges needed to be considered on town-by-town basis.

In the paper to be discussed on the 21st of September the recommendation is that all Cheshire East Car Parks should apply standardisation of parking tariffs, with a slight reduction for local (village) shopping centres. For Congleton it is likely that short stay car parks will be zone 1 and long stay zone 2. In addition, there is a recommendation that Roe Street (the car park that services Lawton Street surgery) should become a zone 2 chargeable car park.

The proposed scale of charges is as follows:

Zone	Up to 30mins	Up to 1 hr	1 to 2 hours	2 to 3 hours	3 to 4 hours	4 to 6 hours	6 to 10 hours
Zone 1	£0.40	£0.80	£1.20	£2.40	£3.50	£4.40	£5.60
Zone 2	£0.30	£0.60	£1.10	£1.80	£2.60	£3.20	£3.40
Railway	£0.40	£0.80	£1.20	£2.40	£3.50	£4.40	£7.50

Currently in Congleton Short Stay 0-1 hours 40p, 1-2 hours 60p 2-3 hours £1.10
 Long Stay 0-2 hours 60p 2-4 hours £1.10 4-8 hours £1.60

This new tariff would effectively double the cost of parking in a CEC car park in Congleton.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone 1 (Z1) comprises central car parks i.e., those located within 300 metres / 5-minute walk of the centre • Zone 2 (Z2) includes 'edge of centre or out of centre' or car parks serving Local Service Centres as defined in the Local Plan. • In Zone 1, short stay (up to 4 hours) parking tariffs would be 20p more expensive for the first hour and 90p more for 4 hours, than in Zone 2 • Long stay parking (up to 10 hours) would be £2.20 more expensive in Zone 1 than in Zone 2. • These proposed tariffs are consistent with existing tariffs for most Crewe and Macclesfield car parks. <p>Cheshire East Council is also intending to introduce parking charges at the rates above in eight of the towns that currently enjoy free parking.</p> <p>This is a complex matter. With the Climate Change Emergency work, the Town Council and Cheshire East are keen to encourage more people to walk, cycle and take public transport. But we are also keen to see the town centre strengthen and many surveys have shown car parking availability, security and price is a factor in where people chose to go.</p> <p>Congleton Town Centre is not in a strong position, with an increasing number of empty shops and it is reasonable to assume that usage of the town centre will drop further if people are asked to pay twice as much to park. Currently public transport options to the town are limited and many residents are unable to walk or cycle into town to pick up what they need so will be more likely to drive elsewhere.</p> <p>As 71% of respondents across CEC didn't think charging was needed from 6pm – 10pm that proposal is recommended not going ahead. Parking on a Sunday is recommended on all paid car parks and capped at £1.</p>
Actions	<p>Need to see the facts of the consultation following the CEC meeting on the 21st September.</p> <p>Seek details in advance on the Congleton responses to the original consultation</p> <p>Speakers to attend the meeting on the 16th November to express views for Congleton</p> <p>Encourage residents and businesses to respond to the consultation</p> <p>Agree what the approach to the consultation should be from the Town Council and if it is still in line with the comments we gave to the first round of consultation – attached below.</p>
Financial Considerations	<p>An increase in parking charges could potentially have a big impact on the viability of the town centre and it will be important that there is investment in incentives to come into town. Some traders already claim that car parking charges are the most damaging factor to their businesses. Increasing the charges could lead to more shops and businesses leaving the town centre. Parking issues are complex. Charging must be tailored to the demographic and retail/ business offering nuances of the local area, to optimise the positive impact that charging has on footfall and the overall health of the local economy.</p>
Environmental Considerations	<p>CTC would like to see more people walk and cycle into the town, but without safe routes and available public transport the approach of putting up charges to force</p>

	people out of their cars could well encourage people to drive to larger towns with a bigger offer and the same parking charges. This would have a negative impact on the environment increasing carbon emissions.
Equality and Diversity Considerations	This will have an impact on low paid town centre workers who due to the lack of public transport often have little option other than driving to work. It may also make it harder to recruit for town centre jobs, although it must be remembered that parking charges only impact those who own and drive cars.
Proposals	<p>Congleton Town Council prepares to react to the consultation when it is issued.</p> <p>Following discussions at this committee a paper with a suggested response will be discussed at Council on the 20th October 2021 when the consultation has been made public.</p>

13 September 2021

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Committee to consider consultation on parking proposals

Cheshire East Council's highways and transport committee is to consider giving the green light for a consultation to seek people's views on proposals to change parking charges.

The proposed public consultation would be on measures that would deliver fairness, standardisation and transparency and are aimed at encouraging greener and 'more active' travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. The proposed changes are designed to support the vitality of our town and village centres.

The revenue generated from the proposals would also support the council's strategic approach to providing continued investment in highways and transport, as laid out in the authority's balanced medium-term financial strategy.

The main proposals before the committee are to:

- Standardise the approach to parking charges across the borough.
- Introduce parking charges in places where parking is currently free
- Introduce Sunday parking charges; and
- Introduce waiting restrictions at some on-street parking locations to encourage the use of car parks.

Subject to approval by the committee, the council would hold a 30-day statutory consultation on the proposals starting at the end of September 2021. The statutory minimum consultation for such proposed changes is three weeks.

Final recommendations, following the conclusion of the consultation, would go before a meeting of the council's highways and transport committee for decision. The intention is that any changes to parking would *not* come into force before January 2022.

The current proposals follow a borough-wide public engagement survey in autumn 2020 and early 2021 to test key principles and identify key issues for residents in relation to car parking. This survey received more than 3,700 responses.

The survey found:

- 51 per cent of respondent agreed that hourly parking charges should be the same across the borough's car parks.
- 59 per cent supported greater enforcement of illegal and inconsiderate parking.
- Support for a greater range of payments options, including cash-free payments; and
- Support for more electric vehicle charging points in council car parks.

For more information, see the highways and transport committee [agenda](#) on the council's website.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO FIRST CONSULTATION

Our Ref CE/54/2021

28th January 2021

Congleton Town Council Response to the Car Parking Survey 2020

Congleton Town Council has considered the Parking Consultation Survey 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 be reconsidered in line with the circumstances of the day.

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) Congleton Town Council has requested significantly enhanced public transport services; if they are provided and maintained by Cheshire East Council, 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 (two 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 business 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 options for parking passes do not work for 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, offers 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 seven towns 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 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, but believe that raising our costs at this time will have a detrimental impact on our town centre.

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% eg £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 accepts 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.

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 disagrees 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 side 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.

If you have any queries about the responses given on behalf of Congleton Town Council, please do contact Jackie MacArthur on 07535 269812 or Jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk