

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th November 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer On behalf of the Green Group		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	17 Climate Emergency Measures		
Background	<p>In September 2019 Congleton Town Council signed a Climate Emergency pledge. This paper is to update Councillors on actions taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the Town Council. A copy of the presentation will be circulated after the meeting.</p>		
Updates	<p>Step one was understanding the current footprint of the Town Hall. This was worked out by Dr Barry Speed from the Congleton Sustainability Group based on our purchasing and energy bills using best practice and recognised methodology. Figures for 2018/19 and 2019/2020 have been produced.</p> <p>The estimated carbon emission equivalent for the Town Council activities for 2018-19 was approx. 231,000kg CO₂, or 231 tonnes. This is the year until April 2019. The figure for the following year 2019- 2020 was approx. 248,000kg CO₂ or 248 tonnes. The increase accounts for the one-off carbon footprint of the Portland stone quarried and transported to Congleton for the cenotaph – estimated at 17.6 tonnes of carbon emissions.</p> <p>COVID-19 is expected to have a big impact on 2020/21 carbon emissions figures and work on estimating data for this year will be carried out by our new RFO and Barry Speed shortly.</p> <p>It will not be possible to create zero emissions and so the group is also exploring the best way to off-set remaining CO₂ emissions through genuine reductions in CO₂ emissions elsewhere or by CO₂ absorption from the atmosphere.</p> <p>In other areas the carbon footprint will be reduced due to changes in industry, but there is still a desire to reduce the environmental impact of our activities. Eg if electricity become carbon free, we should still take care of how we use the resource.</p> <p>The Green Group has been considering and recommending measures to reduce the Town Council’s carbon emissions and overall environmental footprint. Cheshire East carbon neutral plan estimated that Cheshire East Council could make a 30% reduction in its use by 2025 through direct operations. The Green Group believes it should be possible to reduce the Town Council’s carbon footprint by 90,000kg, which would leave a residue of 130,000kg (130 tonnes) which would need to be off-set.</p>		

	Ten key areas for potential reduction for Congleton Town Council's carbon footprint identified using the baseline report. (see appendix A).
Financial Implications	<p>There is a monetary cost to reducing our carbon footprint. Investment in new heating, lighting and insulation will come at a price and grants will be explored.</p> <p>The current cost of off-setting was capped at £18.08 per tonne until 2021 and is expected to rise over the next few years. It is likely that the Town Council will have to off-set around 130 tonnes. There are also financial implications to investments to enable improvements to be made to reduce our carbon footprint.</p>
Environmental implications	The Climate Emergency is about making sure that the Environmental implications are considered in everything that we do. A section on environmental implications is now added to all committee decisions to make sure that the environmental impact is always considered.
Equality and Diversity Implications	The impact of environmental change and the ability to adapt to reduce carbon emissions will not be the same across the community and this will need to be considered
PROPOSALS	To note report and any recommendations made.

No.	What	% CTC carbon footprint 2018/19	% CTC carbon footprint 2019/20	Est. kg of carbon equivalent 2018/19	Est kg 2019 2020	Types of activities to look	Lead
1	Electricity usage in the Town Hall – meter for the main building = 19%, commercial partners = 1%	20%	15%	47,115	33,623	Swapped to Green energy supplier which negates carbon footprint however still best practice to reduce use of electricity. Energy audit of the Town Hall rated C grade in June 2021 which is good for Grade 2 listed building. How to bring down use – LED lights, switching off, Biggest benefit – energy generation through solar panels	Town Hall Working Group
2	Gas Usage in the Town Hall – mainly heating the building, small amount in the kitchen.	27%	26%	62,452	64,086	Swap to a different type of energy – e.g. heat pump – initial meeting held but questionable effectiveness for the building. Town Hall group exploring other options.	Town Hall Working Group
						Better insulation, better air circulation, double glazing exploring options	
3	Cleaning chemical usage in the Town Hall	<1%	1%	1,600	2,000	More on environmental impact of releasing chemicals into the environment- changed all chemicals used inside the Town Hall to biodegradable chemicals	Town Hall Working Group
4	Lease of Vehicles – Streetscape vans	7%	6%	17,000	15,000	Carbon footprint of leasing the vans reduced due to longer lease period. This figure could be reduced if the number of vehicles leased were reduced, but a real cost to producing vehicles.	Streetscape Working Group
5	Fuel Emission from leased vehicles and equipment (t)	11%	11%	24,850	26,847	This will be negated when move to electric vehicles. Vehicles currently on 3 month rolling lease until alternative energy vehicles become available. Van will be changed when electric charging points in place. In meantime working to reduce mileage through more economic work patterns .	Streetscape working Group

6	Plant and compost purchasing	13%	10%	29,400	24,286	More perennial and wildflower areas. Plants grown in Cheshire Stopped used of all peat-based compost. Creating more sustainable planting areas	N BLOOM and Streetscape
6a	Streetscape chemical use	Not included	2%	Not included	4,500	To carry out a review of streetscape chemical use	Streetscape Working Group
7	Councillor and Staff Travel	4%	4%	9,342	9342	Based on modelling for 27 members of staff and expected travel for work. More work needed to create an accurate picture. More virtual meetings, more working from home and changes in technology (electric cars) will help to reduce the carbon emissions.	Management Team
8	Paddling Pool Electric, water, chemicals, plant room equipment	4%	4%	9,145	9,245	Measures introduced in 2021 will help to reduce water and chemical usage	Town Hall and Assets Working group
9	Town Council Plastic Use	N/A		N/A		Congleton Town Council is supporting the Plastic Free Congleton campaign to reduce single use plastic. Plastic cups removed 2020, eco friendly materials being sought to replace other products. All waste bags now biodegradable.	Management Team
10	Reduce Paper Use	N/A		N/A		Aspirations to reduce the amount of paper used in the Town Council and a full plan needs to be developed.	Management Team

Climate Emergency

Reducing the Town Council's Environmental and Carbon Footprint



Estimated Carbon Emissions for CTC

	2018/19	2019/20
Est Carbon Emissions	231 tonnes	248 tonnes

Workings carried out by Barry Speed for Congleton Green Group based on Town Council purchasing logs and energy bills. Note estimates have varying degrees of certainty.

The 2019/20 figure includes the acquisition of the Portland Stone for the cenotaph which was estimated at having a one off carbon footprint of 17 tonnes to excavate and transport to Congleton.

It also includes Streetscape Chemicals not included in 2018/19 baseline report. The RFO will work with Barry to produce figures for 2020/21 so that the methodology continues to be the same.

Electricity in the Town Hall



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	20%	15%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equivalent	47.1 tonnes	33.6 tonnes

includes Town Hall electricity including that used by the commercial partner

- ▶ Actions taken - switched to Green Energy Supplier, some lights switched to LED, Energy rating of the Town Hall graded a C
- ▶ Actions to take - create working plan with recommendation to make energy use as efficient as possible. Options to move more heating to electric? Options to generate own power - solar

Gas use in the Town Hall



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	27%	26%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equivalent	62.5 tonnes	64 tonnes

Includes Town Hall gas including that used by the commercial partner.
Heating the building

- ▶ Actions taken - meeting with energy supplier to look at options to change to a different energy source - eg heat pumps and to reduce energy usage.
- ▶ Actions to take - create working plan with recommendation to reduce gas usage though better air circulation, insulation. Plan for replacement in long term.



Cleaning Chemicals in the Town Hall

	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	<1%	1%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equivalent	1.6 tonnes	2 tonnes

There will always be a carbon footprint for the manufacture and delivery of the products, but the Town council has made a big effort to reduce the environmental impact of the Chemicals that we use in the Town Hall.

All products are now certified as environmentally friendly.

Lease of Council vehicles



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	7%	6%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equiv.	17 tonnes	15 tonnes

Emissions for vehicles largely based on the cost and term of lease. Currently all leased vehicles on a 3 month rolling lease until more suitable and environmentally friendly vehicles become available.

Increase in lease time has reduced carbon equivalent.

Reducing number of vehicles needed would reduce this further.

Fuel Emissions - vehicles and streetscape equipment



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	11%	11%
▶ Est Carbon tonnes emissions	24.8 tonnes	26.8 tonnes

Includes fuel used in Council streetscape vehicles and also for equipment (equipment is 1% of the 11%)

- ▶ Action taken to make routes more efficient and reduce mileage
- ▶ Potential to move to teams of three and reduce number of vehicles



Plant and compost use

	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	13%	10%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equivalent	29.4 tonnes	24.3 tonnes

This combines Streetscape purchase of plants and compost. It is based on a number of assumptions and the author states there is a high degree of uncertainty on the figures.

Changes made by the Town Council

Town Council and In Bloom do not use any peat-based compost - which has a higher carbon value

There has been a reduction in perennials and more sustainable and wildflower beds

There will be a reduction in the number of troughs for 2022

Streetscape Chemicals

	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	Not counted	2%
▶ Est Carbon Emission equivalent	Not counted	4.5 tonnes

As with Town Hall chemicals, carbon footprint in production and transportation.

- ▶ Actions taken - reducing the environmental impact of the chemicals used
- ▶ Actions to take - review of chemicals and purchasing

Staff travel



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	4%	4%
▶ Est Carbon tonnes equivalent	9.3 tonnes	9.3 tonnes

Based on a National formula for 27 staff.

- ▶ Actions to take - establish correct figure for Congleton Town Council
- ▶ Consider actions to reduce staff mileage - working from home, more virtual meetings, include councillor mileage.

Paddling Pool



	2018/19	2019/20
▶ % of carbon footprint	4%	4%
▶ Est Carbon emissions equiv.	9.1 tonnes	9.2

includes electricity, water, chemicals and pump use equipment.

- ▶ Actions taken new processes introduced in 2021 will have reduced use of water and chemicals.
- ▶ Pool was closed in summer 2020/21
- ▶ New pump room equipment will impact on the carbon footprint

Single Use Plastics



Town Council is supporting the Plastic Free Congleton Group.

- ▶ Plastic drinking cups have been replaced with paper cups.
- ▶ Stationery orders are seeking out more environmentally friendly products
- ▶ All of the bin liners used in the Town Hall and around the town by Streetscape are biodegradable.



Reducing Paper

- ▶ Although s negligible impact on our Carbon Footprint the Town Council is seeking to reduce its use of paper.
- ▶ Actions taken
- ▶ Papers are now sent to most councillors by email.
- ▶ Postage costs have decreased from x to y
- ▶ Paper orders have decreased from x to y
- ▶ Defaults have been set to double sided printing.



Other Projects

- ▶ Considering the Nature Emergency
- ▶ Streetscape working on 13 rewilding sites
- ▶ Support for Congleton Tree Group
- ▶ Introducing an E-learning course with the Congleton Partnership to help people to understand and reduce their carbon footprint
- ▶ Exploration of off-setting options
- ▶ Plans for increasing bio-diversity
- ▶ Commenting on planning applications and their environmental impact
- ▶ Support for the Green Fayre in 2019 and 2021 and the Climate Week in 2021.