

**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		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Green Fayre and Climate Week		
Background	<p>In October 2019, shortly after Congleton Town Council signed a Climate Emergency, Congleton Town Council with Congleton Partnership held a Green Fayre in the Town Hall. In 2020 it was not possible for to host a Green Fayre due to COVID-19. In 2021 the Town Council and Cheshire East Council jointly hosted a Climate Festival from the 23rd – 31st October with a Green Fayre on Saturday 30th October in the closed High Street.</p> <p>This paper is to update members on the scale of the event and thoughts for next year’s event.</p>		
Updates	<p>Throughout the Climate Festival Week there were 16 different activities including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 open days at Vale Allotments • 15 tours of the Hydro site • Bath House and Physic Garden Open Day • Dane in Shaw guided walk with a CEC Countryside Ranger • Launch of Congleton Climate Action Group • People and Wildlife Walk and Talk with a CEC Countryside Ranger • Future for Land Use Walk and Talk with a CEC Countryside Ranger • Foraging Walk with Congleton Food 4 Free • Farming for Wildlife Talk in the Town Hall • Streetscape Rewilding drop-in surgery in Congleton Park • Plastic Free Congleton drop-in meeting at The Old Saw Mill • Sourdough bread making at the Old Saw Mill • Electric Vehicle Talk at Wild and Wild • Youth Eco Activist Esther Bird talk at Congleton Town Hall • Plant Swap at Astbury Mere • Climate Films at the Young Pretender <p>Many of the events required people to book places to manage numbers. We were able to utilise the omnify booking system that the Town Council installed for Paddling Pool bookings for these events. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the events.</p> <p>On Saturday 30th October a Green Fayre was held at in the closed High Street. This attracted 34 stalls where various groups, organisations and businesses took the opportunity to showcase their work and ideas to local people.</p>		

	<p>There was also a selection of electric cars for people to view and discuss with their owners and adapted bikes to find out about.</p> <p>At the time of writing the paper 17 of the stall holders had responded to a survey about the Green Fayre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% would like the Green Fayre to become an annual event • 100% wished to be involved next year • 76% said the event was very worthwhile, • 87% thought it was better to hold the fayre on the closed High Street • 76% thought the event benefitted from being on the same day as the Makers Market • Most stall holders said that they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of their stall next year. <p>The main organising team – Barry Speed, Peter Aston, Cllr Robert Douglas, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jackie MacArthur and Martha Hayes will be considering the detail and options for next year and will report back to both Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council.</p> <p>Early thoughts are that the Green Fayre should become an annual event, but rather than a packed week of activities there should be green walks, talks and activities programmed throughout the year which could be supported through Congleton Sustainability Group members.</p> <p>To help a greater green programme for 2022/23 Councillors are asked to consider creating a Green Activities budget within the 2022/2023 Town Council budget to support a Green Fayre and activities associated with promoting and taking actions to support the climate and nature emergency.</p>
<p>Financial Implications</p>	<p>The Green Fayre and associated publicity for 2021 cost £2,656. £1028 was publicity, the remainder was the cost of road closures and equipment hire. The Partnership contributed some funds but the majority was from the Town Council tourism budget.</p>
<p>Environmental Implications</p>	<p>The Green Fayre and Climate Week was designed to create greater awareness of COP26 and local ‘green’ activities. It met the Town Council strategic objectives SO7 (Engaging with the Public) and SO6 (Climate Emergency)</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity Impact</p>	<p>There were no financial barriers to entry to any of the activities – although some of the walks were not accessible to all due to the nature of the ground. For future events need to offer the opportunity to book in ways other than on-line (although some were added by staff following a phone call from the person unable to access a computer)</p>
<p>PROPOSALS</p>	<p>That the Town Council supports the Green Fayre becoming an annual event and recommends to Finance and Policy that a Green Activities budget headline is created for 2022/2023</p>