



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

4th November 2021

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 11th November 2021

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 11th November 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.
- 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 23rd September 2021](#) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

4. Outstanding Actions

These are dealt with in Agenda item 8.

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 Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

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

To receive an updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 23rd September 2021.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 16th September 2021.

10. Integrated Transport Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on the 8th October 2021.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group (Verbal Update)

To receive a verbal update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group regards the 2021 results, the Volunteer thank you evening.

12. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on the 20th October 2021.

13. 750 Year Celebration Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on the 7th October 2021.

14. White Ribbon Working Group (Verbal Update)

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

15. Christmas in Congleton 2022 (Enclosed)

To note an update report on activities planned for Christmas in Congleton 2021.

16. Green Fayre and Climate Week (Enclosed)

To receive an update report on the Green Fayre and Climate Week.

17. Presentation on Climate Emergency Measures (To Follow)

To receive and discuss a presentation on measures and actions taken since Congleton Town Council signed a Climate Emergency in October 2019.

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 23rd September 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 23rd September 2021](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr Dawn Allen

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Robert Moreton

Cllr Mark Rogan

Ex Officio members: Cllr Denis Murphy and Cllr Margaret Gartside

Non-Committee Member/s: Cllr Robert Douglas

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers: Jackie MacArthur, Martha Hayes
One member of the press, two Cheshire Police Officers and nine members of the public involved with presentations.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee members: Cllrs Paul Duffy, Robert Hemsley and Jean Parry

Non-Committee members: Cllr David Brown and Cllr Suzie Akers Smith

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/19/2122 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 8th July 2021](#) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Sally Ann Holland, Robert Moreton and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

See Item 11 for updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 8th July 2021.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions raised at 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.

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police

PC Helen Weeks and PSCO Karen Linton from Cheshire Police gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1.

8. Social Supermarket for Congleton

CE/20/2122 Resolved to receive a presentation and report from The Green Tree House Project about a Social Supermarket for Congleton.

Action – Grant application to go to the Council's Finance and Policy Committee on 30/9/21 requesting financial assistance for the project in Congleton.

9. Congleton Domestic Abuse Clinic

CE/21/2122 Resolved 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 and a case study from the police.

10. Support for Safe Pedestrian Access to Bath Vale

CE/22/2122 Resolved to receive a report from local residents asking for Congleton Town Council's support for actions to improve pedestrian safety in the main access to the Bath Vale estate.

Actions

- a) Ask the Town Council's Streetscape Manager to assess the area for inclusion in the Streetscape maintenance programme if feasible.
- b) Write to Cheshire East Highways and Planning Enforcement supporting the concerns of residents in area about lack of path as agreed in the planning application, lack of lighting on the bridge, inadequate signage and the need for a 20mph zone.

- c) Speak to Cheshire East Highways about the need for signs and how these can be financed. If appropriate, apply to the Finance and Policy Committee and also Ward Councillors highway allocation.

11. Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/23/2122 Resolved to note the updates paper with items from the Community and Environment Committee held on the 8th July 2021. Updates include the Elizabeth Statue, Volunteer Coordinating Point and Havannah Bridge.

12. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

CE/24/2122 Resolved to receive the notes of the [Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group](#) held on the 8th July and a verbal update given by Cllr Kay Wesley from the meeting held on 16th September 2021.

13. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Notes

CE/25/2122 Resolved to receive a verbal update from Cllr Margaret Gartside from the [Congleton in Bloom Working Group](#) on the judges visit. Results of the North-West in Bloom are likely to be known late October and Britain in Bloom on the 25th September.

14. 750 Working Group Meetings and Update

CE/26/2122 Resolved 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, Martha Hayes on events planned by Congleton Town Council for the 750 year charter celebrations.

15. White Ribbon Working Group Update

CE/27/2122 Resolved to receive a verbal update from the Cllr Mark Rogan from the [White Ribbon Working Group](#).

16. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/28/2122 Resolved 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 Festival and Green Fayre](#) to be held from the 23rd October – 31st October from Cllr Margaret Gartside, Chair of the Congleton Green Working Group.

17. Action against Inconsiderate Parking

CE/29/2122 Resolved to agree to promote a new downloadable suite of leaflets that residents can use to alert drivers to their inconsiderate parking. These will be placed on www.congleton-tc.gov.uk and hard copies available in the Congleton Information Centre.

Action - Install the Parking Notice leaflets on the website. Print copies for the Congleton Information Centre and send out press release/publicity materials.

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

CE/30/2122 Resolved to note the responses to a Congleton Town Council survey into Bus Use and for the Integrated Transport Working Group to engage with Cheshire East on the development of the Bus Services Improvement Strategy.

Action - To check Cheshire East Council papers for progress on the Bus Improvement Strategy and to alert the Integrated Transport Working Group (ITWG) with the aim of improving services for Congleton. **To continue to work on understanding the public transport needs of Congleton.**

19. Cheshire East Council's Proposed Car Parking Consultation

As Cheshire East Council (CEC) had not approved this consultation at their meeting on the 21st September 2021 the paper was withdrawn from committee.

Action - To stay alert to CEC parking proposals and alert councillors when CEC is due to rediscuss the issue.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

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

Drugs and Alcohol

- 1 Drugs Warrant complete Sheldon Ave
- 1 Drugs Warrant in Bosley
- Working with Rumba on allegations of spiking - none with medical evidence.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- 43 incidents - decrease of 19 on last period and decrease of 29 Year on Year
- Current ASB Repeat locations:
- Bromley Community Centre (9) Public Order Offences/Bikes. Mix of warnings, letters restorative justice and Sec 59 warnings for 5 juveniles. No incidents since 22/08.
- Market area (3) previously unknown youths – now on ASB ladder/ this use to have a Public Space Protection Order on it.

Total Domestic Violence Incidents: 57, 8 decrease on last period and 10 increase of year on year

Total Sexual Offences: 12, 9 up on last period and the same Year on Year

Hate

Congleton Pride Event was a really good day, no issues. Pre-event was issue with banners and witness appeal and liaison with Pride group.

11. Vehicles

Bromley – Off Road Bikes Sec 59 warnings

Community Q & A. RCU/Highways/Beat Specifically A34 Odd Rode/West Speeding TBC

AOB

Congleton/Sandbach Local Policing Unit to go live date 4th November 2021

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	8 Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee		
Background	<p>This paper gives Members an update on actions from reports discussed at the previous Community and Environment Committee and are on-going matters which are on the agenda. These items do not need a full paper and are either ongoing issues or confirmation of completion of resolution.</p> <p>The paper is for noting and is an opportunity to feedback on issues from this committee.</p>		
Updates	<p>CE/51/2021: Elizabeth Statue: ‘Council resolved to support the outcome of Elizabeth’s Group’s work and decision on the statue location, ensuring it is placed in a location that is safe and convenient for educational and other visits. Action Closed.</p> <p>CE/ 63/2021: Civic Awards –Around 100 people attended a Civic Awards Covid Heroes thank you party at the Cricket Club on Wednesday 29th September. 55 people were nominated through the Town Council Covid awards scheme. A further 22 volunteers were recognised for their involvement with People Helping People. The panel found it impossible to pick a ‘winner’ for each category when all the stories of help were so heart-warming and inspiring. Congleton Town Council will need to decide if it wants an annual awards event.</p> <p>CE/ 12/2122: Launch of E-learning Course –this course was launched during the Climate Festival and is available to view on the Town Council’s website by clicking on the learn button on the front page. Google analytics will be used to check usage of the course and completion rates. The content will be updated by Town Council staff. All councillors are encouraged to complete the course. Action closed.</p> <p>CE/ 20/2122: Green Tree House Social Supermarket – Members received a presentation at the September Community and Environment committee. Following the Committee, the charity submitted a grant form to Congleton Town Council’s Finance and Policy Committee and was successful in gaining £2,000 to help with purchasing food for the Community Supermarket. The Green Tree House Congleton branch opened on the 1st October 2021. It opens on a Wednesday and Friday from 10am – 2pm and is run by volunteers.</p>		

	<p>CE/ 22/2122: Bath Vale Entrance A letter has been sent to Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways on the issue. The Streetscape Development Manager will add the area to the Town Council's Streetscape routine schedules for checks in March and October.</p> <p>CE/ 29/2122: Action Against Inconsiderate Parking - the leaflets have been loaded onto the Town Council's website and were publicised in the local press. Reminders will be made on social media referring to the availability of the posters.</p> <p>CE/30/2122 Bus Survey Feedback: Information gathered from the bus survey was sent to Cheshire East Council along with ideas that for improving buses that had previously been approved in the response to the Transport Action Plan. Cheshire East, as Highways Authority for the area, is hoping to attract significant Government funding to improve bus services and uptake in the borough.</p>
PROPOSALS	To note the update report.

0Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Zoom Call – Thursday 16th September 2021

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, Stg Paul Brunton – Cheshire Police, (CEC), Julia Pestell Hassall (CEC), Paul Bestwick, Jackie MacArthur (CTC)

Apologies: Ruth Burgess (CTC), Cllr Dawn Allen, Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Denis Murphy

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
1.				
2.	Notes of 8/7/21	agreed by group		
3.	Action Log			
	a) CCTV cameras (jackie/ Denis)	Electricity in place for Lawton Street Camera. Still awaiting camera. Once in place will start on campaign for a camera on West Street CEC to do a site review.	Jackie/Denis re CEC	May
	b) Pub Low Alcohol on draft	Remove from agenda.	Item CLOSED	May
4.	Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Police Action taken in Sheldon Avenue and another drugs operation planned for following week. Spiking incidents believed to have happened in town – none of the victims sort medical advice. Pub Watch to discuss issue. Intel given on a potential issue in Willow Street. PC Helen Hood and PCSO Heath planning a session about drug awareness for the pubs. Also have the drug detection kits (cocaine wipes and torches) for the PubWatch pubs sponsored by the Town Council. Order posters for Toilet doors of pubs re how to get help when in pubs/ reporting Crime Article in Bear Necessities for Winter 2021/22	Congleton Police Police CTC CTC	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
10.	Hate Crime	Pride was very successful – but was an issue with pulling down banners in advance of the event. No action taken. Pride group will be meeting with the Police to talk about concerns raised from the LGBTQ+ survey. No other incidents to report.	Kay report back	Next meeting
11.	Speeding and Traffic	A34 – still a very fast road and local concerns. Community Q &A in West Heath on the 13 th October. CEC carrying out a review of speeds across the Borough to be reported in November. Need ward members to help champion schemes.	For next agenda	
12.	AOB	Nothing raised		
13.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 6 th January 2021 3.30pm – 5pm via ZOOM		

Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING – Meeting called to discuss CEC Speed Management Review future paper

Date: Friday 8th October

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 9am – 10am

Present: Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Ant Bolding (Active Travel), Jackie MacArthur.

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr Duncan Amies		
2	<p>Understand that CEC is discussing a Speed Management Review for the whole Borough and would like feedback from the Towns and Parishes. The Review is due to be discussed at CEC Transportation and Highways meeting on the 16th November. Group considering making recommendations to Council (21st October) for them to formulate the Town Council's view.</p> <p>Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Town Council's current recommendations or discussions around 20mph Town Centre speed limits b) Other speed limit requests where residents have asked CTC for support in changing a speed limit c) Latest research on issues around traffic speed <p>The Group discussed:</p> <p>Impact of speed reduction on the environment noise reduction</p> <p>Impact on safety and perceived safety</p> <p>Impact on choice of modes of transport</p> <p>Need to do improve conditions around schools -</p> <p>Speed limits on residential estates</p> <p>Ability of Link Road to remove faster through traffic</p>	<p>Agreed for Jackie to use the notes from the meeting and notes from previous council resolutions to draft a paper for the group to present at Council.</p> <p>Group to consider the paper and make amendments</p> <p><i>NOTE: Paper drafted, but after discussions with officers at CEC and subsequent emails with the working group agreed it would be better to wait and respond to the consultation from CEC IF the CEC Highways and Transportation Committee gives the green light for the draft Speed Management Review document to go out to consultation.</i></p>	<p>J MacA</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Tuesday 12th October</p> <p>Thursday 14th October</p>
5	Date of Next Meeting	To be agreed after the 16 th November		

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday 20th October 2021

Location: Zoom

Time: 5.30pm - 7pm

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Peter Aston, Barry Speed, Adam Linnet

Guest: Martin Varley – Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Ruth Burgess, Heather Seddon <i>Questioned whether really need to have meetings in the evening if it makes no difference to the ability of people to attend the meetings – to discuss at the next meeting which will be a daytime one.</i>		
2	Minutes of meeting on the 18 th August 2021	Accepted as a true record - add to Working Group Page	Jackie	September t
3	<p>Martin Varley from Cheshire Wildlife Trust spoke to the group about options for off-setting locally as we know it will not be possible to get the Town Hall carbon emissions to zero</p> <p>Questions to consider How official do we need the offsetting accreditation to be? Currently official certified accreditation available for tree planting and upland peat restoration. If we do need to be precise then an onerous task. CWT more fluid but can make rough calculations. It is not an exact science and a rapidly growing area of work.</p> <p>CTC has made a Climate Emergency Pledge. If we owned land could claim the carbon for new trees that we organise to have planted on that land, can also claim for hedgerows. Need to check if using</p>	<p>2019 level was calculated to be a carbon footprint of 230 tonnes for Congleton Town Council activities. Key ambition is to reduce this to as low as possible.</p> <p>Understand if CTC as local government needs certificated carbon off-setting for auditing purposes – or if acting with a partner like Cheshire Wildlife Trust and using best practice and estimation is enough - paper to Community and Environment Committee</p> <p>Understand in budgeting terms what CTC will include for off-setting. Suggested blended approach for the next few years. If 250 tonnes of carbon – planting 1,500 trees a year would off set this.</p>	<p>Paper to CE Jackie</p> <p>Cllrs MG, SF and KW</p>	<p>Raise issue at CE Nov 11th</p> <p>Raise at budget setting</p>

	<p>grants who then claims the carbon value. Trees for Life claim the carbon for their sponsors. CWT said the general rule is planting 6 trees equates to 1 tonne of carbon sequestration over its lifetime. Carbon off-setting currently around £20 per tonne – this is expected to increase.</p> <p>Currently most of CEC peat is a source rather than sink of carbon. Interested in a future project around restoring some of the Mosses in Mossley.</p>	<p>Although ultimately the push must be to reduce carbon production, not off set. CTC needs to start to budget for offsetting its Carbon footprint – Cllrs to raise at budget setting meetings.</p> <p>Explore issue for a future project with CWT. Need to establish who the landowners are and if any would work with CWT</p> <p>Need to keep an audit of everything that we have planted and bank all activity</p>	<p>For future meeting</p> <p>SF/RB</p>	<p>Each meeting</p>
4	<p>Rewilding and Biodiversity – update on CTC work -verbal update from Ruth Burgess on the 13 areas that CTC is piloting</p> <p>Other areas - discussion around larger areas for planting and creation of meadows. Lawton review request for bigger, better and more connected. Review the 42 Green sites in the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Biodiversity – checking on species - plants, insects, birds seen at various sites. Monitor change. NOTE this is already carried out at Astbury Mere and Congleton Park</p>	<p>Rewilding sites have been agreed with residents for Banky Fields, Bridgewater Close, Redfern Avenue and Hankinson Field. Next to be consulted – Isis Close, Windsor Place and Derwent Drive. Then six more by the end of November 2021</p> <p>Need to reach out to landowners – identify potential partners for more rewilding than the CEC land. Need an action plan for each of the Green Areas mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan. – RB to co-ordinate first draft</p> <p>Send list of Green Sites to the Group</p> <p>Project with schools to check areas in the Spring</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>JMacA</p> <p>MG</p>	<p>Oct/Nov</p> <p>DEC</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>March/ April 2022</p>
5.	<p>CTC Targets – updates and plans</p> <p>Vehicles – now on short rolling leases until suitable electric models can be found. Supervisor van can be swapped when electric chargers in place.</p> <p>Cleaning Products – now swapped to eco-friendly versions of products.</p>	<p>Jackie to update the plan and publish</p> <p>Full report for the next meeting</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>JM – MW</p>	<p>For next meeting</p> <p>For next meeting</p>

	<p>Bear Necessities printed on certificated recycled paper with vegetable inks</p> <p>Discussions with a second set of advisors on methods to reduce the carbon footprint associated with heating and lighting the town hall.</p> <p>Streetscape – sourcing local plants, more sustainable beds, all 5 link road roundabouts will benefit from sustainable planting. Peat based fertiliser not used. As many plants as possible given away for others to over-winter and use next year.</p>	<p>Report back to the next meeting</p> <p>Share plans for the five Link Road roundabouts – three currently in design but will be subject to CEC Highways approval – Ruth to share at the next meeting. -</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>RB</p>	
6.	Update on Air Quality survey (Barry)	The equipment has now been sent back to the company that loaned it to Barry. Hope to be able to loan this again in the future. Note Barry is now studying air quality. Off the agenda until Barry asks for it to be re-added.	Barry	
7.	E-learning – update	Will be set live for Climate Week	Jackie	End of Oct
8.	<p>Green Fayre</p> <p>Climate Week 23- 31 October. Green Fayre 30 October. Around 20 events and 34 stalls for the Green Fayre.</p>	<p>More help needed to distribute publicity.</p> <p>Most of the group involved in the organising and on the day.</p>	ALL	Oct
10.	Date of Next Meetings	<p>Thursday 18th November – 10am – 11.30</p> <p>Wednesday 19th January 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 17th February 10am – 11.30am</p> <p>Wednesday 16th March 5.30pm – 7pm</p>		

CTC 750 Working Group – Minutes

Thursday 7 October 2021

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

1.Apologies: Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Jo Money

2.Approve minutes of the last meeting: Minutes approved from 2 September 2021

3.Updates and issues on below CTC events:

3a. Mountbatten Way Banners

JMac has costings from Bay Media. Daz has been contacted for the design. Double sided banner, standard design, with space for individual company name and logo.

ACTION: KW to draft a letter inviting businesses to sponsor a MBW Banner.

3b. Ale Taster & Catchpole

Meeting with Beartown Brewery cancelled. **ACTION MH to rearrange.**

SF had a positive meeting with CAMRA who offered guidance on appointing the Ale Taster. They recommend a formal application process to ensure we get the right calibre of people. An application form in the Chronicle, in pubs & online should encourage a diverse range of candidates. A job description outlining expected duties and diary dates was suggested.

CAMRA suggest we appoint an Ale Taster (JU to provide outfit) and two reserve ale tasters (sash not outfit).

Rather than create a 750 ale, breweries have said they can rebadge an existing ale. Open up to local breweries to participate.

JU suggested involving home brewers rather than just commercial to produce an ale/apple juice/cider.

Ale Taster to be unveiled at the Beer Festival proposed for Jan/Feb at the Town Hall. This will be a scaled down, ticketed event.

ACTION: SF to reserve provisional dates for the Beer Festival in the Main Hall.

3c. Beating of the Boundaries

Cllr Suzie Akers Smith provided project update. MG relayed this to the group.

Date set for 10 April. Rotary contacted for volunteers. Three horses organised.

Discussion took place on the route and boundaries. Group agreed that the route should be kept within the town boundaries and not encroach on neighbouring parishes.

ACTION: Use the town boundary map from the Neighbourhood Plan.

The group explored the potential for further fundraising opportunities.

Could the £1 entry fee be increased? It was perceived that many people taking part would seek sponsorship for the main day or completing virtually.

Virtual Walk

Set-up physical check points eg (postcard style affixed to signs/posts) and online check points, so walkers can check in.

ACTION: SAS, MG & JC explore QR codes to link up with Strava and other tracking apps.

Create a Strava Group (there may already be existing groups) so people can share the walk & routes.

List the walk on Ordnance Survey maps.

The group was of the opinion that if we invest now in the structure the route can be used for future events.

3d. Platinum Jubilee

Park booked for Friday 3 June, 12-5pm. Picnic in the park type of event. DB suggested a bar, Beartown could be approached.

ACTION: JMac & MH - work with Friends of Congleton to share resources. Book entertainment.

3e. Town Hall Exhibition

If personnel are available, the schools exhibition can be extended to members of the public in the evening. Information points can be used, to educate on the exhibits to reduce the need for skilled volunteers.

Explore 3D printing and uploading videos on YouTube.

ACTION: JU to focus on the practical exhibits. A separate sub group to be formed to co-ordinate the running, staffing, promotion of the exhibition.

3f. Medieval Festival

Jousting booked and safety forms submitted.

ACTION: DB assigned as project lead.

MH to map out the park to determine available space before booking other acts. See Ruth Burgess for park map. Factor in jousters, first aid, toilets.

Acts suggested: Astbury Mere Archery, Falconry, Morris dancing, Hog roast, refreshments, stalls.

ACTION: KW to supply details of Sandbach Morris dancers. Option to include in the town centre entertainment programme.

3g. Medieval Banquet

Main Hall booked & Peever contacted.

SF contacted Alsager Community Theatre.

ACTION: MG to approach churches as a potential venue for the plays. ACT could also be used for the town centre entertainment.

4. Meeting with the schools

See Jo Money email 'Schools activities folder' dated 30 Sept.

ACTION: Project leads to complete an A4 summary of event for inclusion in the folder. DC to circulate template.

Suggestions put to JM so far:

- Booked visits to two flag painting workshops in January
- Joining the parade for the Elizabeth Statue unveiling –March
- Back to back heraldic themed gardens for In Bloom
- Booked visits to the Living History event in the Town Hall - July
- Hidden Talents Theatre workshops –creating a medieval play TBA
- Act-it-Out drama project –TBA
- Possible schools workshops with Vikings schools workshops – I have attached an email I received from them regarding workshops
- Engagement in the Medieval Party in the Park - August

5. AOB

Merchandise – update from Jess.

The group agreed the objective of merchandise is to promote and raise awareness of the event, not necessarily profit making.

Lots of samples ordered. Jigsaws are too expensive and supply issues. Best option is to source smaller items with cheaper price points.

Issue is minimum order and storage space. The group is confident merchandise will sell via a stall at 750 events, in the CIC and Museum. **ACTION: Jess to place orders.**

Jess has spoke to SVS about a separate budget for merchandise.

Jess looking into online pay as you go models with no outlay.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th November 2021 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Martha Hayes, Town Centre and Events Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	15		
REPORT TITLE	Christmas in Congleton 2021		
BACKGROUND	<p>Congleton Town Council takes responsibility for the Christmas Lights and takes a lead on the Christmas Lights Switch-On event with the support of Congleton Community Projects.</p> <p>This paper is to update Councillors on the plans for Christmas in Congleton for 2021.</p>		
UPDATES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Lights: We are in year 1 of a 3 year contract with PME to store, check, repair, install and remove the Town's Christmas lights. This was agreed at full Council on 22nd April 2021. In 2020 the Town Council purchased a number of new lights for the pedestrian area and Victoria Street, changed the lamp post Christmas motifs in Market Street and extended Christmas lights further along West Street. This year we were informed at the end of October by the contractors that five of the lamp post lights on the High Street had failed and were beyond economic repair. Five other lamppost Christmas decorations have been sourced from the same supplier as last year at a cost of £1950. This was achievable within the Christmas Lights budget. The previous lights were purchased in 2013. Christmas Lights Switch-On: The Community & Environment Committee approved the temporary move from an all-day Saturday event to a Friday evening, with less booked activities and all events outside in the fresh air. This was agreed by the Community and Environment committee on 3rd June 2021. This change was to enable to make the event as safe as possible in a time when COVID-19 is still likely to be impacting on events. The event will be from 4-7pm. Santa and his Elves will be in their sleigh from 4-6pm in the pedestrian area, there will also be a 'Unicorn' in the High Street. Silk FM will bring a stage and play Christmas music and welcome some familiar faces to the stage. A traditional lantern parade, organised by Congleton Community Projects will lead Santa to the tree for the switch-on at 6.30pm. Lantern making workshops are being held on Saturday's 13th & 20th November at the Electric Picture House, 11am-4pm. There will also be a small number of charity stalls in the pedestrian area and local hospitality businesses are being encouraged to join in with stalls outside their premises. 		

	<p>3. Small Christmas Trees above Shops: For the second year running businesses with a bracket that usually have a Christmas Tree above their town centre property, will be offered one free tree and the chance to purchase an additional tree. The trees will be installed from the 16th November. This has been funded by the Town Council COVID support grant and Congleton Partnership.</p> <p>4. Light Display on the Town Hall: Approval was given to use funds from the Tourism Ear Marked reserve to pay for projection onto the Town Hall for the second year running. The Town Hall will be lit up from the Lights Switch-On date; 26th November until the New Year.</p> <p>5. Rotary Tree of Light: The Town Council is supporting the Rotary Tree of Light campaign again this year. The Rotary club is selling stars for £5 which people can write to remember a loved one who is not with them at Christmas. The Tree of Light Switch on will take place on Saturday 4th December in the Community Garden, from 4.30pm with a 5pm switch-on.</p> <p>6. Christmas Makers Market: There will be a Makers Markets in Town on Saturday 27th November and Saturday 18th December.</p> <p>7. Free Parking in Congleton: On Saturday's 4th, 11th & 18th December, there will be free parking after 10am on Princess Street, Back Park Street and the Fairground Car Park. Time restrictions on the short stay car parks still apply. This is using 3 out of the 4 free days granted by Cheshire East to all of their towns.</p>
Financial considerations	All within the Christmas budgets, also seeking sponsorship for the main town centre tree.
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.

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>
Financial Implications	<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>
Environmental Implications	<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>
Equality and Diversity Impact	<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>
PROPOSALS	<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>