



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

24th March 2022

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 31st March 2022

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 31st March 2022 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 3rd February 2022](#) 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 9.

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. Community Support for Ukraine (Enclosed)

To discuss potential support that Congleton Town Council can give to Ukraine Refugees and members of our community sponsoring families.

9. Updates from previous Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 3rd February 2022.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 3rd March 2022](#) and receive an update from the chair

11. SHOUT! Campaign (Enclosed)

To receive a presentation from the architects of the Cheshire East campaign for young people to challenge and stamp out sexual harassment.

12. White Ribbon Working Group (To Follow)

To receive a short update from the White Ribbon Working Group on its recent activities.

13. Congleton In Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Congleton In Bloom Working Group from the meeting held on the 28th January 2022](#) and a brief update from the team.

14. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on the 17th February and 16th March 2022](#) and to receive an update from chair

15. Green Marketing Plan and Communications (Enclosed)

To discuss the suggested timetables and themes for the Green Calendar and Marketing Plan.

16. 30 Site-Specific Biodiversity Plan and No Mow May (Enclosed)

To receive an update on the Site-Specific Biodiversity Plan and to discuss the No Mow May campaign.

17. 750 Year Celebration Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 3rd February and 3rd March 2022.](#)

18. Chatty Benches (Enclosed)

To approve a scheme to create a number of chatty benches across Congleton.

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 3rd February 2022

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 3rd February 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Robert Moreton

Cllr Jean Parry

Ex Officio member: Cllr Denis Murphy (Mayor) left after item 8. Cllr Margaret Gartside (Deputy Mayor)

Non-Committee Members: Cllr Suzie Akers Smith

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers: David McGifford and Jackie MacArthur, One member of the press, Police Crime Commissioner, one Cheshire Police Officer and three members of the public, one of whom spoke at Public Questions.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Members: Cllrs Dawn Allen and Mark Rogan

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/40/2122 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 11th November 2021](#) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Sally Holland, Denis Murphy, Suzie Akers Smith and Robert Moreton declared non-pecuniary interests on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

See Agenda item 9 for any outstanding actions for the Community and Environment Committee.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

Jackie Kay attended the meeting and raised questions about the Streetscape Teams' use of weedkillers.

Olga Whitmore sent in questions which the Chair read out asking about the Congleton In Bloom Group's use of bedding plants.

Jackie Kay was informed that Congleton Town Council is no longer using glyphosate and the advice taken about the new product being trialed.

Olga was informed about the reduction in the number of bedding plants for the coming year.

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police Crime Commissioner

CE/41/2122 Resolved to accept the presentation from John Dwyer, the recently elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire regarding his role, aims and ambitions for the Cheshire Police Service.

8. Cheshire Police

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

9. Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/42/2122 Resolved to receive the updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 11th November 2021.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/43/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 6th January 2022](#) and receive an update from the Chair. Noted that the event mentioned for the 18th March in the notes of the meeting has been postponed and a new date awaited.

11. Congleton In Bloom Working Group

CE/44/2122 Resolved to receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group from the meeting held on 28th January 2022.

12. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/45/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 25th November 2021 and 21st January 2022](#) and to receive an update from Chair.

13. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/46/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 4th November and 9th December 2021 and 6th January 2022](#) and an update was given by Jackie MacArthur on behalf of the group.

14. White Ribbon Working Group

CE/47/2122 Resolved to receive [the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group held on 9th November](#) and to receive a report from the Chair about the [activities for White Ribbon Day 2021 and the '16 Days of Action'](#).

15. Creating a Site-Specific Biodiversity Action Plan for Congleton

CE/48/2122 Resolved to approve the proposal for creating a Biodiversity Plan for Congleton as recommended by the Congleton Green Working Group and to approve a request to Council for funding.

16. Planting 70 Cherry Trees for the Platinum Jubilee

CE/49/2122 Resolved to approve in principle planting 70 cherry trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and delegate responsibility to the Congleton Green Working Group to progress.

17. Key Performance Indicators for Streetscape Services

CE/50/2122 Resolved to note the report from the Streetscape Development Manager on the KPIs for Streetscape Services.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 8 -

Data covers 6 weeks prior to the Committee Meeting in Congleton East and West Wards

Drugs and Alcohol

Night-time Economy (5)

- 4 minor assaults. 1 with injury for which offender arrested at scene.
- Drink Spiking (1 in period). No associated sexual assaults or other crime.
- Force continues Op Resolvable and has 48 incidents reported, no positive forensic results for Ketamine, GHB, and Rohypnol to date. The forensics awaited for 4 cases in Congleton.

Enforcement

- Force priority tackling county lines drug dealing. 4 Drug Warrants conducted on Tue 25th (High Street, Woolston Avenue, Fern Crescent, & Macclesfield) resulting in 3 arrests and seizures of Class B (Cannabis) and cash and goods. Investigations and safeguarding efforts on-going.

Prevention

- Force has invested In Selecta DNA Packs PCSO's delivering to communities
- Bike Marking re-started with first sessions in the Town Centre/Astbury Mere last week
- More foot patrols, town centre, Congleton Park, Astbury Mere and Biddulph Valley Way.

Anti-Social Behaviour (23) down by 52 incidents Year on Year

- No ASB Repeat locations however still have anecdotal evidence of youths at Morrison's/Market, patrols increased resulting in ASB alerts.
- Burglary at Wild and Wild involving the same group which remains under investigation.
- Advice remains **Report, Report, Report.**

Community Impact Assessment

- Following a stabbing in Congleton East. 4 Adults arrested and under investigation.
- Suspect remanded in custody and investigations on-going.

Domestic Abuse Incidents (57) up 5 incidents Year on Year

Total Sexual Offences: 7 up 1 incident Year on Year

Hate (1)

- Force has introduced a new support service provided by Remedi to support victims through the criminal justice process. Referred at Point of contact.

Congleton Beat Team Priorities

1. Drug Enforcement Congleton EAST
2. 2 x Complex People have attracted problem-solving packages.

NOTE

- Force looking to recruit new PCSOs from April
- Congleton Beat Team is also expecting 2 new PCs
- The last Community and Environment Committee for Stg Paul Brunton, the new Sergeant will be Kevin Williams.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	8		
REPORT TITLE	Community Support for Ukraine		
Background	<p>The Congleton community, like communities across the UK, has been helping people from Ukraine initially through donations and now starting to prepare to welcome them as guests in homes in Congleton and the surrounding parishes.</p> <p>Community Support for Ukraine has been added to the agenda so that the Town Council can discuss the issue and agree on actions that the Town Council can take to support the community.</p> <p>This is a fast-moving topic and there is a briefing for Town Council officers on the 31st March which will be used to update members at the committee meeting.</p> <p>It is expected that Ukrainians will start to arrive in Congleton next week.</p> <p>Initial thoughts on areas that the Town Council may wish to consider include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination and supporting hosts • Space for hosts to meet • Space for Ukrainians to meet • Language lessons • Connecting into the local community/Providing volunteer opportunities • Meeting needs when in Congleton • Facilitating communications for hosts • Linking with the parishes who are also hosting people from Ukraine 		
Proposal	For Congleton Town Council to form a subgroup to help make Ukrainian people as welcome as possible when arriving in Congleton.		
Environmental	Not yet known – although likely to be around practical support.		
Equality	Supporting some of the more vulnerable members of society to feel welcomed and settled in our town.		
Financial	Not yet known		
Decision Requested	For Congleton Town Council to show leadership and commitment to supporting Ukrainian guests in the town over the coming months. Actions to be decided at the meeting.		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	9		
REPORT TITLE	Updates 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 or resolution.</p> <p>The paper is for noting and is an opportunity to feedback on issues from this committee.</p>		
Updates	<p>49/21/22 -Cherry Trees for the Queen's Green Canopy for the Jubilee. 70 Trees have been planted across Congleton and will be registered with the QGC.</p> <p>20 of the trees were planted in schools and nursing homes.</p> <p>43 were planted on grass verges.</p> <p>The remaining 7 will be places in churches and other open spaces.</p> <p>The Town Mayor planted a ceremonial tree at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital.</p>		



PROPOSALS

To note the update report.

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Virtual Meeting – Thursday ^{3rd} March 2022

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Rob Moreton, Glen Williams, Stg Paul Brunton, (CEC), Paul Bestwick (CEC), Jackie MacArthur (CTC)

1. Apologies: Ruth Burgess (CTC), Cllr Dawn Allen, Cllr Denis Murphy, Julia Pessall Hassell

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
2.	Notes of 6/1/22	accepted by group		
3.	Action Log a) Completed b) Ongoing but not on the agenda	Police Crime Commissioner attend CE Committee. CCTV Camera on Lawton Street is confirmed as working Youth Event at Bamboogy – discussions not started Spiking - no incidents in the past 6 weeks. Of those previously tested urine samples came back negative and awaiting blood results	Cllr Rob Moreton Police	Closed
4.	Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Police aware of 8 incidents in the Night-time Economy relating to a disorder Hotspots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Property: Developing Intelligence for warrant Congleton East Note that the smell of Cannabis is not enough for a stop and search, but if Police have good reason to believe that a person has cannabis on them, they can stop and search.	Congleton Police Police	Ongoing

5.	Anti-Social Behaviour and Young Offenders	<p>Currently having an issue with a group of young people in the Town Centre. Total Reported Demand attributable to group:</p> <p>Jan: 9 Feb: 47 Mar: 0 (on March 3) This includes Anti-Social Behaviour, Public Order offence, Assault, and Damage. 43% of the incidents occurred in the former Public Space Protection Order area – leading to a question of can we get the PSPO back in place for Congleton.</p> <p>Majority of other issues were in the vicinity of Congleton Library, Morrisons and the Community Garden. Action taken by Police includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional 4 PCs on foot Thu-Sun's for the last 2 weeks • Review of every incident to identify nominal/enforcement opportunity • 5 48-hour Dispersal zones implemented • CCTV room briefing pack • Raised ASB alerts in relation to 29 Incidents = 15 people with warnings or invites • 13 Arrests to date & Bail conditions for 12 – not to enter town centre/go out after 5 • Home visits to ensure bail compliance • 12 Reside with Plus Dane – tenancy enforcement • Youth workers briefed and conducting town patrols • Prevention Assemblies at our high schools • Vulnerability Assessment of all 23 youths identified. • Referral to complex youths for 2 • Displacement – Park & Biddulph Beat • Raised to the Multi Agency Group for early consideration of PSPO <p>Cheshire East Anti-Social Behaviour team: Written 39 letters to 15 people relating to 29 incidents.</p> <p>Congleton Shops – set up a SAFE PLACE scheme for vulnerable people to wait if feeling intimidated in town.</p>	<p>Police Report</p> <p>Jackie Mac</p> <p>Jackie Mac / Denis/ CCTV</p>	<p>Feb</p>
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	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
		<p>Keeping a watching brief - may be worth hosting a meeting for concerned parents. Ask that everyone makes the time to report incidents, as this helps to generate more police support to deal with the issues.</p> <p>Involve young people in the SHOUT campaign - and designing materials to reduce ASB</p> <p>Noted with a PSPO under 18s are not usually fined by CEC and it can take around a year to get a PSPO in place.</p>		
6.	Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences	<p>38 Domestic Violence cases – down 12 since last period and the same year on year.</p> <p>7 Sexual Offences cases – up 1 on last time and up 3 Year on Year.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse clinics in Congleton are looking to add a Peer Support Group soon and seeking funding to maintain service in the future.</p>	Kay -to report to next meeting	
7.	Youth Related Issues	Covered in ASB		
8.	Police Priorities	<p>Spiking in the Town Centre</p> <p>ASB in the Town Centre</p> <p>Dealing with people causing harassment to services and support agencies</p> <p>Two people who likely to get behaviour orders for unnecessary repeat demands.</p> <p>Sergeant Paul Brunton leaving in March. John Roberts will replace him but do not yet have a start date.</p>	Police	
9.	Update on CCTV	Jackie and Kay to arrange a visit to CCTV	Jackie Mac	
10.	Hate Crime	<p>Hate Crime 6, increase of 6 on last period and increase of 2 YOY</p> <p>Hotspot: Eaton Bank (3) Academy (12/13 years old, school disciplinary procedures but followed up with Police visits to parents and tolerance themed inputs).</p>		
11.	Speeding and Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No repeat's locations • TruCam Patrols continue • Intermittent school patrols continue 	For next agenda	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
12.	AOB	<p>Police Front Desk – group discussed implications of consultation on closing the Front Desk of 11 /16 Police Stations – including Congleton’s. Believed it was a false economy and would make it a less satisfactory service and be harder on the current Beat Team. To speak to Chief Officer about getting a Congleton response highlighting why the front desk needs to remain open.</p> <p>What can be done about Modified exhausts? Causing a nuisance around Congleton. 'There are speed cameras which measure noise – but we don’t have these in Congleton. Police can give notice to the vehicle owner. Paul suggested arranging for a Traffic Police specialist to explain further at a future meeting.</p> <p>Electric Scooters - need all the same documents as a car to use the roads and pavements – put the rules out on social media.</p>	<p>JMacA to draft a response for CTC and discuss with DMG</p> <p>JMacA to invite to a future meeting</p> <p>Add to social media list</p>	March
13.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 5 th May 2022 3.30pm – 5pm via ZOOM		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	11		
REPORT TITLE	SHOUT campaign		
Background	<p>Annie Britton, Lead Participation Worker, from the Cheshire East Youth Support Service and Oliver Probert-Hill, a Cheshire East Council Member of Youth Parliament, will attend to speak to the Town Council about the new SHOUT (Sexual Harassment OUT) campaign and to ask Congleton Town Council to pledge support for the campaign that can feature on the SHOUT web pages www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/shout</p> <p>Sexual harassment happens so often in the places where young people hang out – in person and online - you’d think it was normal. BUT IT’S NOT. From unwanted touching to sexist name-calling, there’s no excuse for this kind of behaviour, and it’s never the fault of the person who is being harassed.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council (CEC) and the Youth Council have surveyed 11-16-year-olds across the borough. 2,600 responded and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23% wanted to see changes for the better • 13% were angry • 7% were anxious • 6% were scared 		
Proposal	For Congleton Town Council to state its support for the campaign by preparing a statement for the group to use on its website.		
Environmental	None		
Equality	This project is aimed at addressing the important issue of sexual harassment amongst the young. This can have devastating consequences on a person’s confidence, self-worth and mental health.		
Financial	None		
Decision Requested	For Congleton Town Council to welcome the work of the SHOUT campaign and to pledge to support the group getting their messages out in Congleton.		

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

28th January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Attendees :

Cllr D Brown DB, Cllr M Gartside MG, G Williams GW, B Edwards BE, S Conway SC, P Pinto PP, CTC Officer R Burgess RB

1. Apologies for Absence:

Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance. - Cllr R Chadwick

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

- a. David Brown- Cheshire East
- b. Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG
- c. Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
- d. Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG
- e. Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
- f. Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG

3. Update from Bernard Pendleton on RHS - RB

North West In Bloom have put forward Congleton In Bloom for the RHS Britain In Bloom Best Large Town Finalists, A very supportive 200 word document from Bernard Pendleton has been put forward, Electronic copy of the portfolio to be sent late Spring, Also pre judging from RHS Judges to help with the judging day

4. Back to Back Gardens – Theme -PP

As part of the 2022 Celebrations, the annual Back to back gardens projects will be themed around the Heraldic Flag Project at part of the Congleton Town Council 750 Charter Year

5. ROUTE- All

See draft appendix 2

6. Marketing- Spotter sheets and info packs for all to explore our open spaces and Congleton Park – RB

Create a marketing folder for local school, youths group, nursing homes, on our different parks and gardens, including spotter sheets, fun facts and maps

7. Green Boulevard – BE

Video shown to In bloom committee of a Green Boulevard and how it could be created in Congleton.

8. AOB

- a. PP = Bee Garden awaiting approval from CEC and Ansa
- b. PP = Football Club, liaise regarding entering as a IYN, arrange a site meeting
- c. PP = Sawmill will be entering as a IYN for 2022
- d. PP= Re-branding the work on re-wilding, for example planting for pollinators.
- e. GW = Volunteers equipment now available through CEC/ Ansa includes PPE and equipment, only to be used through CTC volunteers activities.

Actions

- Everyone to go through the Portfolio, make changes and add comments for next meeting
- PP = contact all local scouts, brownies, air cadets etc regarding joining the Wheelbarrow Challenge.
- RB = Contact B Pendleton regarding our scores of 9/10, how to increase to 9.5 or 10/10 (A3 – Plant Selection, A4 -plant Quality , B2-Natural Environment, B3- Environmentally quality and resources, C1- Year around activity and future commitment)
- RB = Next Bear necessities – calendar of events of in bloom activities. Tidy Days, and Spring Clean up
- Wells Pharmacy – Pedestrian Area clean up
- Mountbatten Way – Trees to be planted in the ground not planters
- RB - CEC wildlife signs

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 7th February 2022

Location: Zoom

Time:

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Barry Speed, Heather Seddon, Ruth Burgess, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr Martin Amies Adam Linnet (CWT), Cllr Amanda Martin		
2	Notes of meeting on the 21st January 2022	Accepted as a true record – with the additional information added as highlighted in the meeting. Several members had agreed that ‘trees cannot be the full solution for offsetting’, and BS had asked for this to be in the Minutes. Jackie Mac to upload the updated version onto the website.	Jackie	February
3.	Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTC Energy Efficiency Carbon Net-Zero Roadmap for the Town Hall due diligence done, a preferred consultant had been chosen, and waiting for spending approval from Policy and Finance. Developing 2020/21 and 2021/22 carbon footprint spreadsheets being worked on by Serena, and will be shared as soon as ready. Woodland Trust offer – more research carried out by SF. Becomes even more complicated. No action to be taken for now Order for the site-specific biodiversity work has been placed and a project start meeting is planned for the 10th March 	MW/SF SVS CLOSED ST/MG/RB	March Next meeting March
4.	Green Marketing Plan Kay gave a presentation highlighting the discussions and recommendations from two workshops looking into targets, messages, what we are looking to achieve, actions we want to develop. Meeting with Congleton High School to look at what they would like to achieve	Further meeting to agree the calendar of monthly ‘green’ events and key targets for each month Group excited by the Green Marketing Plan and ideas coming from the it Important to sort out the messaging on the Town Council Website – adding Green Council to the Your Council section and Green Community to the Discover Congleton Section.	KW/JM. JM	February

	<p>Monthly themes from the Green calendar – need to work on with the other Green Groups.</p> <p>Led on to a discussion on waste and if there is more that CTC can do to put pressure on for a Household Waste Recycling Centre. Also for places where recyclable materials can be dropped off.</p>	<p>Need to do more to market the E-Learning Course Work with businesses on Green Commerce – Via Chamber of Commerce Work with Farmers on Green offers – Young Farmers and Cheshire Farmers Look at the journey of people on CTC website</p> <p>Check and link to the CEC Waste site pages - places to recycle – link to CTC web Draw up a list of what can be recycled in Congleton and what additional receptacles are needed.</p>	<p>JM SF/KW JM/RB</p> <p>JM HS/MG/JM RB</p>	<p>ASAP March March</p>
5.	<p>Citizens Assembly Held over from the last meeting. Heather and Suzy had met to discuss various ways that towns have held Citizen's Assemblies. Important to engage with the public. Should it be open to all, or a targeted group that is representative of the town? Need professional facilitator. Group moving towards a carefully targeted group to match the demographics of the town.</p>	<p>More research into groups and organisations that can help to deliver a Citizens Assembly. Asked for all members to read the Citizens Assembly web site so that a more informed discussion can be held next time. (document also attached)</p> <p>Looking to deliver before the date of the Green Fayre. To discuss at the next meeting.</p>	<p>All All</p>	
6.	<p>Air Quality Barry has supplied the data collected over the past 18 months. Question what happens next? CEC purchasing a particulates monitor – but only using in Disley</p>	<p>Find out more about the data from CEC re the traffic flows post Link Road (CEC traffic survey happening in May) Barry to receive a loan of more equipment from Manchester University for further air quality monitoring. Jackie to invite Dimal to attend a future meeting to discuss what's possible with more monitoring. Noted that paper for a future CTC C&E cttee will be prepared (as agreed last meeting)</p>	<p>JMacA JM/SF/BS</p>	<p>March/ April</p>
6.	<p>CTC Targets – updates and plans Needs to be a major focus for the group - how CTC is fulfilling its Climate Change Emergency and the</p>	<p>To add to the website. Detailed Action Plan to be made available to the Group. To speak to Serena re-updating the carbon footprint information for the Town Council.</p>	<p>JMacA</p>	<p>Feb? March</p>

	Town Council's work to reduce its carbon footprint across all aspects of its work.	To carry out actions as mentioned in item 4.		
7.	E-Learning	Obtain figures for people doing the course Needs more publicity Update to be carried out – Barry Fox (and others) to be consulted	Jackie	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Barry asked about Congleton reducing its carbon footprint – was it by 2025 or 2030</p> <p>Ruth confirmed one Streetscape team has electric powered tools rather than fuel – others will be changing to electric as equipment needs replacing</p> <p>Barry asked if there was now a TPO on the Tree at the Church House, as had been requested by Councillors in Aug 2021</p> <p>Barry noted that CTC website figures for trees and hedges are misleading</p> <p>Schedule of Meetings</p>	<p>Confirmed it was by 2025 - Jackie asked that if someone saw it in the Chronicle written as 2030 to let Jackie know and she'll correct it.</p> <p>Ruth to continue with a replacement policy of equipment</p> <p>Ruth confirmed that a TPO application had been made - to check and report back</p> <p>Figures to be broken down for clarity</p> <p>To alternate between third Wednesday and third Thursday on a monthly basis</p>	<p>Ruth</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Jackie</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Feb/ March</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
10.	Date of Next Meetings	<p>Wednesday 16th March 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 21st April 10am – 11.30am</p> <p>Wednesday 18th May 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 16th June 10am – 11.30am</p>		

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday 16th March 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Amanda Martin, Heather Seddon, , Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Adam Linnet (CWT), Barry Speed Ruth Burgess Cllr Mark Rogan, Cllr Duncan Amies, Cllr Martin Amies		
2	Notes of meeting on the 17th February 2022	Accepted as a true record – with the additional information added by Barry Speed accepted. Noted that amendments should be about errors and corrections. Add updated minutes to Working Group Page.	Jackie	March
3.	Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda	<p>Ongoing – Rewilding – all sites now approved. Planting season will begin when risk of frost decreased.</p> <p>Ongoing – <i>Green Fayre</i> - booked for 24th September – actions will be picked up in a couple of months – considering Repair café in Town Hall on the 24th September – bookings will start in April when Health and Wellbeing fayre completed.</p> <p>Ongoing: <i>Developing Carbon Footprint for 2020/21 and 2021/22</i> – Serena now inserting data and has shared 2020/21 spreadsheet with the group and in April will start on the 2021/22 sheet.</p> <p>Ongoing: Biodiversity Plan – Community and Environment Supported the paper and Council agreed to the funding. An initial meeting was held on the 10th March. The 30 sites have been agreed and working up the details. Meetings to be arranged with Plus Dane and Biddulph Countryside Rangers.</p>	<p>Ruth – streetscape</p> <p>Jackie</p> <p>SVS</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>ST/MG/RB</p>	<p>March</p> <p>April</p> <p>Next meeting</p> <p>March</p>
4.	Green Marketing and messaging	Further meeting to agree the calendar of monthly ‘green’ events and key targets for each month planed for Friday 18 th March.	KW/JM.	February

	<p>1. Plan for Updating Green Learning - Jackie</p>	<p>Action to sort out the messaging on the Town Council Website – adding Green Council to the Your Council section and Green Community to the Discover Congleton Section which will be a hub of green information. Need to do more to market the E-Learning Course Targeting Councillors, Staff, Green Groups in Congleton, schools, businesses and families. Draw up a list of what can be recycled in Congleton and what additional receptacles are needed.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>As with plan SF/KW JM/RB</p>	<p>ASAP March March</p>
5.	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Barry now has a new professional monitoring instrument on loan from Manchester University. This is available to anyone who would like to use it, eg. for a day or for a weekend. All results will be added to the existing spreadsheet as they are collected.</p>	<p>If anyone is able to help with Air Quality Monitoring contact Barry Speed Some more monitoring has been done outside Mossley School – results being analysed. Chair asked for Dimal from Airly to be invited to next meeting to discuss Air Quality monitoring that his company does Agreed a paper would be better to the meeting after the 31st March to discuss Air Quality following the next Green Meeting</p>	<p>Jackie to invite Jackie to let Barry know</p>	
6.	<p>Citizens Assembly</p> <p>Cllr Suzy Firkin discussed the research that she had carried out. A facilitator that had impressed was not able to help, but could make recommendations. Lots of different and effect ways to run a Citizen's assembly.</p>	<p>Agreed that more research needed and clearer on objectives. Lots of overlap with the engagement side of the Green Marketing Plan. More research needed before able to take recommendations to CE Committee</p>	<p>Keep on agenda</p>	
7.	<p>CTC Targets – updates and plans Work underway on the website to create Green Council pages under your Council and Green Community in Discover Congleton. Now have three years of figures. Group discussed best way to show this – Overall Carbon footprint. KPIs for the Town Hall, KPIs for Streetscape and actions taken by both. KPIs on purchasing plus development on other green initiatives by the Council</p>	<p>Heather agreed to look at ways of displaying the figures to add to the pages.</p> <p>This needs to be a priority action and would be discussed further at the Green Marketing Meeting on Friday</p>	<p>Heather</p> <p>Jackie / Kay</p>	<p>March</p>

8.	E-Learning - to keep on the agenda and not lose site off as an important tool in Green Marketing	Needs to be a part of the Green Marketing Plan and need to get more detailed google analytics from TMC to assess how people are using the e-learning.	Jackie /Kay	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Improving Recycling in the absence of a Congleton Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Noting that Congleton Town Council is continuing to exert pressure on CEC re the closure of the Congleton Site. Ideally need to make it easy for people to recycle goods that can't go in household recycling bins.</p>	<p>Ongoing dialogue with Cheshire East Officers re waste Looking for a short-term solution particularly for some electrical items and for light bulbs.</p> <p>To find out if Tesco still recycle small electrical items (they do, but you have to prove that you purchased it from them)</p>	Suzy to contact CEC	March
10.	<p>Date of Next Meetings - these were agreed</p> <p>Asked that Jackie sends out a calendar invite so all in the diary</p>	<p>Wednesday 16th March 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 21st April 10am – 11.30am</p> <p>Wednesday 18th May 5.30pm – 7pm</p> <p>Thursday 16th June 10am – 11.30am</p>		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	15		
REPORT TITLE	Green Marketing Plan and Communications		
Background	<p>As part of the Congleton Green Working Group, a sub-group has been developing a Green Marketing Plan. This group has been looking at key messages and how we can move towards Congleton being recognised as a Green Town and Congleton Town Council as a credible Green Leader – ‘walking the talk’ on environmental issues.</p> <p>This paper provides members with a quick insight into the thinking, aims, partners, key messages and key campaigns which are planned for the rest of the year. If any members would like a more in-depth presentation on the green marketing this can be arranged, as all Councillors are an important part of the success of the Green Marketing Campaign!</p>		
Target Audiences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Green Leaders and activists 2. Businesses and Shops 3. Residents -particularly families 4. Councillors and Staff 5. Schools and teachers 6. Farmers 		
Key Messages	<p>These will need to be themed to each group – but the main messages are around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is an emergency! 2. Congleton Town Council is taking strides to reduce its environmental impact. and must show leadership in this area. 3. We must all play our part – Congleton Town Council, residents, businesses... 4. By taking a few simple steps you can make a real difference. 5. Everyone is adopting sustainable behaviours, why not you? 6. Congleton Town Council has lots of resources to help you. 		
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local green leaders and activists know our action plan and targets and offer their support to achieve them. 2. It is easier for local businesses, especially SMEs, to adopt a green action plan. 3. Residents prioritise green issues, change to green behaviours, are proud of the changes they and their family are making, and expect the same from others around them. 4. Council colleagues are educated, enthusiastic and giving top priority to green issues and the environmental cost of everything we do, on an equal footing with the financial cost. 		

	<p>5. We understand headteachers' and schools' own objectives and make it easy for them to implement green projects.</p> <p>6. Local farmers are aware of Congleton Town Council's green agenda, as well as what opportunities there are for them to drive sustainability and reduce carbon footprint.</p>
Monthly Campaigns	<p>March - focus on recycling (global recycling day 18th March)</p> <p>April - focus on stopping food waste (National No Food Waste April 27th)</p> <p>May – focus on Gardening and No Mow May – national gardening week 1-8 May. Also walk to school week from the 20 – 27th May</p> <p>June – focus on walking and cycling – National Bike Week 6-12 June. National Clean Air Day 17th June. National Spring Clean fortnight 28 May – 10th June</p> <p>July focus on Plastic Free – Plastic Free July. Also Love Parks week</p> <p>August – Keep it Local – local produce, less mileage</p> <p>September Green Fayre – wide remit of Green initiatives – also a Recycle Week</p> <p>October – focus on energy efficiency in the home</p> <p>November/ December - Tips for a Green Festive Season. Green pledges for 2023</p>
Tools to be Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print and social media campaigns. • Encourage short videos on each topic of the month. • Driving people to the E-learning course on our website. • Creating a Green Hub of resources on our website and in the Information Centre. • Creating a clear dashboard showing Congleton Town Council's steps to reduce its Carbon footprint. • Organise talks on key subjects during the month. • Work with partner organisations for greatest impact. • News releases on proactive actions taken by Congleton Town Council to reduce its Carbon Footprint. • Monthly meetings to check on track with campaigns.
Environmental	This paper is all about showing leadership on the green agenda and raising the profile of green actions and activities
Equality	Improving the environment benefits all sectors of the community.
Financial	Funding has been made available through a Green Budget in the 2022/23 Town Council budget.
Decision and Action Requested	To note this report and help disseminate the messages. To complete the Congleton Town Council ‘Sustainable Living in Congleton’ eLearning course if not done already.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	16		
REPORT TITLE	30 Site-Specific Biodiversity Sites and No Mow May		
Background	<p>At the January Community and Environment Committee, the committee agreed to move forward with appointing a consultant to help create Site-Specific Biodiversity Plans for 30 sites across Congleton. This paper is to update members of the plans for the Site-Specific work and also for the Town Council plans for No Mow May, which is a campaign aimed at helping wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>30 Biodiversity Sites</p> <p>An initial meeting was held on the 10th March attended by Ruth Benson, the consultant expert on the subject, along with Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin and Streetscape Development Manager - Ruth Burgess. At that meeting, the following sites were approved for more work: (also see map in Appendix 16.1)</p> <p>West Heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Padgbury Lane/Langdale Close/Rydal Close (CTC rewilding site) 2 Thirlmere Close 3 Newcastle Road linear green space 4 Quinta Park Play Area 5 Sycamore Avenue-Chestnut Drive 6 Longdown Road-Chestnut Ave (CTC rewilding site) 7 Bowness Court 8 Newcastle Road-Solly Crescent 9 Back Lane/Hawthorne Close group of small green spaces <p>Central</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Hankinson's Field (CTC rewilding site) 11 Banky Fields (CTC rewilding site) 12 Thames Close-Townsend Road? 13 Quayside-Goldfinch Road 14 West Road (former Danesford frontage) 15 Stirling Close (CTC rewilding site) <p>Lower Heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Land off Hillfields Close (CTC rewilding site) 17 Lower Heath Play Area 18 Hertford Close-Riverdane Road 19 Lady Warburton's Walk. Ownership unclear (CTC rewilding site) 		

Buglawton

20 Mardale Close

21 Havannah Lane/St John's Road

22 St John's Recreation Ground, Play Area and River Dane floodplain

23 Redfern Avenue-Buxton Road (CTC rewilding site)

Bromley Farm

24 Bromley Woods (has an old management plan)

25 Bromley Farm Play Area

26 Windsor Place

Mossley, Astbury Lane Ends, upper Canal St

27 Derwent Drive (CTC rewilding site)

28 Isis Close-Tamar Close (CTC rewilding site)

29 Bridgewater Close (CTC rewilding site)

30 Blackshaw Close? Marshall Grove is larger but not owned by CEC.

Other alternative sites suggested:

A River Dane walkway (extent of CEC ownership to be determined)

B Area off Howarth Avenue

C Area off Pirie Road

D Congleton Cemetery (part-owned by CEC)

E Area off Camborne Close

F Area off Lamberts Lane, including bridleway

G Marshall Grove Play Area (managed but now owned by CEC)

NOTES**Not included:**

- Schools
- CEC Highways land
- Biddulph Valley Way
- Astbury Mere Country Park
- Very small sites unless as part of a group
- Sites still owned by the developer and managed by a management company (as far as is known).
- Plus Dane sites

Congleton Park together with Town Wood - as a Historic England Grade 2 registered park with Local Wildlife Site this area should have its own management plan or plans.

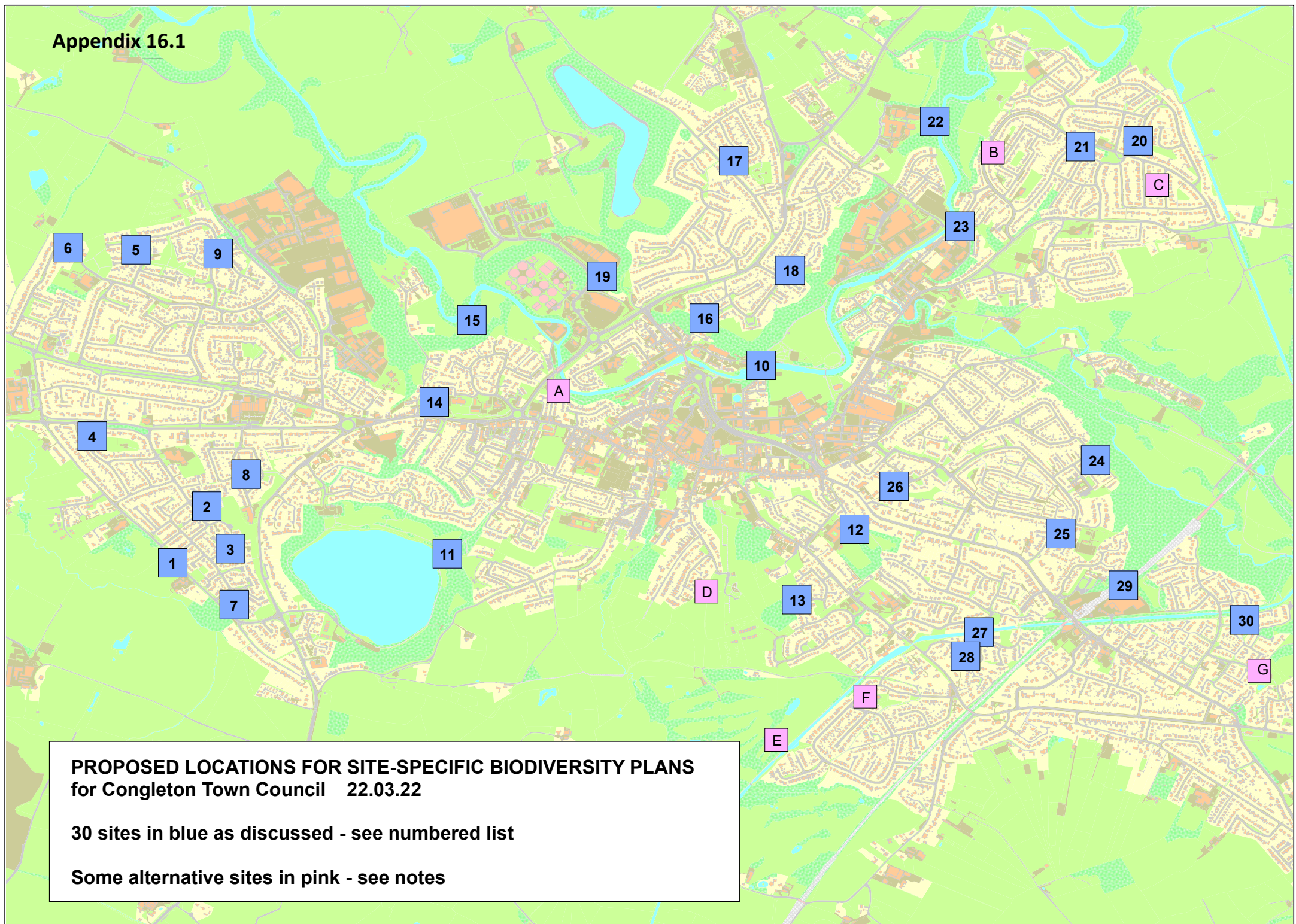
NO MOW MAY

Congleton Streetscape Services provides the grounds maintenance for the parks and many of the green spaces in Congleton under contract to Cheshire East.

Cheshire East has reviewed its Municipal Parks Strategy and as part of the Climate and Nature emergency is encouraging NO MOW May. This also fits with the Town Council's green agenda. No Mow May is a national campaign to let more flowers bloom in May to support bees and other pollinators.

	<p>Changing grass-cutting habits in May can create enough nectar for 10 times more bees and insects. This is critical for our rapidly depleting insect and bird populations.</p> <p>Our parks and open spaces are valued in Congleton and used by hundreds of people. The current climate emergency presents the Council and the community with challenges that we cannot ignore. Our parks and open spaces are essential to helping us address the impact of global warming and take actions to take to tackle climate change head-on. Cheshire East and the Town Council need to make sure that our parks and open spaces are managed and maintained sustainably, and the Town Council intends to lead by example to influence positive change.</p> <p><i>Congleton Town Council will be working with Cheshire East to adopt more sustainable methods of managing our open spaces.</i> We are committed to making our approaches to the management and maintenance of the park and other areas more sustainable. This year we will be leaving some areas of the parks and open spaces unmown. This is a simple way to provide a more diverse landscape for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, and pollinating insects. In May 2022 we will only cut where it is needed on health and safety grounds or where we must cut under contract.</p>
Proposal	For the Community and Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape adopting the national No Mow May campaign where it is safe and possible to do so.
Environmental	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
Equality	Tackling environmental issues is to the benefit of everyone. If the No Mow May has a detrimental impact on access for some community members, that area will be considered, and appropriate action is taken.
Financial	Taking part in No Mow May will positively impact the Town's carbon footprint and reduce fuel costs used for mowing.
Decision Requested	For the Community and Environment Committee to note the 30 areas where site-specific Biodiversity Plans are being developed and support Streetscape in adopting the No Mow May campaign where practical to do so.

Appendix 16.1



PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SITE-SPECIFIC BIODIVERSITY PLANS for Congleton Town Council 22.03.22

30 sites in blue as discussed - see numbered list

Some alternative sites in pink - see notes

CTC 750 Working Group

Thursday 3 February; 11am-12.30pm on Zoom

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Suzie Akers-Smith, Jo Money, Cllr Rob Moreton.
2. **Notes of the 6 January meeting:** Item 4 (d) was corrected by MG. The Priestly Path walk is not linked to the Beating of the Bounds Walk. It is a separate event, planned for June. MG in discussions with the Rector of Astbury Church. Will be reported in AOB.
3. **Merchandise Update:**
Confirmed items stocked in the Congleton Information Centre: Mugs, Keyrings, Pens, and Pencils & Pin Badges. Magnets due soon. Sample arrived for the 'Emma's painting' tea towel and A2 posters ordered. Posters cost £2.92, RRP £5.
Exploring Spreadshirt and Wristband + to set up an online shop.
ACTION: JMAC/Jess to send x1 poster to schools.

4. Update & issues on below CTC events:

a.) Mountbatten Way Banners

CEC validated the planning application on 4.2. Consensus from the group to proceed without formal consent as no objections envisaged due to CEC previously approving two similar project applications.

Invitation to sponsor letters have been issued to approx. 240 businesses. 16 businesses have been invoiced so far for a banner/s and £1250 invoiced for 'event' sponsorship. Some companies have specified banner design and preferred location.

KW & SF distributed the letter to businesses present at the Chamber of Commerce meeting. 750 webpage updated with sponsorship packages and registration form available to download. Sponsorship drive underway and work in progress.

ACTIONS:

CTC to sponsor a banner

DC to add confirmed list of sponsors to the 750 webpage

KW & SF approach businesses prospects yet to sponsor

JMAC/DC invite charities on the Partnership database to sponsor e.g. Dementia, Pride.

JMAC/DC Write to CE Youth & Mental Health

b.) Ale Taster & Catchpole

SF reported than another brewer has offered to make a 750 ale.

Recruitment has commenced for the Ale Taster! Press release printed in the Chronicle (20.1). Job description and application form online on the 750 webpage.

Social media posts to increase awareness and entries.

4 applications received to date. Closing date: 11 Feb.

ACTION: DC to produce A4 poster to display in pubs. QR code to link to online application form.

Interview process – finalise a date and interview panel. Suggested representatives: CAMRA, Chair of PubWatch, JMAC. Suggestion to appoint reserve taster/s. Issue of costumes?

JMAC updated at PubWatch – pubs expressed an interest for the Ale Taster to visit.

Low key unveiling event planned in one of the town's pubs.

c.) **Beating of the Boundaries**

SAS & JMAC have had a meeting, one of the actions is to finalise is the 'start-point'. H&S issue of 750 people starting from the same point/supervising walkers from a 'meeting point' to the start/staggered starts. Eaton Bank have offered facilities for a drop-off point, parking, refreshments. **ACTION: SAS to contact Siemens to see if they can do the same.** Anticipated that 20-30 Marshalls will be required, **approach Rotary, Harriers, Ramblers.**

Registration is through the CIC and online at Omnify. SVS setting up PayPal account. Wristbands will be issued to walkers.

Peter Hall is producing a map adopting the cycle map template for a fee of £90.

JU asked that we write a courtesy letter to neighbouring parishes and invite them to participate.

Members of the group asked for clarification of the event and improved communication. **JMAC contact SAS for an update.**

d.) **Platinum Jubilee-** New date confirmed as Thursday 2 June. Ken & Alison (FOCP) on board. Stock don't want to run the bar but will sell ice creams. One band booked. Action: Contact Cheshire Community Foundation Grant (Cathy Dean).

e.) **Town Hall Exhibition-** The Town Hall will be booked out from Sunday 3- Monday 11 July inclusive. Itinerary:

Sun 3rd-Mon 4th: Set-up

Mon 4th eve: Preview/Launch event – invite dignitaries, sponsors, press etc.

Tues 5th-Fri 8th: Schools

Fri eve: Adults formal event, JU and volunteers on duty for talks, tours

Sat 9th 10am-1pm: Open door, informal viewing. Town Crier, Ale Taster, Catchpole to attend

Breakdown!

Items to consider: staffing rota, noticeboards for exhibits, hiring a van to transport equipment from Jenny's, long term storage.

ACTION: Take pics of the Diorama for pre-event publicity.

f.) **Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park-** 13 August

Longbow archery – not booked as space not adequate, won't get insurance. Look at alternatives such as archery display, kids archery. **Jess to contact Knights of Nottingham to see if they can recommend acts on the circuit.** Other ideas: Tumbling troop, Morris Dancers, Kids Knights School, Treasure Hunt (similar to National Trust trails) e.g. Dragon/King Quest.

JU volunteered to put the trail together. The less labour intensive on the day the better.

JU raised the topic of decorating the park with spare canvas from the Heraldic flags. Type of flags and fittings tbc. Will need to be agreed asap to allow adequate time for production.

Friends of Congleton Park have committed support and offered to provide equipment.

There are plans for:

X8 charity stalls, community tent (x12 groups), bar (need someone to run the concession), food zone (Jo Money to approach food and drink contacts).

g.) Medieval Banquet at Town Hall- Town Hall and band booked for 30th September.

5. **Schools Update** – January flag workshops were postponed.
6. **Marketing** – Distribute pin badges to councillor's, officers & 750 Ambassadors. Include 750 logo on email signature's. Create 750 template for Zoom backgrounds. Set as headers on social media. Create a digital resources pack to support businesses/groups requesting to use the logo.
7. **AOB –**
Ian Doughty, Congleton Museum is delivering a Charter Year talk at New Life 16/2.
JMAC proposed heraldic bunting for the town centre as per the MBW banner designs using £900 invoiced against 'event' sponsorship. Anchor points will be needed. The group agreed the project. **JMAC to get approval from David McGifford.**
MG discussing the Priestly Path walk / open day with Astbury Church.
8. **Date of next meeting-** Thursday 3 March 2022, 11am.

CTC 750 Working Group

Thursday 3 March 11am-12.30pm on Zoom

Attendees: Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Kay Wesley, Jenny Unsworth, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy, Jess Imber, Debbie Coxon

1. **Apologies:** Cllr David Brown, Cllr Suzie Akers-Smith, Cllr Rob Moreton
2. **Notes of the 3 February meeting:** Approved by Cllr Kay Wesley
3. **Merchandise Update:**
T-shirts due for delivery. Mugs are selling well. Suggestion made to expand the range of mugs using the 750 characters.
Schools to receive complimentary A2 poster & x2 pin badges for Head boy and girl. **JM & MG to deliver with support available from group members.**
KW & JI to look at Spreadshirt online shop.
4. **Update & issues on below CTC events:**
 - a.) **Mountbatten Way Banners**
SF sold banner & event sponsorship (£500) to Ezy Talk at the Breakfast morning today.
Potential for Ezy Talk to be a Gold Sponsor.
x2 banners remaining, x1 if Franklyn sign up. **Celeste to contact Ian Cotterill**
CEC not granted planning application – **JMAC to chase**

Heraldic Flags
x23 Flags will be erected on Monday. Permission for x31 brackets currently.
 - b.) **Ale Taster & Catchpole**
Interviews taking place tomorrow (4.3). x4 candidates invited to interview, x2 confirmed at the time of the meeting. To be held at Little St Beer Cellar. x10 applications received, potential for some of the strong candidates to get involved in other roles / aspects of 750.
Catchpole – outfit and duties confirmed with Doug Parker.
 - c.) **Beating of the Boundaries**
Omnify online booking is ready to go live.
Leaflet and map at the printers, due to be signed off.
CHS have offered checkpoint facilities. Refreshments will be available with funds going to the Georgia Lee Ogden Foundation.
SF reported local companies have expressed an interest to participate.
Discussion on the start point, as to whether it would be feasible to start at any point along the route as long as walkers check in at Point 1 when they pass it. CTC have a duty of care to members of the public, one official start point would make this easier to exercise.
 - d.) **Platinum Jubilee**
Fifties & Sixties band booked. Brass bands contacted are unavailable. Contact Foden's.
RSPCA are hosting a dog show and the Harriers are running traditional games.
JMAC has applied for £1400 funding from the Cheshire Community Foundation.
A Tea Party at the Town Hall for vulnerable members of the community was considered a good idea. **Book a company to host a sequence / tea dance.**

e.) **Town Hall Exhibition**

JU and team to dress the Town Hall with flags on Weds. 9 March.

JU suggested a life size peasant hut for the display.

f.) **Medieval Festival Event at Congleton Park- 13 August**

RMc book Dreygo the Dragon and Giant Egg!

JI has contacted Knights of Nottingham to see if they can recommend other acts.

JU has supplied the Dragon Quest.

g.) **Medieval Banquet at Town Hall**

Town Hall and band booked for 30th September. Tickets sales May time.

5. **Schools Update**

5 bookings confirmed. JM has got interest from Havannah & Marton.

JM to visit Smallwood & Woodcock's Well. MG to visit Bosley.

Town sports is Wed 6 July – look at cancelling the pm session for schools. Possibility of opening to the public.

6. **AOB**

SF suggested the council run a 'fictitious' meeting with councillors in medieval attire. Attendee by the Ale Taster & Catchpole. Lichfield Council are well know for this. JU volunteered to order/adjust outfits for (un)willing volunteers! **Arrange a meeting and supply Jenny with a list.**

Priesty Path walk/Astbury Church open day – potential date 3 July. MG asked if the round trail markers could be updated as the current ones look tired.

F&D Festival is Sun. 12 June. JM would like to bring a medieval aspect to the festival. **Book the characters to attend & support Jo with acts and entertainment.** JM has lost some food traders, refer any new producers to Jo.

Date of next meeting- Thursday 7 April 2022, 11am.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	18 Chatty Benches		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Councillors have asked officers to investigate installing some 'Chatty Benches' in Congleton. 'Chatty Benches' have been added to in towns and villages across the UK. The idea is that you brand a bench with a plaque making it clear that people sitting on the bench are happy to talk.</p> <p>Cheshire East Ansa has recently installed four Happy to Talk benches across Cheshire East – in parks in Crewe, Macclesfield and Sandbach.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council Officers have assessed this as a relatively easy project which if councillors wanted could be installed in Congleton. We are aware that there are a number of benches that are not currently sponsored and that are within easy distance of other benches so that someone wanting to sit down is not forced to sit on a 'happy to talk' bench if they want to be left alone. Care will be taken to make sure any plaque is flush with the bench to avoid problems with clothing.</p>		
Proposal	<p>That if the Town Councillors wish to go ahead and create 'Happy to Talk' benches, that they delegate responsibility to the Streetscape Manager and Communities and Marketing Manager to develop a plan to install at least one 'Happy to Talk' bench in each of the following locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congleton Park • Congleton Town Centre • Congleton Community Garden • Moody Street Garden • Margaret's Place • And speak to the Trustees of Astbury Mere to see if they would be happy to make one of its benches a Happy to Talk Bench. <p>Funding for the plaques can be met from the Tourism budget and is expected to be less than £300.</p>		

Environmental	Minimal increase in carbon footprint as materials will be supplied locally
Equality	This project is aimed at addressing loneliness and isolation. Many people can go days without talking to another person. Having a passing conversation on a bench with a stranger can be therapeutic and can make someone's day that bit brighter.
Financial	The production of the plaques can be met from the Tourism budget.
Decision Requested	For the Town Council to support the proposal to install Happy to Talk benches and to delegate the delivery of the project to Streetscape with the Communities and Marketing team.