

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3rd February 2022

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.

**Clr 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.