

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 31st March 2022

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 31st March 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

CLlr Kay Wesley (Chair)

CLlr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

CLlr Suzy Firkin

CLlr Robert Hemsley

CLlr Robert Moreton

CLlr Jean Parry

Ex Officio members: CLlr Denis Murphy (Town Mayor) left after item 8. CLlr Margaret Gartside (Deputy Mayor)

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officer Serena Vanschepdael.

Town Council Officer Jackie MacArthur observed via zoom

One member of the press, one Cheshire Police Officer and five members of the public, two of whom spoke at Public Questions and two presented.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Members: Cllrs Amanda Martin and Dawn Allen.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/51/2122 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 3rd February 2022](#) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Sally Ann Holland, Denis Murphy (Town Mayor) and Rob Moreton declared a non-pecuniary interest 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

There were 12 questions raised by 4 members of the public. Questions were raised by Jackie Kay and Susie Mead in person and answered by the Chair. Questions by Olga Whitmore and Laura Miller were read out and answered by the Chair. The questions were about Congleton in Bloom planting, Pesticide-free Congleton, No Mow May, Streetscape activities and Bromley Farm Community Development Trust.

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police

PC Andy Cornell from Cheshire Police gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1.

8. Community Support for Ukraine

The Committee received an update on activities in Congleton and Cheshire East relating to housing Ukrainians escaping the war.

CE/52/2122 Resolved to note the report and to recommend that Council allocates £5k of the funding in the Ear Marked Reserve for supporting the Congleton community during COVID-19, which could now be accessed to support Ukrainian guests, hosts and activities to support Ukrainian's staying in Congleton.

9. Updates Paper from previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/53/2122 Resolved to receive the updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 3rd February 2022 regarding the Cherry Tree planting for the Queen's Green Canopy.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/54/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on the 3rd February 2022](#) and receive an update from the Chair.

11. SHOUT! Campaign

CE/55/2122 Resolved to expressly support the presentation from Annie Brittan from Cheshire East Council and Oliver Probert-Hill, a Cheshire East Member of the Youth Parliament, introducing their award-winning Sexual Harassment Out (SHOUT) campaign. The Committee agreed to publicly support the campaign.

12. White Ribbon Working Group

CE/56/2122 Resolved to receive the update from the White Ribbon Working Group on its recent activities, including gaining a further 70 White Ribbon pledges and presenting at both High Schools.

13. Congleton In Bloom Working Group

CE/57/2122 Resolved 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 on 2022 activities including the new Bee-Friendly garden. Congleton will represent the North West in best large town category in the Britain in Bloom finals.

14. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/58/2122 Resolved 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

CE/59/2122 Resolved to approve and support the [Green Marketing Plan and the Green Marketing Plan Calendar and its activities](#).

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

CE/60/2122 Resolved to receive the updates on the 30 areas where site specific Biodiversity Plans are being developed and to support the Streetscape Services team in adopting the “No Mow May” campaign where practical to do so. It was noted that some areas are cut by other organisations and some mowing will take place around children’s play areas, roundabouts and where it is needed for safety purposes or where residents have expressly requested a cut.

17. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/61/2122 Resolved to receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 3rd February and 3rd March 2022](#).

18. Chatty Benches

CE/62/2122 Resolved to ask officers to progress the proposal to brand and publicise 4-6 of Congleton's current benches as Happy to Talk benches.

**Clr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

Last 6 weeks Congleton East and West Wards

Drugs and Alcohol

Night Time Economy

- 12 minor assaults/fights/criminal damage – 3 arrested.
- Drink Spiking (1 in period). No associated sexual assaults or other crime.
- Forensic results returned for Congleton 2 out of 5 negative for spiking drugs. 1 will not be tested as out of time frame so still awaiting 2 forensic results.

Enforcement

Following a serious assault at the Library on the 12th February 2022, a total of 8 youths have been arrested for their involvement and are all currently on Police Bail. Bail checks are continuing. A further 2 youths were put on Police Bail for a different offence occurring in the town centre.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Alerts are being submitted and partner working with Cheshire East ASB team and Plus Dane is continuing to look at tenancy enforcement for those committing ASB within the town. ASB letters have been hand-delivered and parents spoken to.

12 youths are on letter 1

5 youths are on letter 2

1 Youth has an Anti-Social Behaviour Contract meeting pending

1 Youth is on an Anti-Social Behaviour Discussion warning

1 Youth has and Anti-Social Behaviour Discuss meeting pending

Prevention

- Increased foot patrols, Town Centre, Congleton Park, Astbury Mere & Biddulph Valley Way
- Op SWAN (Safer Women at Night) patrols taken place for Violence against Women and Girls. Leaflets and lip balms given out to hairdressers and beauty salons.

ASB (43) decrease 27 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.

Domestic Abuse Incidents (45) up 2 incidents year on year

Total Sexual Offences: 6 down 1 incident year on year.

Hate Crime - 3 Incidents of Hate Crime reported in the Congleton Area.

Congleton Beat Team Priorities

1 Complex person has a problem-solving package.

