

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer on behalf of Mark Bailey - Mark's Events</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Food and Friendship at Congleton Town Hall</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>This paper is to inform and seek support for a new community initiative that our Commercial Partner, Mark's Events, is planning to start running in Congleton Town Hall.</p> <p>In a time of a cost-of-living crisis, Mark Bailey, owner of Mark's Events, is planning to host Food and Friendship events at Congleton Town Hall. The exact branding and details are still being worked on and more details will be given at the meeting.</p> <p>The proposal is that there will be an event on a Monday daytime and one evening in the week - either a Tuesday or Thursday, where people who are struggling to afford the cost of cooking fresh food can enjoy a meal and some activities free of charge in the Town Hall.</p> <p>Plus Dane Housing and Biddulph Rotary have already expressed interest in supporting the venture. Several people have volunteered to help with managing and supporting the sessions and a call is going out for support activities to run alongside the food opportunity – such as debt counselling, health checks, advice sessions.</p> <p>The sessions will be held in the space that was formally known as the Cotton Club, with the potential to expand into the Grand Hall if the sessions attract more people than can be accommodated in the café area.</p>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	If the Community and Environment Committee is supportive of this project, an application may be submitted to the Town Council seeking some sponsorship funding and practical assistance in promoting the activities.		
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	Food is sourced locally where possible. Increases in carbon footprint through heating, lighting and transport to the Town Hall will need to be off set.		
<b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b>	This project is aimed at supporting those most in need in our community in the most basic way of making sure that they receive some hot, good quality fresh food and also benefit from friendships that may develop and advice gained from those friends or supporters at the weekly sessions.		
<b>Proposal</b>	To note the update report and any recommendations that come out of the discussion		