

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	22nd September 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Deputy Chief Officer - Communities and Environment		
AGENDA ITEM	16		
REPORT TITLE	Support for Ukrainian Hosts in Congleton		
Background	<p>When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, people in Congleton were quick to offer to help. There are now around 90 host families in the Congleton and the surrounding area hosting 154 Ukrainians. More guests from the war-torn country are still arriving.</p> <p>A local support group that started in Marton went on to form the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN), and the Town Council has helped this group by funding some of the English classes.</p> <p>We have received a suggestion from some of the hosts that they would appreciate the opportunity to get together with other hosts to share the issues and joys of hosting.</p> <p>A facilitator with experience in working with host families of refugees has been identified. This paper is to seek agreement from the Town Council to commit officers and up to £800 from the Ukraine support budget to organise a Ukrainian host event.</p>		
Reasoning	<p>The hosts have welcomed strangers either into their home, or into accommodation that belongs to them. Some of the guests have good English, some very little. Many of the guests are traumatised by the journey, by leaving husbands, sons, dads and other family and friends in danger in Ukraine and adjusting to life in another person's home in an unfamiliar culture. It can be stressful for both parties. The host evening is intended to allow hosts to spend time with other hosts, explore mutual solutions to common issues, share joys, pick up some hints about how to help their guests to learn English and learn some basic Ukrainian too! It is important that the hosts are supported to help them to continue to support the Ukrainian guests.</p>		
Financial Implications	<p>The Town Council has an Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) of £5,000 to support initiatives to support Ukrainians in the Congleton area. So far only £700 has been spent and a further £500 is committed. It is anticipated that £800 would be needed for this event.</p>		
Environmental Implications	<p>Minimal - usual Town Council working practices around reducing paper and using local products will apply.</p>		
Equality and Diversity Impact	<p>This is geared at helping hosts to make some of the newest members of our community feel included and supported in Congleton.</p>		

PROPOSALS	That the officers are given delegated powers to work with the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network (CAUSN) to arrange a Ukrainian host evening in the Town Hall using up to £800 from the EMR Ukrainian budget.
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