



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

27th October 2022

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 3rd November 2022

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 7.00pm.**

- **The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note** - There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally or 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 22 September 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 8.

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 or 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. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

To receive updates from the [Community and Environment Committee held on 22 September 2022](#).

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Verbal)

To receive an update from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on Thursday 3 November 2022. Notes of this meeting will come to the next CE meeting.

10. Congleton in Bloom Awards 2022 (Enclosed)

To receive a short report from the [Congleton in Bloom Working Group on the results of this year's National and Regional competitions](#).

11. Congleton Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the [Congleton Green Working Group held on Wednesday 26 October 2022 and to receive a short report from the Chair](#).

12. Integrated Transport Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on Thursday 20 October 2022](#).

13. 750 Year Celebration Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the 750 Year Working Group held on the 21 October 2022](#).

14. White Ribbon Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the White Ribbon Working Group held on the 28 September 2022](#) and receive a short report from the group Chair on this year's White Ribbon Campaign.

15. CEC Consultation on Town Centre Vitality Plan (Enclosed)

To consider a response to the [CEC Consultation on the Town Vitality Plan](#). Response needed by 8 November 2022.

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, Denis Murphy, Jean Parry and Mark Rogan

Ex Officio: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Town Mayor), Cllr Rob Moreton (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 22nd September 2022

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 22nd September 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Dawn Allen

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Sally Ann Holland

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Denis Murphy

Cllr Jean Parry

Ex Officio Members: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Mayor) and Cllr Rob Moreton (Deputy Mayor)

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford - Chief Officer
- Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer
- One member of the public
- One member of the press

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Member: Cllr Suzy Firkin

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/25/2223 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 28th July 2022 as a correct record](#).

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Rob Moreton, Sally Ann Holland and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters relating to Cheshire East Council. Councillors Kay Wesley and Margaret Gartside declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 16 and 17 as Host families of Ukrainians.

4. Outstanding Actions

See Agenda item 8 for any outstanding actions for the Community and Environment Committee.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

[Questions were raised by Lisa Miller and Olga Whitmore](#), neither attended the meeting.

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police

Sgt John Roberts from Cheshire Police gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1. Questions were raised about inconsiderate parking at schools and cyclists in the pedestrian area.

8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/26/2223 Resolved to receive the updates into items on the Skate Park, Food and Friendship in the Town Hall, Congleton in Bloom, Moody Hall and 750 actions from the Community and Environment Committee held on 28th July 2022.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/27/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 8th September 2022](#)

10. Community Safety Charter Pledge

CE/28/2223 Resolved to agree with the recommendation from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group for Congleton Town Council to take a pledge and pledge to support the Community Safety Charter. Actions from the pledge will be led by the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group. The pledge is to:

1. promote a culture that does not tolerate anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others.
2. enable others to identify and take an active stance against anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility.
3. actively encourage and support those who experience or witness anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility to report it to the relevant authorities.
4. support those affected by anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them.

ACTION: To make contact with all the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators for Congleton.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

The committee received a verbal update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group on this year's National competition and learnt that the results of both the regional and national competition would be announced in October. There will be a thank you event for volunteers in November.

12. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/29/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 4th August 2022](#). The Chair mentioned the Town Hall decarbonisation plan, Biodiversity plans for 30 sites, issues with fast fashion and the Green Fayre.

13. Congleton Green Fayre and Big Green Week Activities

CE/30/2223 Resolved to receive the report from the Congleton Partnership Officer about the Green Fayre and activities planned for the Big Green Week 2022, and supported the Green Fayre becoming an annual calendar event with an appropriate green activities budget recommended for 2022/23.

14. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/31/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 4th August and 1st September 2022](#).

15. Cost of Living Crisis

CE/32/2223 Resolved to note the results of the Congleton Cost of Living Crisis Impact Survey. Recognised that the Town Council had a role to play to support residents, as we did during COVID.

ACTION: Officers and Councillors to continue networking. Develop a plan which can be taken to the Finance and Policy Committee if finance is required.

16. Support for Ukrainian Hosts in Congleton

CE/33/2223 Resolved to delegate responsibility to officers to work with the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN) to arrange an evening in the Town Hall for Ukrainian Hosts to meet, receive some training and support. Maximum budget £800.
4 in favour, 3 abstained, 1 against.

17. Support for Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton

CE/34/2223 Resolved to delegate powers to officers to work with the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN) and members of the Ukrainian voice to enable the 154 Ukrainians in the Congleton Area to come together and celebrate their Christmas in early January in the Town Hall. Note days incorrect in the report – should be Thursday 5th or Friday 6th January. 6 in favour, 2 abstained.

18. Christmas in Congleton 2022

CE/35/2223 Resolved to receive a report from the Town Centre and Events Officer on the activities planned for Christmas 2022

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

Sgt John Roberts

Total number of crimes reported from June to August 2022 increased slightly from the same period last year. The number rose from 1189 to 1272

Anti-Social Behaviour was down from 94 incidents in June – August 2021 to 83 in the same time period for 2022. The sergeant urged Councillors to encourage people to keep reporting as even if the calls are logged as a Grade 4 (not actioned) it helps to build the picture.


Domestic Violence - number of crimes reported has decreased from 133 to 117, whilst arrests have increased from 16 to 37.

There were 100 stop and searches in Congleton from June to August resulting in 42 arrests.

Questions were asked about parking at schools, parking in the bus station, cycling in the pedestrian area.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	3 November 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	8		
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. 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>CE/15/2223 - Food and Friendship in the Town Hall</p> <p>These events have now started, with the first one held on Monday 16 October 2022. Mark Bailey from Mark's Events has also held a training session for 10 volunteers who have offered to help at the sessions and has approached local businesses about supporting the initiatives. The Food and Friendship clubs are being held on a Monday lunchtime and Thursday teatime co-ordinated by Mark's Events.</p> <p>CE/28/2223 – Community Safety Charter Pledge</p> <p>Congleton Town Council has signed up to the Community Charter Pledge and sought a meeting with the Neighbourhood Watch Police Co-ordinator to help plan the next stages.</p> <p>CE/33/2223 – Support for Ukrainian Hosts</p> <p>Contact has been made with the Congleton Ukrainian Support Network to take forward the idea of a host session in the Town Hall.</p> <p>CE/34/2223 – Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton</p> <p>A meeting has been planned for the 2 November 2022 to discuss the event details with the Ukrainian organisers. The provisional date for the event is Sunday 8 January 2023.</p> <p>CE/35/2223 – Christmas in Congleton</p>		

	<p>Activities are progressing well towards the main switch on event on Friday 25 November 2022.</p> <p>CE/62/2122 – Chatty Benches</p> <p>6 plaques have been ordered for the Chatty Benches and will be placed on the benches by Streetscape Staff</p> <p>There was a question to CE Committee on the 31 March 2022 requesting support for Bromley Farm residents. Last week the wellbeing hub at Parnell Square in Bromley Farm held a session to enable residents to say what it is that they wanted.</p> <div data-bbox="392 656 750 1128">  </div> <p>BROMLEY FARM WELLBEING HUB</p> <p>On Saturday the 22 October 2022 Plus Dane Housing organised a drop in session at the Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub with the objective of attracting comments from local residents on what matters to them during this difficult time.</p> <p>There was a good turnout and there was lots of useful feedback in relation to the following questions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What clubs and activities you would like at the Wellbeing Hub? • What support do you need or you think others need? • Are you interested in volunteering to help bring support to projects and activities?
<p>PROPOSALS</p>	<p>To note the update report.</p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	3 November 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess, Streetscape Development Manager and Congleton In Bloom team		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Congleton in Bloom Success at National and Regional Competitions		
Background	<p>Congleton in Bloom, the 10 Its Your Neighbourhood Group and 2 Businesses received an outstanding set of results in the 2022 RHS In Bloom competitions.</p> <p>Congleton was the runner-up in national large town competition and also received gold and won the regional competition, although cannot be put forward to the National finals next year. Congleton in Bloom also received a North West in Bloom Green Discretionary award for Gardening in a changing climate.</p> <p>The 10 Its Your Neighbourhoods received 7 top level 5 gold awards and 3 level 4 thriving awards.</p> <p>One business received a gold and the other a thriving.</p> <p>A tremendous set of results for the town and reflecting the hard work and dedication of many people including the In Bloom Team, Congleton Streetscape Team, all the IYN groups, the businesses, sponsors and volunteers that work together on initiatives to make Congleton greener and cleaner.</p>		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Achievements</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Britain in Bloom: <i>Finalists in</i> 2001, 2007, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 (Cancelled), 2021, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Britain in Bloom Silver: 2007, Britain in Bloom GOLD: 2014, 2016, 2018 & 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIB Community Awards 2022: Highly Commended: Green Solutions, Achievement: Community & Planting with purpose</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North West in Bloom GOLD: 2000, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011-2019, 2021, 2022 (15 golds)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Best Large Town North West in Bloom: 2000, 2005, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North West In Bloom Discretionary Award 2022: Gardening in a changing climate</p>		

2022 RESULTS

It's Your Neighbourhood - 7 | Level 5 - Outstanding (GOLD), 3 Level 4 -Thriving

IYN Congleton Community Garden- RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

Many volunteers have worked in this garden, in Lawton Street, over the 25 years since its creation from a space left derelict when the cinema was knocked down. Entered NWIB as a new IYN for 2021. Planted and maintained by volunteers, including the 'Gardening Gang' and the U3A gardening group. The garden has won many awards. It is planted with a huge variety of trees, shrubs, hardy perennials, bulbs, grasses and has 25 species of roses in the "scented" garden.

IYN Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden- RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

Congleton Bath House was rescued from demolition. A Physic Garden with a range of medicinal, industrial and edible plants was created within the grounds by Congleton Building Preservation Trust, complete with a Georgian Bath House. Open days each spring & autumn; 14 volunteers, meets every Monday 11am -1pm.

Buglawton In Bloom – RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

A team of volunteers who love gardening and want to make Buglawton "a blooming marvellous place." The team of volunteers first formed back In 2003 and has continued to improve the area around Buxton Old Road and Church House Public House. By planting many flowers, including wildflowers and trees. Meets every Sunday 10am-12pm

Bromley Farm In Bloom RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

Bromley Farm in Bloom celebrated 10 years with a Level 5 Outstanding award from North West in Bloom. Over thirty volunteers are involved with the majority being young people, as part of our youth provisions. The group has more than 20 features across the whole neighbourhood. All our displays, including hanging baskets are sustainable. The group takes care of multiple planters, wildflower meadows, orchards, a floral boat for bees, an allotment plot, tree and hedge planting, plus projects to reduce litter and dog fouling.

Hillary Avenue Allotments RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

Hillary Avenue Allotments- The association was set up 14 years ago to run the town allotments, providing 20 plots for local people and community groups to get involved. The group has an active committee that continues to develop new features, including: fruit orchard, wildflower area, storage facilities and introduction of trial plots for less mobile residents. Future plans include further activities within the new Poly tunnel.

Friends of Congleton Park – RHS IYN Level 5 GOLD

A group of trustees who look after the activities and welfare of Congleton Park. They meet regularly to discuss plans, maintenance and future projects. In celebration of Congleton Park's 150th anniversary, Congleton In Bloom, with the Friends of Congleton Park team organised for the grassy entrance into the park by St. Stephen's Church to be re-planted with wildflowers. This project will encourage biodiversity and has created an attractive route into the Park. Funding was received from housing developers, a lottery scheme and a local charitable trust.

The Old Saw Mill RHS IYN Level 5 Outstanding GOLD

Old Saw Mill Secret Garden- In April 2016 this was a derelict area and rescued for the Old Saw Mill's open day in May 2016. A group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to renovate the area. The garden was designed based loosely on Jekka McVik's Apothecary garden at Chelsea by the Old Saw Mill team members.

Vale Allotments - RHS IYN Level 4 Thriving

Vale Allotments- Close to the Town Centre, but hidden away within the small Howty Valley, which connects the Town Centre with the open countryside. The entrance is off the historic Vale Walk which connects Priestly Fields & Moody Street with Waggs Road. It has been in use for growing food for as long as anyone can remember. Bought in 2016 to save from being built on, the area now has about 30 plots, a community orchard and pond... a haven for wildlife and people.

'Wednesday Club' Congleton Football Club – RHS IYN Level 4 Thriving

The Wednesday Club is a group of volunteers who meet every 'Wednesday' they help to keep and maintain the Congleton Football grounds and surrounding area litter free, they have created their own garden, and recycle all of their waste as well as the introduction of a saving water scheme. This is the first time the Wednesday club have entered and we are all proud of their achievement

Friendly Faces Day Nursery - RHS IYN Level 4 Thriving

December 2020 saw local children's nursery 'Friendly Faces' gain its first green flag. Friendly Faces have worked on many projects with the in bloom team over the years, and this year was the first year they entered their nursery in to the IYN category showing that you learn to garden and grown plants and vegetables at any age.

Businesses

Lion and Swan - RHS IYN Gold

The Lion and Swan is a recently refurbished, family-run traditional coaching inn in Congleton town centre. This is the first time that the business has entered the competition and were delighted to be awarded a gold standard. The business had

	<p>created a wonderful sustainable gardening area, with its very own green wall which both the judges commented on and loved.</p> <p><u>Alexandra Court Hotel - RHS IYN Silver Gilt</u></p> <p>A lot of new landscaping has taken place at the front of the hotel over the last couple of years. This has transformed the view of the hotel from the road making it much more inviting. The new covered area at the back of the hotel has expanded the usable all-weather entertaining area. There is a great view of the garden from the covered terrace. The containers around the edge of the canopy are a lovely way of connecting guests to the garden.</p> <p><u>Congleton In Bloom</u></p> <p>Congleton in Bloom celebrates Golden Awards from North West in Bloom</p> <p>Congleton in Bloom picked up four awards in the North West in Bloom award ceremony held in Bolton on the 20 October 2022, and were overall category winner for the Large Town in the North West.</p> <p>The Congleton town entry was awarded gold standard. This is the 12th consecutive year in which the town has received gold in the Large Town category and the 15th gold in its 24-year history. The group also received a North West In Bloom Discretionary Award 2022: Gardening in a Changing Climate</p> <p>The team was also awarded a gold in the Britain in Bloom national competition. The town has received gold three times (2014, 2016 and 2018)</p> <p>A celebration thank-you evening for those involved in the In Bloom efforts will be held in the Town Hall on Thursday 17 November 2022.</p> <p>The group are starting to seek ideas for the 2023 campaign.</p>
PROPOSALS	To note the update report.

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday 26 October 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Ruth Benson, Heather Seddon, Barry Speed, Peter Aston, David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Adam Linnet (CWT), Cllr Martin Amies, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Ruth Burgess.		
2	Notes of meeting of 4 August 2022	Accepted as a true record Note not to lose sight of Carbon off-setting and Action Plan – to add as first agenda items for next meeting	Jackie	Nov
3	Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda	On Hold – Green Assembly - not a clear way forward and is still on hold - potentially could be used for the Biodiversity Consultation		
4	<p>Update on Site Specific Biodiversity Plan – Ruth Benson, author of the Biodiversity plan attended the meeting.</p> <p>Discussion was around the next steps and building on the detail in the plan, gaining local support and going out to consultation on the sites and developing energy and enthusiasm for the projects.</p> <p>Changes more to do with maintenance than big expenditure - adding new hedges, mowing regime.</p> <p>Important to focus on turning the plan into a delivery plan following consultation and to work out how to measure the change in biodiversity.</p>	<p>Send a copy to CWT, CEC Ecology officers, Sustainability Group, Climate Action Group, Streetscape, Groups interested in wildlife, birds, and ecology.</p> <p>Ask Ruth if Streetscape Mark could help identify biodiversity of wildlife</p> <p>Ask if Patti could link with the schools eco groups/ general comments on plans</p> <p>Add the plan to the website – Green pages – with option to leave comments</p> <p>Media around the Biodiversity</p> <p>Check ownership and who maintains each of the areas – important they understand the plans and maintain them in accordance with the plan</p> <p>First stage on getting the plan more widely read and commented on.</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie Cllr MG Cllr MG Green Mktg</p> <p>Ruth Burgess</p>	Oct/Nov
5	<p>Update on Town Hall Carbon Reduction Plan</p> <p>Many of the group members attended the meeting in August with the Consultants. Paper went to The Town Hall and Assets Committee on the 20 October 2022</p>	Find out the outcome of the Town Hall and Assets meeting conversation into the Carbon plan and circulate and add to the next Agenda. Understand that works will be part of a 5 year maintenance plan.	Jackie	Oct

	looking at the next steps on decarbonisation. Cllr AM asked about changing windows in TH	Secondary Glazing was a priority on the list of works	Jackie	
6	Update on CTC Carbon Reduction Plan Barry Speed, Serena, Jackie M and Cllr Suzy F met in October to look at the spreadsheets and check methodology. We now believe we have a consistent way of measuring and four years worth of figures. This was circulated to the WG. Seems sensible to reconsider the amortisation of purchases over their expected lifespan.	Look at the amortisation of purchases - speak to Serena/Barry Ask the consultants who developed the Town Hall Carbon Reduction Plan to cast a critical eye over the spreadsheets. (Group had every faith in Barry's methodology which has been applied consistently) When figures confirmed use data to create graphs for website	Barry/Jackie Jackie/David Cllr KW	
7	Update on Air Quality CEC Air Quality team due to speak with Jackie on the afternoon of 27/10 re data from Congleton. Barry has purchase equipment and carrying out continuous monitoring in Bromley Farm. Question raised about Traffic monitoring post Link Road	Feedback anything significant from the conversation with CEC Concern about woodsmoke – Jackie to mention it to CEC Find out when the results are out of the traffic monitoring and AQMAs post Link Road and circulate	Jackie Jackie Jackie	
8	Green Marketing and messaging Kay updated the group on the work of the marketing group. In October worked on ways to save energy at home and recycling week. Now building up contents on a green/ sustainable Christmas and concentrating on getting the green webpage complete. Noted that COP 27 is from the 6-18 November 2022 and needs adding to the plan.	Work to continue Add COP 27 to the marketing calendar.	Green marketing team	
9	Update on the Green Fayre - discussion around when to hold in 2023. The National Big Green Week is moving from September to the 11-18 June 2022. This could match neatly with the Food and Drink Festival, but a merger of the two events is problematic and the Food and Drink Festival already host a Green Fringe Festival as part of the day which attracts half of the stalls usually at the Green Fayre. Group agreed little point in replicating the following week and should continue to host the Green Fayre at the end of September with the Makers Market	Book the Town Hall for the 30th September Alert this years stalls to the date for next year Work with partners to build the Green Fayre for 2023	Jackie Cathy All	

10	Fast Fashion - Heather Seddon had put together a presentation and ran out of time at the last meeting. Since the meeting all had independently looked through the very good presentation.	Add the PowerPoint and tick list to the green pages on the website Look to work with the town's charity shops and promote the work they are doing around reuse of clothes and products		
11	AOB: Cllr AM voiced concerns about the wildlife pools in the Redrow development which don't appear to be getting any water.	Cllr AM to take some photos – then officers to contact CEC/ Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the company to establish facts and plans to improve	Cllr AM and Jackie	November
12	Date of Next Meeting -	Thursday 1 December 2022 - 10.30am		

Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 20 October 2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 4pm – 5pm

Present: Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Ant Bolding (Active Travel), Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Jackie MacArthur.

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1.	Apologies	Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Duncan Amies		
2.	Agreement of agenda	Agenda accepted – notes of last meeting not discussed as 2021		
3.	<p>20's Plenty - CEC is open to suggestions from Town and Parish Councils for suggestions on which roads should become 20 mph. Budgets will need to be agreed for the cost of the signage and Road Traffic Order and what the process will be for selecting the roads to be made 20mph. Cllr SAS suggested that traffic orders can run to £10k. At this stage CEC interested in views and priorities. A list was shared with the group containing suggestions that had come forward from the public for roads that they would like to see made 20 mph in East and West Ward as well as Somerford Parish. General discussion on principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential roads around schools • All housing estates • Town Centre roads 	<p>Arrange a ITWG meeting for the 17 November 2022 to discuss the issue face to face with maps and create recommendations on 20 mph zones for Council.</p> <p>Write out to the schools to get their thoughts on 20s plenty and also an update on if schools have travel plans (SMOTs)</p> <p>CEC has said all new housing developments should be 20mph. CTC Planning to be made aware and should request 20 mph when asked to comment on new housing developments</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p> <p>Cllrs on Planning</p>	<p>October</p> <p>October</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
4.	CEC ACTIVE TRAVEL - update from CEC on the Active Travel designs for Congleton – Clair Visco and John Davies from CEC came to a Strategy Working Group to share design works for active travel improvements from the fire station roundabout to Barn Road roundabout.	The designs have been submitted by CEC. There has not been any feedback so far, but there is a general concern that Government funding for active travel may be reduced and CEC is a national competition to projects funded.		

5.	Proposal to engage a consultant to help develop an integrated transport Plan for Congleton. The CEC active travel improvements were limited to a very localised area. The CEC Local Transport Plan is general. The group felt the town would benefit from a working with a transport professional to develop a holistic Integrated Transport Plan for Congleton – with details on the demographics, understanding of how people get about and could get about.	Cllr Kay Wesley and Jackie to work on putting together a brief to get some costings which could then go to committee as a recommendation.	Jackie and Cllr KW	November
6.	Update on cycling initiatives - Ant Bolding gave a brief update on the success of the Rickshaw and regular local trips. Group made aware of a new Climate Action Group on transport which is likely to include a cycling action group setting up on Tuesday 25 October.	Invite the new Chair of the group to a future ITWG meeting Noted cycle racks being placed in Congleton Park	Jackie	When appointed
7.	Update on public transport changes - group aware that there is no additional funding coming from Government to CEC for bus improvements. Noted the Sunday 38 service has disappeared. Andrew Barnet new officer at CEC – needs to be made aware of the work of this group on buses	Send a copy of the work carried out on buses including the bus survey to Andrew Barnett. Speak with Andrew re potential pilot bus projects potentially with a local bus supplier	Cllr KW Cllrs SAS/ KW	Oct Oct
8	Update on walking accessibility improvements – general discussion on improvements needed. Traffic lights at Mossley/Leek Road – no gap for pedestrians Bath Vale Bridge - needs a pavement Antrobus Street – crossing point Newcastle Road - pavement	Gather up the lists submitted by Ward Councillors (each Ward Councillor is allocated Highway budget for high priority improvements – note highways improvements are very expensive and budgets limited.	Jackie to approach Ward Cllrs	Oct
9.	AOB CEC has asked Ward Councillors to list their top 10 highways priorities. Cllr SAS shared hers. Keen to see lists from other ward councillors. Reminder that there is a consultation on Anti-idling	Contact Ward Councillors and ask them to share their lists Send link to staff and Councillors and put out on social media. Encourage responses.	Jackie Jackie	October October
10.	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 17 November 2022 – Face to Face 3-5pm		

CTC 750 Working Group

Friday 21 October 2022 -11am-12.00pm In person & Zoom

Attendees: Cllr Dave Brown (Chair), Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Jackie MacArthur, Debbie Coxon, Rachel McCarthy

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jenny Unsworth, Jo Money, Jess Thyer
2. **Notes of the 1 September meeting:** Approved
3. Update & issues on below CTC events:

a.) Medieval Banquet

Good feedback from guests, overall, it was a successful evening. The food quality was of a high standard and the band were great interacting with the audience. The boiler failure had a negative impact on the event – guests were cold and the food went cold quickly. JMAC working on final costings for the event. The event was not a sell out, SF said this could be due in part to promoting the event too early ahead of the tickets being available.

b.) Ale Trail & Beer Festival

All participating pubs have received their packs. No requests for additional trails received. The Beer Festival was postponed due to the Cost of Living Crisis and the uncertainty of investing a considerable sum of funds upfront to fund the festival.

The Cygnet Club is hosting a beer festival over the same weekend. CAMRA is running a Congleton Social on Sat 29 Oct from 12 noon, starting at The Little Street Cellar Bar. SF will take Ale Trail leaflets and T-shirts.

The future of the Ale Taster was discussed. Paul Boswell has made an outstanding contribution in the role. The Working Group would like to see Paul stay in post until the delayed Beer Festival has happened.

ACTION: SF will contact Benedict to discuss.

c.) Flags and Banners

The Mountbatten Way Banners will stay in situ until April 2023. Streetscape is taking down the Heraldic Flags and brackets in the Town Centre. The flags will be taken to Community Projects to dry out. Long-term storage options are being reviewed.

d.) Medieval council meeting

DB proposed to move the date to full council on 8 December. The group agreed unanimously.

It is envisaged the presentation will last for 20 minutes. Draft format:

Town Crier -Intro

Reports from the Ale Taster and Catchpole

Thanks to volunteers and sponsors (750 merch as thank you gifts)

History competition – winners' presentation

A rolling video will capture the events and highlights of the Charter Year Celebrations

ACTION: JMAC to consult with the Chief Officer. New date to be circulated Ale Taster, Catchpole, Town Crier.

4. AOB:

Date of next meeting: tbc

Minutes of the White Ribbon Working Group meeting

Congleton Town Hall 28th September 2022 3.00pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr R Douglas

2. Minutes from the last meeting 8th June 2022

Minutes of the meeting 8th June 2022 were approved

3. Review of Action Plan (updated)



210819 CTC White
Ribbon Action Plan

4. Specific items for discussion Items related to the Action Plan

As per updated Action log

5. Preparations for White Ribbon day

1. Need to book stall
2. Stall set up Big Banner stock of promotional materials need listing and stock ordering DC/KW
3. Press release KW
4. Ambassador short video – KW to
5. Flag Flying from 25.11 DM to check
6. Try to get feedback from the 3 schools who have rcd WR awareness – incorporate into materials – potential video as well J Dakin for E Bank, R Hemsley High school, K Wesley for Alsager
7. Supplier of videos -Prickly Peach or ID2 / KW to write brief / use phone cameras as last time
8. Ribbons on lampposts 24th November – volunteers req
9. My CWA conference KW to re circulate e-mail
10. Lapel ribbons DM

6. Any other Business

- Congleton Radio – debate on the merits of promoting WR via this route, further discussions required.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	3 November 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur – Deputy Chief Officer - Communities and Environment		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	CEC Consultation on Town Centre Vitality Plan		
Background	<p>Cheshire East Council is consulting on plans to revitalise Alsager, Congleton, Handforth, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow. A bespoke plan, known as a town centre vitality plan' (TCVP), has been created for each centre highlighting potential priorities for the town. The Town Councils have been consulted on the development of the plans.</p> <p>The objective is to provide a clear sense of direction for supporting the town, that has public backing, so that actions can be taken forward as and when opportunities arise and resources allow. Knowing that proposals are supported by the public and has local authority support is important for attracting funding.</p> <p>This paper is to alert members to the consultation on the Congleton Town Vitality Plan and seek common ground to formulate a response from the Community and Environment Committee ahead of the close of consultation on the 8 November 2022.</p>		
The Plan	<p>Congleton Priority Areas for Intervention</p> <p>The Congleton Town Centre Vitality Plan sets out the Priority Areas for intervention in Congleton, and the potential actions that will be taken to achieve these. For each of the ten priorities listed, respondents are asked to say whether they think the project is very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important for the vitality of the town (also an option to say don't know) .</p> <p>There is also an option to write to the regeneration team at Cheshire East with more detailed comments on the proposals.</p> <p>To aid the discussion officers have given their thoughts on the 10 proposals and given some direction to what they believe could have the biggest impact on the vitality of the town.</p> <p>The proposals are:</p> <p>1. Opportunities for change around Congleton Museum and Police Station</p> <p>The historic Market Square space to the north of the Museum and Town Hall (currently a grass square surrounded by highway) is underutilised and has a poor relationship with the Museum and Town Hall. There is an opportunity to reinstate a function to the space that supports uses and functions within the Museum and</p>		

	<p>Town Hall and could accommodate wider town wide events/fairs e.g. a Makers Market or outdoor events space, which could support Congleton's evening economy.</p> <p>How</p> <p>CEC may have long-term aspirations for the area to be developed but it has been vacant for a number of years and there is scope for it to be better used as a communal area to host gatherings and events.</p> <p>Short term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temporary lighting. 2. Coordination with landowners/licensing with Council to allow access Closure to car parking on event days. 3. Removal of post & rail fencing. 4. Introduce seating and shelter for dwell space on non-event days. <p>Officer Response: This is an interesting proposal, it is a great site that is currently has no purpose. CTC and Congleton in Bloom has asked a number of times to use this site and so we believe we should welcome the opportunity to open up the space to public use and to improve the link from the bus station to this area. TOP LEVEL SUPPORT.</p> <p>2. Repairing the severance and impact of Mountbatten Way</p> <p>Mountbatten Way is an imposing feature. It is vehicle dominated, restricts pedestrian movement and creates severance between the town centre and its northern areas, including the park. This limits its ability to grow to the north. The roundabouts also create major barriers to pedestrian and cycle movement.</p> <p>How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the width of the vehicle carriageways, potentially reducing the number of vehicle lanes for a shorter distance for pedestrians to cross • Traffic calming along Mountbatten Way to slow traffic speeds and allow for more opportunities to incorporate pedestrian crossings. Reinstating historic Park Road across Mountbatten Way to connect the Park with the Town's historic Town Hall • Creating redevelopment opportunities to the south, with scope for active ground floor uses to front onto and address Mountbatten Way • Introduce more soft landscape features to visually enhance the corridor • Introduce cycle lanes and bus routes to promote more sustainable development • Expand the public realm on Bridge St to other key town centre streets. This should include High St, Lawton St, Mill St, Swan Bank and West St. • Progress a phased and costed study for Mountbatten Way reduce this severance. • Enhance the gateway node at Market St to reveal the town centre, which currently turns its back to Mountbatten Way. • Enhance the connection with the riverside particularly via Park Road
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Officer Response: This was in the Town Centre Plan from 2012 and although would make the town more attractive for active travel and improve connectivity between the park and town centre, the costs will be huge and there are other priorities which are more likely to come to fruition. Level 2 support.

3. Enhancing Walking and Cycling

Congleton is connected to National Cycle Network Route 55 which links to Biddulph and Stoke-on-Trent and north to Macclesfield. However, there is potential to improve the walking and cycle network in Congleton and encourage more trips to be made to the town centre by active modes. Support the introduction of high-quality safe cycling routes throughout the town. Cycle hubs linked to improve green links and introduce secure, safe cycle parking.

How

- Explore design options to create a joined-up walking and cycling network through the town centre. Explore options for West Heath to Congleton Town Centre.
- Explore options for the connection between Congleton Railway Station and Town Hall
- Provision of new/enhanced cycle routes along the River Dane.

Officer Response: This is in line with proposals supported in the Local Transport Plan, however for Town Centre Vitality we do not believe this priority will have the greatest impact on the vitality of the town and suggest level 2 for priority.

4. Opportunities for change around Market Hall

The areas north of the Market Hall are in a key location, with direct access and visibility from Bridge Street and Mountbatten Way. A number of barriers to development in this area currently exist including the change in levels, sites in multiple ownerships and historic buildings in structural disrepair. The sites collectively have huge potential for a new development which can:

- Provide a mix of uses such as retail, leisure and residential
- Improved frontage onto Mountbatten Way, Mill Street and Market Street
- Improve links from shopping areas along Bridge Street through to Market Street, Mountbatten Way and onto the river and park
- More efficient parking solutions to allow land to be used for town centre uses.

How

There is an opportunity to look at different sites within this area collectively, either informally with different landowners coming together or using a master planning or development framework approach.

Officer Response: We believe improving this area could have the greatest impact on the town and as there is a proactive developer already linked and working on the site this priority should be promoted and supported at the highest level.

5. Showcasing Congleton's Heritage

Congleton boasts a number of high quality heritage buildings including the Grade II* Town Hall which sits at the centre of a historic street. A heritage trail is available providing details of a number of buildings of heritage value. Considerable scope exists to make more of the Town's heritage assets.

How

Advancements in technology has opened up lots of new opportunities to showcase heritage assets in new and exciting ways. The use of QR codes or apps mean that the current trail on the Town Council's website could be translated into an interactive walking tour. This could also be linked to other trails - ghost trail or pub trail and to use these to encourage visitors into other parts of the town.

To work with and share best practice with other local centres also looking to make more of their heritage assets

More events focused on heritage should also be considered showcasing the Centre's other assets including the River.

Officers Response: Further promotion of Congleton's fascinating heritage can only be good for the town. It is an action that could be fairly easily picked up between the museum, town council and partnership. If funding was available to enhance the heritage this is something that we would like to take advantage of. Level 2 support

6. Making more of community assets

There are a number of community assets in the Centre including buildings and parks. Consideration as to how these assets would be better utilised to attract footfall into the Centre and serve the needs of the local community.

How

There are a number of public/community assets which sit within areas which have the potential to be brought back into more active use.

The Town Council is also active and may be willing to take a proactive role in managing some of these assets. How assets could be used in the short term to activate areas or provide revenue whilst longer term development plans are worked up should be considered. E.g. could the land in front of the museum be used for events or activities (boules/pop up food festivals/specialist markets etc).

The use of (low energy) lighting to animate areas should be considered.

Officers Response: This is an area that is of interest to the Town Council, and in the past we have expressed interest in both Bradshaw House and Moody Hall. It is a long-term plan and we would be open to suggestions from the principal authority, although a careful business plan would need to be put in place. Level 2 support

7. Raising Congleton's profile

Congleton has a comprehensive website showcasing the Centre and whilst this is a

<p>great start there are lots of ways in which the Centre's offer could be promoted to attract local residents, workers, visitors and tourists.</p> <p>How</p> <p>Consider what other information could be included on the website – local walks, cycle routes etc. Development of a brand (Wilmslow has recently done this) Linking website to other sites e.g. other centres with heritage assets such as Sandbach and Nantwich, CEC website and local visitor attractions.</p> <p>Other mechanisms to raise Congleton's profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved signage (physical and virtual via app/ QR code) • Establish Town Ambassadors • Enhanced programme of events • Engage with other similar market towns to showcase each other's assets to attract new visitors e.g. Leek, Buxton etc • Town Council's new role in responsibility for the Tourist Centre will support this. <p>Officers Response: We are always receptive to ideas to help promote and enhance the marketing and promotion of Congleton. A new website is in business plan and happy to work with other towns on mutually beneficial promotions. Level 2 support.</p> <p>8. Mobilising the Business Community</p> <p>Congleton already has an impressive network of local community groups who support the town and its amenities. It is recommended that this energy is extended more to the business community (those in the centre and in employment locations around its edges). Engaging with these businesses and encouraging them to collaborate more effectively will support the economic growth of the area. Many businesses are also considering how they can add value to their local communities.</p> <p>How</p> <p>Supporting local businesses to network and understand how they could get involved in the actions in the Vitality Plan. If actions can be identified around issues/opportunities that relate to their core function, businesses may be able to provide the following to support the Town's aspirations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship • Materials • Technical support • Volunteers <p>Businesses networking could also identify "themes" where businesses can drive opportunities forward e.g. retailer and F & B hosting a fashion show/beauty event. Businesses could also come together to established loyalty schemes to support shoppers to stay local.</p> <p>Officer response: There is always more that can be done with networking and communications and both officers and councillors have been engaging with the business community. Level 2 support.</p> <p>8. Tackling void properties</p>

The attractiveness of parts of Congleton is undermined by vacancies and the closure of a number of large stores. There is a need to focus on long-term empty units in town, however a number of smaller units have been occupied over the same period.

How

Identifying new retail occupiers for large vacant units is difficult, especially after Covid, as well as change in the retail sector. Instead of focusing on new retail occupiers it is worth trying to target leisure operators?

Flexible workspace is being looked at in some vacant department stores but usually in those with some character.

Residential is another option for smaller units on the edges of the town or above shops. To work with local developers and to complement the wider new homes being developed on the edge of the town.

Meanwhile uses and pop up stores or activities can support footfall and allow potential occupiers to test the local area.

Other short term solutions which brighten up vacant shopfronts include “wrappers” promoting the town and its businesses.

Officer Response: It would be great to bring all the buildings in the town centre back into use – whether residential, retail, business or leisure. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Cheshire East Council on any pilots to help in this area. The principal authority has powers around development control, business rates, planning and enforcement and could help us to reduce vacancy rates. TOP LEVEL SUPPORT.

10. Enhancing Public Transport

As a medium-sized town Congleton struggles to support a fully integrated and high frequency public transport network. There are though a number of services within Congleton which provide links to locations including Crewe, Macclesfield, Sandbach, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, Alsager and Biddulph and there may be opportunities to build on the Beartown bus network.

The recent CEC Bus Service Improvement Plan should ensure more collaborative working between CEC, bus operators, public transport user groups and rail stakeholders.

The railway station is an asset to the town, with hourly connections to Manchester, but connections between the town centre and railway station should be improved.

How

- Improve bus services and reduce fares around Congleton to locations including the Congleton rail station and areas such as West Heath, Buglawton and Mossley.
- Explore design options for the connection between Congleton Railway Station and Town Hall, as identified in the LCWIP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for delivering an enhanced Bus Interchange area/structure for Congleton. <p>Officer Response: Whilst we don't disagree with any of this and would love to see improved public transport, we know CEC has not been successful in gaining in Government money to enhance bus improvements and we believe some of the other priorities are more achievable in the current climate. Level 2 support.</p>
Recommendations	<p>We should write to Cheshire East Council thanking them for their interest in the vitality of Congleton and the work on this project. We acknowledge that all the projects listed would have a positive impact on the town and if funding were readily available we would be happy to work with CEC on any or all of the projects. We identify numbers 1, 4 and 9 as our top priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area at the back of the Town Hall, as this is an area that we have wanted access to for a number of years. 4. Area around the Market – this has been an area with a promise of development for two decades and currently has momentum that needs to be pushed. 9. Reducing empty buildings – as this has a positive effect and builds confidence in a town, plus CEC could add value to this priority in helping to repurpose empty buildings and positively encouraging developers. <p>We should also take this opportunity to comment on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The long term aim to relocate the museum to larger and more suitable premises. 2. A desire to reduce the number of barriers on Mountbatten Way 3. A wish to sort out the ownership of street furniture and a maintenance programme for them 4. A concern that reinstatement work is carried out correctly when utility companies carry out work in the town centre.
Financial Implications	There are currently no financial implications or CEC budget available to develop proposals in this consultation.
Environmental Implications	An environmental impact of the various options would need to be considered if taken forward.
Equality and Diversity Impact	None of the proposals should have a detrimental impact on any member of our community. All improvements should be around making the town more inclusive, and accessible.
PROPOSALS	To accept the officers' recommendation to give some importance to all the projects but to give the highest level of support to numbers 1, 4 and 9.