

Questions from Members of the Public
Community and Environment Committee - 22 September 2022

Questions from Lisa Miller – Not present at the meeting

- 1. *Are the trees in Marshall grove play area going to be removed? If so, when?***
- 2. *How many residents have complained? Have other residents been consulted about their removal? If so, how many have been consulted?***
- 3. *Does the land of Marshall Grove play area belong to CEC or CTC?***
- 4. *Sycamore tree tag 0943 is set to be felled. Given the huge tree coverage loss in this area, is it wise to be removing all of the 2-year-old trees in this area? This area is under conservation status, has the tree officer been consulted?***
- 5. *What is the Green Assembly?***

Response

Thanks to Lisa for her questions. As stated in the May meeting, following complaints and a meeting with some of the residents from the area, the Town Council had agreed to look at moving some of the recently planted trees in the autumn, when the trees were dormant and the leaves died back, and that a consultation would take place.

The agreement was to relocate 20 trees which will all remain on site apart from 5, these 5 will be planted at Bridgewater Close Open Space. The 15 remaining will be planted around the perimeter staying on Marshall grove Open Space.

A request has been sent to Cheshire East Council Planning department about the Sycamore tree tag 0943 as we have no details of this. We understand that the Marshall Grove Play area is owned by Crosstower Ltd, not Cheshire East Council.

A Green Assembly or Green Forum was discussed at the Congleton Green Working Group. They can be held in a number of different ways, either a representative group based on the demographics of an area that is selected, or a self-selecting group of individuals representing various groups in the town to discuss and form an action plan for their area. The intention is to call one for Congleton, but more work and time needs to be spent on researching and then organising.

Questions from Olga Whitmore – Not present at the meeting

I have four areas where I wish to ask questions.

The first surrounds the Green Fayre – I would like to know who is responsible for advertising the fayre, was there enough money allocated for publicity, why was there no banners at the entrance to the town or leaflets to distribute. Is CTC planning to create a Green Fayre Group which will be responsible for next year's green Fayre? How can residents be members of such a group?

Response 1

This year's Green Fayre has been organised by Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership. The publicity plan was altered slightly by the period of National Mourning, during which time the Town Council did not actively promote future events. There is a banner near Aldi Roundabout, there was an article in Bear Necessities, it has been in the Chronicle for the past few weeks and most of the publicity has been through social media and targeted advertising. There is also a flier in the Congleton Information Centre. The main event is on Saturday, but this will be followed by talks and walks next week. Following this year's event there will be a review of the activities and discussions on what to do next year. Just as with this year we would welcome the support of more people from the Congleton Green Working Group, Congleton Sustainability Group or other interested parties who want to take an active part in the Green Fayre – it's in all our interests to have the best events possible for the people of Congleton.

Who is responsible for the maintenance of the TESCO Express roundabout?

Why is it in such a poor state of disrepair?

Response 2

There is a structural problem with the centre of this roundabout that Cheshire East Highways is aware of. The Streetscape Team have done their best to maintain the roundabout throughout the year, but longer-term it needs redesigning or reconstructing which is beyond works that the Town Council can do.

Who is responsible for looking after the green spaces outside Town Hall? Why are those spaces not maintained to good standards? The area under the tree is not maintained: it is neither wild nor perennial border. Is one person responsible for its maintenance or a team of workers?

What exactly is said in the contract about those areas?

Is the area next to the library still looked after by a volunteer?

Response 3

All of our areas are looked after by the Streetscape Team. This small team is responsible for delivering the street cleansing and ground works for the town as well as rural litter picking, so greater priority is given to some areas than others.

The area by Hammond McNulty is checked over by the Congleton Streetscape service and given a major cut back as part of the winter maintenance programme. The area by the tree was planted with wildflowers this year, but they died off during the very hot spell. The contract to carry out works on behalf of Cheshire East Council does not contain any details for this area. The area will be tidied as part of the winter maintenance and a plan made for next year. The area by the library is owned by Capital Walk and we are checking on the latest plans for this area.

Finally;

Who is in charge of maintaining the wall around the Fairground Car Park?

Response 4

The volunteer who did a wonderful job of maintaining the Dutch Wall around the Fairground car park retired from that task a couple of years ago. The Streetscape Team have been maintaining it and there are plans to review over the winter, add more soil and remove some of the woody tired plants.