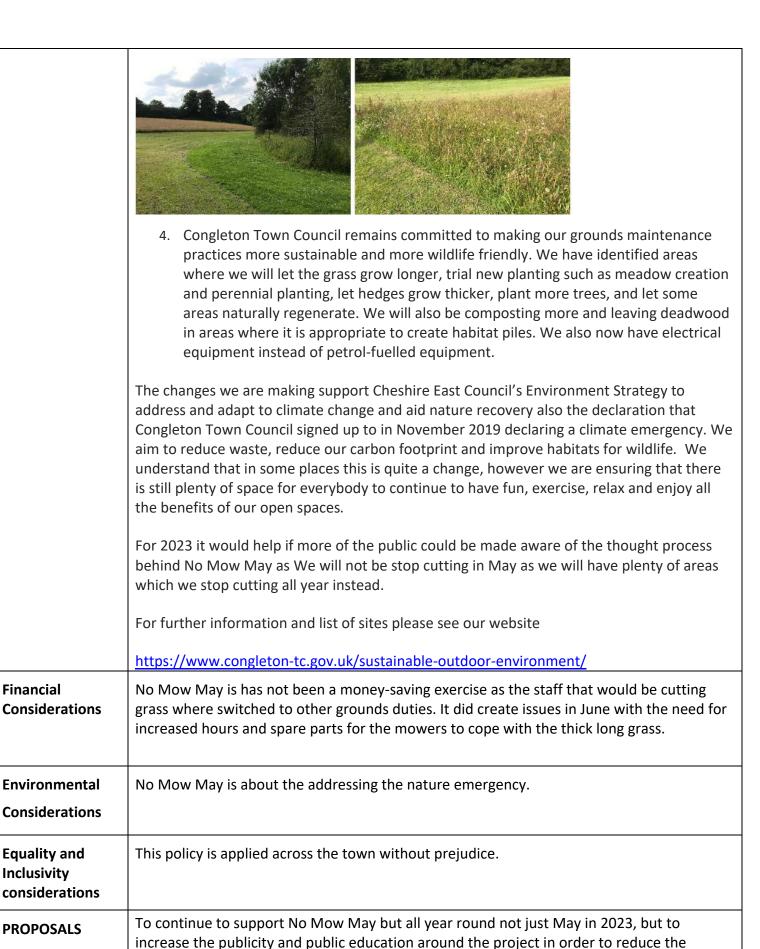
## **CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets and Services		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess and David McGifford		
AGENDA ITEM	13		
REPORT TITLE	No Mow May – ALL YEAR ROUND		
	In 2022 Congleton Town Council and the Streetscape Team embraced the No Mow May campaign. Cheshire East Council, who contract CTC to carry out the work, also embraced the campaign.  For the month of May the team only cut grass in play areas— either official or well used-unofficial play areas, in formal area such as the cenotaph and community garden, or where not to cut would have caused health and safety issues. This was part of a national campaign to give wildlife a greater chance by allowing spring flowers, food for insects and bees, to flourish to help combat the nature emergency. This is followed with less frequent cuts throughout the year.		
Background			
This paper has been written to inform members and to confirm on how the Town Councitaken to Community and Environment Community			ill proceed in 2023 this report was also
Further information	Along with any new scheme the team faced several issues, which we looked at for the following season.		
	<ol> <li>The Streetscape Manager, CTC office staff and Cheshire East Council received a number of email and telephone complaints from local people about long grass and accusing the Councils of cost-cutting. In 2023 there is going to be more publicity and education around why No Mow May is important and how it doesn't actually save any money but it is about saving nature!</li> <li>There was an expectation from many people that within the first couple of days in June all the long grass would be cut across the town. The Town Council Streetscape team is responsible for 179.016 sq m of public amenity open space and 120,732 sq m of playing fields. It takes around three weeks with the equipment and staff that CTC has to get around all the areas. With the grass being extra-long and extra thick and lush it is more problematic to cut. It is harder on the machines and contains more wildlife which is removed where possible. It also creates more of a mess as the mowers do not collect up the cuttings. In many cases two cuts were needed as the grass was too long to go straight to mowing. Again expectations need to be managed.</li> <li>CTC's commitment to the Nature Emergency does not stop with No Mow May. Where the Streetscape team has seen fit and feasible the team will leave some swathes of long grass (see image below) this is then left all year round, making a balance of being able to play safely in short grass as well as watching and playing near local wildlife in the longer grass.</li> </ol>		



amount of time spent dealing with complaints.

**Financial** 

**Inclusivity** 

**PROPOSALS**