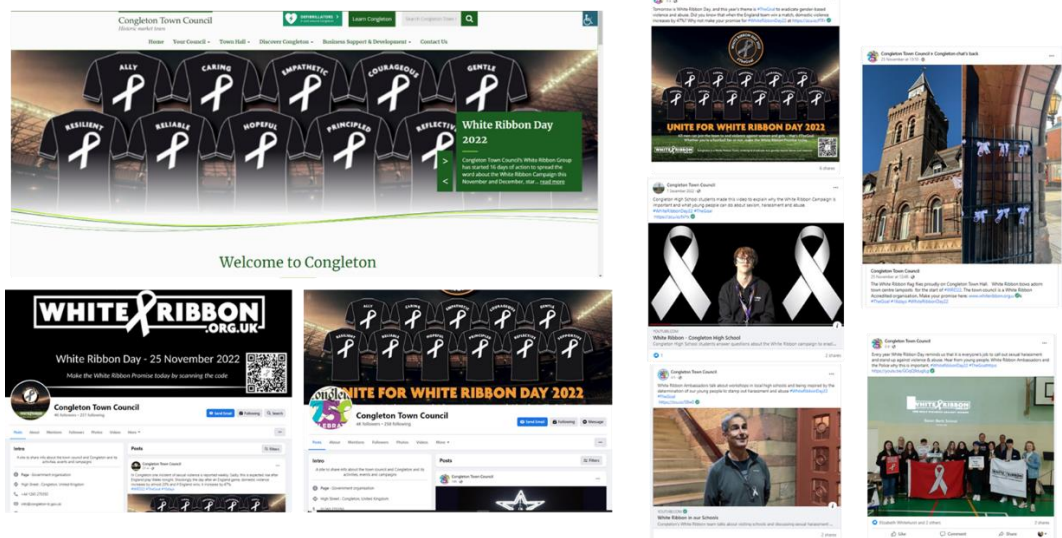


**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16th February 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	David McGifford, Chief Officer and Robert Hemsley, Chair, White Ribbon Group		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16. White Ribbon Day 2022 and White Ribbon Group 2023 Plans		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council is a White Ribbon Accredited organisation. White Ribbon is a national charity that engages men to challenge men’s violence against women and girls. Recent high-profile cases (e.g. Andrew Tate, David Carrick) have emphasised the importance of this campaign.</p> <p>Our Congleton White Ribbon goal is to “Strive to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and abuse in Congleton”.</p> <p>The CTC White Ribbon Working Group consists of Councillors, Officers and Volunteer White Ribbon Ambassadors from the community.</p>		
White Ribbon Day 2022	<p>White Ribbon Day is 25th November, which is also the United Nations International Day for the elimination of violence against women.</p> <p>It starts ‘16 days of activism’ against violence and abuse, and organisations across the country (including Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and Fire Service, and domestic abuse provider myCWA) take part in raising awareness and sharing strategies to end violence. The theme for White Ribbon Day 2022 was #TheGoal to end violence, based on the FIFA World Cup starting during the week of White Ribbon Day. When the England men’s team play, domestic violence increases by almost 20% and if England wins it goes up by 47%. (Science Direct, January 2021)</p> <p>Congleton 2022 activities for the ‘16 days’ included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Awareness Campaign – White Ribbon flag on Town Hall, white ribbons on lampposts, posters in sports clubs, pubs and CTC properties • Maker’s Market Stall – conversations with local people, handing out leaflets and White Ribbon promises • Members of the team joined The White Ribbon Conference run by CEC and myCWA which included sessions by the Police, SafeLives and Mentell. Watch the White Ribbon Conference here. • Several White Ribbon Ambassadors wrote letters to the Congleton Chronicle • The team made a series of videos featuring Ambassadors, young people from local high schools, and the Police, about why White Ribbon is important and what we can all do to help. Councillors can watch the Congleton videos here. 		

- Congleton Ambassadors took part in a Cheshire-wide [Positive Masculinity video](#) by myCWA and a [National White Ribbon Video by NALC](#) (the National Association of Local Councils). NALC has decided to become a White Ribbon Accredited organisation.
- **Churches** took part for the first time, with a [White Ribbon Service at the United Reformed Church](#) and an article in the All Saints Parish Magazine.
- **The press and local radio** had articles about the White Ribbon Campaign, our work with young people and the theme of #TheGoal:
 - [Congleton Chronicle](#)
 - [Congleton Nub News](#)
- **Social Media and Online** – Congleton Town Council used its social media channels and website to build awareness of the campaign, reaching almost 7000 people on Facebook alone.



[Download the full White Ribbon Day 2022 Report Here.](#)

2023 Plans

White Ribbon Ambassadors attended Eaton Bank School on 30th January to give a White Ribbon presentation to years 12 and 13. Engagement was high and over 90 percent of students indicated in live polling that they would like to make their White Ribbon promise.



As part of the event the Ambassadors took students through some training from the Community Safety Charter on 'Being an Active Bystander'. There is a very useful [Active Bystander eLearning](#) that everyone is encouraged to take.

The Group is in touch with other local high schools and hopes to re-run the session with them during 2023.

Recommendations

In addition to the schools, the Group has had interest from adults in Congleton and would like to invite individuals and representatives from clubs, employers and other organisations to a White Ribbon awareness session in Congleton Town Hall during the summer of 2023.

Financial Implications	Use of the Town Hall on a weekday evening for a White Ribbon awareness session for adults and other groups, supporting the work the group is doing in schools.
Environmental Implications	None
Equality and Diversity Impact	White Ribbon is a campaign intended to challenge inequalities by preventing crime and therefore protecting vulnerable people.
PROPOSAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run a White Ribbon public awareness session in the Town Hall during June/July 2023. 2. Suggestion that Councillors and Officers complete the Active Bystander eLearning already circulated as part of the Community Safety Charter.