



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

9th February 2023

Dear Councillor,

Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 16th February 2023

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 16th February 2023 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 at the meeting, including 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 3rd November 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. 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, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

- Submitted question re Town Centre from Val Scaresbrook
- Submitted question re Swans on Astbury Mere from Sharon Neild

5. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

6. Safer Streets - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Update (Verbal)

To receive and consider a presentation from Superintendent Claire Jesson on the Cheshire East Safer Streets Strategy

7. Cheshire Police (Verbal Update)

To receive and consider a verbal report from Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton and recent success in grants for safer streets initiatives.

8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)

To receive updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 3rd November 2022. This includes: Friendly benches, 750 round-up, Biodiversity Plan update, Ukraine Christmas party, Ukraine Hosts meeting, Tree Planting Update and Bromley Farm Hub.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 3rd November and 12th January

10. Congleton Community Safety Pledge update (To follow)

To receive an update on Congleton Town Council's Community Safety Pledge.

11. Congleton Green Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on December 1, the Green Calendar which evolved from the Wider Green Marketing Meeting held on January 18 and receive a short report from the Chair.

12. Low Mow Town (enclosed)

To receive a report into Congleton Town Council's plans to evolve into a Low Mow Town

13. Congleton in Bloom Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the minutes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group from the November 4, December 13 and January 20.

14. Integrated Transport Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on the 17th November and to receive a short report from the Chair.

15. White Ribbon Update (enclosed)

To receive a report into White Ribbon plans for 2023 and an update from a meeting held February 7th 2023.

16. Congleton Christmas Lights (enclosed)

To consider and approve a plan to go to Council for replacing some of the Christmas Lights ahead of the 2023 season.

17. Case for Dog Agility site in Congleton (verbal)

To consider a presentation and consider a response on the potential for a dog Agility site in Congleton.

18. Congleton Cares – survey two update (verbal)

To receive a verbal update from the Congleton Cares Update Survey v2

19. Events plans for 2023 (enclosed)

To note a report of the planned events and marketing activities for 2023

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 3rd November 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 3rd November 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Paul Duffy

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Sally Ann Holland

Cllr Amanda Martin

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 Members Cllrs Dawn Allen, Denis Murphy and Mark Rogan.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/36/2223 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 22nd September 2022 as a correct record.](#)

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Rob Moreton and Sally Ann Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

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

5. Questions from Members of the Public

No members of the public present wished to ask a question. A question was submitted by Olga Whitmore. This question was dealt with outside of the committee as it was substantially the same as the question asked in September 2022.

6. Urgent Items

Cllr Sally Ann Holland asked if Dog Agility could be added to the February Agenda.

7. Cheshire Police

Sergeant John Roberts gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1.

8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/37/2223 Resolved to receive the updates on the Food and Friendship, Community Safety Charter, Support for Ukraine Hosts, Ukrainian Christmas Party, Christmas in Congleton, Chatty Benches, and Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub.

Actions: Feedback on the results of the Plus Dane Event.
 More Information on Food and Friendship.
 Contact Citizens Advice Bureau re face-to-face service.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

The committee noted a verbal update from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on Thursday 3rd November 2022. This included a discussion on stop and search, spiking, Community Charter Pledge, seasonal activities – Christmas and the World Cup. Notes of the meeting will go to the next Community and Environment Committee.

10. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

CE/38/2223 Resolved to receive the report from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group on the results of this year's National and Regional competitions. The Committee wished to convey its hearty congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in the 2022 In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood Competitions.

11. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/39/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 26 October 2022](#) and a short report from the Chair.

Action: Noted the need for widespread consultations on the Biodiversity plans.

12. Integrated Transport Working Group

CE/40/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on Thursday 20th October 2022](#).

Action: - to invite all Councillors to the working group meeting on the 17th November considering streets to potentially put forward at 20 mph road.

13. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/41/2223 Resolved to receive [the notes of the 750-Year Working Group held on the 21 October 2022](#).

14. White Ribbon Working Group

CE/42/2223 Resolved 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.

Action: To support the White Ribbon Day on 25 November followed by 16 days of action.

15. Town Centre Vitality Plan

CE/43/2223 Resolved to approve the recommendations regarding the Cheshire East Council Consultation on the Town Vitality Plans, with the exception of Action 2 (Mountbatten Way Severance) which was reduced to 'not very important' action.

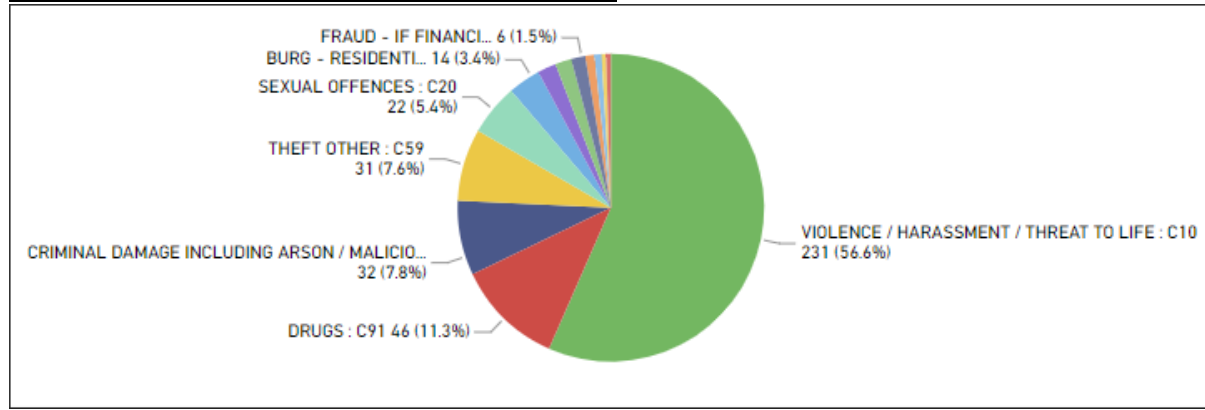
Action: For a letter to be sent to Cheshire East Council expressing the committee's view by 8th November.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

Total of 408 Crime incidents were recorded in the 3 months August to October 2022. In the same three months in 2021 there were 410 crimes.

Breakdown of Crimes August to October 2022



Drug Offences: - 1/8/22 – 31/10/22

46 Drug incidents -with 36 recorded for intelligence in 2022.
22 Drug incidents in 2021

Domestic Incidents

August – October 2022 there were 128 Domestic Incidents – with 38 arrests.
This is compared to 113 incidents during the same period in 2021– with 13 arrests

Sexual Offences

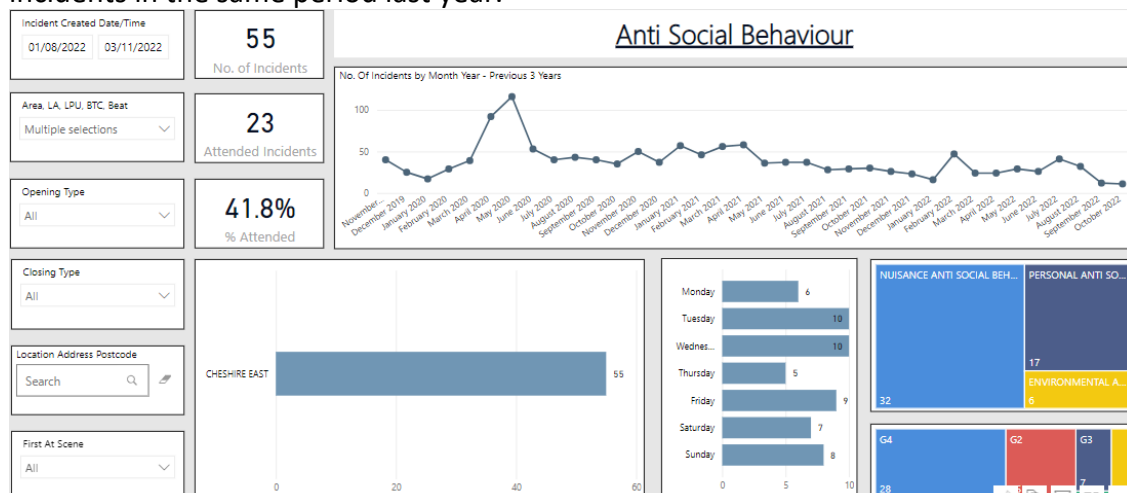
Aug – Oct 2022 saw **22** recorded Sexual Offences compared to **27** Sexual Offences in 2021.

Hate Incidents

There were no new incidents reported to Congleton August to October 2022. The Police urged Councillors to encourage people to report incidents, as concerned about under reporting.

ASB

55 incidents of ASB were recorded in the past three months, this compares with 78 recorded ASB incidents in the same period last year.



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16 February 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8. 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>After a slow start both the Monday and Thursday both sessions are now starting to attract people to the sessions.</p> <p>CE/28/2223 – Community Safety Charter Pledge</p> <p>Training has started Community Safety - Councillors will have received an email on the 13th January encouraging them to take the active bystander training.</p> <p>CE/33/2223 – Support for Ukrainian Hosts</p> <p>A successful Congleton Ukrainian Support host evening was held in the Town Hall on Friday 27th January. £470 was spent from the maximum of £800 approved for this activity. 40 hosts attended and positive feedback was received on the usefulness of the evening. The evening was intended to help hosts, many of whom have now been sharing their homes for more than six months and to advise on ongoing issues and discuss common issues – more joys and concerns.</p> <p>CE/34/223 – Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton</p> <p>The Christmas event for Ukrainian guests was held on Saturday 7th January (the Orthodox Christmas) and was very well received.</p> <p>170 guests attended. There was a church service held in Ukrainian and English ahead of the party in the Town Hall. The full £1000 allocated by the Town Council was used, with the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network fundraising for the overspend.</p>		

	<p>CE/35/223 – Christmas in Congleton</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful of the light switch on, held on Friday 25th November. A paper outlining replacement lights for 2023 has been included on the agenda.</p> <p>CE/62/2122 – Chatty Benches</p> <p>6 plaques have been placed on ‘chatty benches’ in the following locations. More publicity will be given to these when the weather gets warmer and more people are willing to sit out and chat.</p> <p>CE/43/2223 Town Centre Vitality Plan</p> <p>A Town Council response based on the agreement made at CE on the 3 November was sent to Cheshire East Council. Cheshire East Council approved the plans following a report to its Economy and Growth Committee on the 17th January. The Congleton Town Vitality Plan has now been adopted by Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>CE/60/2122 30 Site-Specific Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>The plans for the 30 Biodiversity sites have been added to the Congleton Town Council website. Seven priority sites have been agreed and work on increasing biodiversity in these areas will be launched on the 6th April at an open session at Stirling Close.</p> <p>750 Year Charter Celebrations</p> <p>This year of celebrations has now concluded and the working group is no longer meeting. All the proposed activities took place apart from the proposed Beer Festival and this has been rolled over into the Event programme for 2023. A 750 special council was held on December 8th where certificates of appreciation were also issued.</p> <p>Trees for Congleton</p> <p>Following questions at previous CE meetings, the Trees For Congleton group has confirmed that the first round of consultations for Trees For Congleton has been completed and some changes have been made to plans. Thanks to all who gave input. The revised plans are at www.treesforcongleton.co.uk</p> <p>Bromley Farm Hub</p> <p>Following the update at the last meeting, the Bromley Farm Hub group has let us know that it has initiated a Residents’ Forum working with Plus Dane, a ‘Bromley Bloomers’ gardening group and is working with partners on providing free training courses and social afternoons at the Hub.</p>
PROPOSALS	To note the update report.

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Virtual Meeting – Thursday 3rd November 2022

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, Stg John Roberts, Cllr Denis Murphy, Jackie MacArthur (CTC), Julia Pelsall Hassell (CEC),

Apologies: Ruth Burgess (CTC), Cllr Rob Moreton, Paul Bestwick (CEC), Cllr Dawn Allen,

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
1.	Notes of 8/9/22	accepted by group		
2b	Action Log a) Ongoing but not on the agenda	Article for Bear Necessities on alcohol _ Jackie – Spring Market Street Parking – action due to be taken by CEC to paint the road marking and add signs. Enforcement can then begin - by next meeting.	Jackie CEC Council	September Christmas Closed
3	<p>Police crime figures reported for August to October 2022. – Total Crime 408 in 2022 compared to 410 in 2021.</p>			

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
3	Drug and Alcohol	<p><u>Drug Offences:-</u> In 2021 22 Drug incidents were recorded with 19 of these incidents closed for intelligence. During same period in 2022 there were 46 Drug incidents reported with 36 incidents recorded for intelligence. Noted the increase in people reporting Drug Driving offences.</p> <p>No reports of 'Monkey Dust' use in Congleton, although aware of cases in Staffordshire.</p> <p>Report of a Spiking incident in town being investigated.</p>	Encourage people to keep reporting and giving potential intelligence.	
4.	Domestic Abuse and Domestic Incidents	<p>Figures for August to October 2021 – 113 incidents, 13 arrests Figures for August to October 2022 – 128 incidents , 38 arrests Congleton Police working hard for victims. PCC received £1.5 m for women and girls services in Cheshire. Specially trained officer to deal with issues, with perpetrators and intervention. Taking a holistic approach. Good work across Congleton with MyCheshire without Abuse.</p>		
5.	Sexual Offences	22 recorded, 5 of which from CHS – celebrating good work with CHS to help young people to realise what is and isn't acceptable behaviour.		
6.	Hate Crime	<p>None reported – but there is a concern about this. Police asked for support in making sure people know how to report a Hate Crime. Concern that people may think they won't be taken seriously. Need for people to be able to feel safe.</p>	CTC to look at ways to promote ways to report Hate Crime.	
7	ASB	<p>Figures for August to October 2021 90 reports Figures for August to October 2022 – 55 reports No alerts since August from CEC ASB team. Glen no reports from Bromley area. Hot spots the same – Astbury Mere. Growing concern about e-scooters and e-bikes. Continuing with education and awareness around key issues for young people.</p>	Congleton Police.	

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
8.	Community Safety Charter	Paper went to CE Committee and was approved. CTC has signed the Community Safety Charter. Need to work on engaging with the Community Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and potential co-ordinators. Applying for funding from the Proceeds of Crime to strengthen Neighbourhood Watch teams and work together on reducing crime and fear of crime and enabling people to become active bystanders in the face of harassment and ASB. Deadline mid November and need to attend a meeting on the 29 th November. £10,000 available for the former Congleton Borough.	JMacA and KW	Nov/ December
9.	AOB	<p>Question asked about funding PCSOs – CTC will be making a decision at Finance and then Council. CTC not aware of other Town Councils funding a PCSO and budgets are getting tight. However also firmly believe Congleton needs 3 PCSOs. Out of all the CEC Wards, 2 of the 5 biggest are Congleton and we do not believe the PCC formula provides sufficient PCSO cover for the 3rd largest town in Cheshire East. Decision will be made by CTC re funding early December and the Police will be informed. If CTC not funding, CTC will still want to campaign for 3 PCSOs in Congleton. Many of the CE wards are only one member. Congleton's wards are three member wards – which gives an idea of the scale of people living in the patch.</p> <p>New PCSO – to bring Congleton quota up to 3 – will start on the 28th November – Carol Holmes.</p>	JMacA / KW	Dec
2.	Date of Next Meeting	TBC - January 2022 3.30pm – 5pm via zoom	Jackie book and send out	

Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

Virtual Meeting – Thursday 12th January 2023

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, , Cllr Denis Murphy, Glen Williams, Julia Pelsall Hassell (CEC), Jackie MacArthur (CTC),

Apologies: Ruth Burgess (CTC), Cllr Rob Moreton, Paul Bestwick (CEC), Cllr Dawn Allen, Stg John Roberts

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
1.	Notes of 3/11/22	accepted by group		
2b	Action Log a) Ongoing but not on the agenda	Article for Bear Necessities on alcohol _ Jackie – Spring Market Street Parking – action due to be taken by CEC to paint the road marking and add signs. Enforcement can then begin - by next meeting. Update needed on Community Cash Back - delayed from late November	Jackie CEC Council Jackie to chase and inform group	April Closed Depended on PCC
3	<p>Police crime figures reported from 1/11/2022 to the 10/11/23 . – Total reports 829 crimed incidents 246. Same period last year 1050 reports and 358 crimed reports. This is a 27% decrease.</p>			

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
3	Drug and Alcohol	<p><u>Drug Offences:-</u> 17 Logged incidents compared to 23 during the same period last year, these can vary in types of incidents and are not necessarily specific to drug dealing, an example could be drug driving, drug use or suspected to be on drugs.</p> <p>Police not at meeting to ask about any update on spiking incidents. No new areas identified.</p>	All to Encourage people to keep reporting and giving potential intelligence.	
4.	Anti Social Behaviour	<p>33 incidents of ASB reported during this period this is compared to 43 during the same period last year. Looking at the data there have been no specific repeat locations (2 x reports from Morrisons is the highest repeat location). The team still look at opportunities to engage with children, we are also as a team working towards ensuring all persons who report any ASB are called back within 48 to ensure that a minimum level of service is provided. – Would like understand why figures decreasing – pleased they are – but is it more policing, or people less likely to report. Generally members had reported less in this period. Pubs also reported less incidents over Christmas.</p>		
4.	Domestic Abuse and Domestic Incidents	<p>89 domestic incidents have been logged for the period 1/11/2022 – 10/1/2023 (23 Arrests) compared to 101 Domestic Incidents (16 Arrests) for the same period last year.</p>		
5.	Sexual Offences	<p>10 reported (3 x via Schools) reported this period compared to 16 last year. One incident is linked to Night Time Economy in Congleton</p>		
6.	PCSO	<p>Noted that Congleton Town Council is not going to fund a PCSO from 31 March 2023. Understand that the future wards of CEC in Congleton will be changing, which if the PCC scheme stays the same will make Congleton eligible for an additional PCSO. ASB group believes Congleton needs 3 PCSOs for its size and is penalised by having 2 of the largest wards in Cheshire East.</p>		
7	Day of Action Feedback	<p>A successful session that was appreciated by the residents. Some useful intelligence gathered. Not a lot reported on cost of living crisis. Check for future dates with the police</p>	Jackie check future dates	Before next meeting

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
8.	CCTV	Upgrade happening, to improve quality and speed. Waiting for an update about moving the camera in Lawton Street and a new camera for West Street - chase CCTV /CEC	Jackie to chase	Before next meeting
8.	Community Safety Charter	Paper went to CE Committee and was approved. CTC has signed the Community Safety Charter. Need to work on engaging with the Community Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and potential co-ordinators – also staff, councillors, pubwatch and other interested groups into becoming an active bystander. Information to be sent to Jonathan at CEC Communities. Rachel McCarthy helping with this project. Waiting for news on when the proceeds of crime applications and when be decided.	JMacA and KW	Nov/ December
9.	AOB	Query about damage to railings – this has been passed to Highways Concern about intimidation on West Street Car Park returning to cars late – to refer to the Police Safe Places – request from Street Pastors about places where people can go to get help or a safe place to go late in the evening if feeling unsafe. Rachel to take to PubWatch.	JMacA / KW	Dec
2.	Date of Next Meeting	TBC March 2 2023 3.30pm – 5pm via zoom	Jackie book and send out	

Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday 1 December 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Present: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair), Cllr Suzy Firkin, Ruth Burgess, Cllr Amanda Martin, , Barry Speed, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	Apologies	Adam Linnet (CWT), Cllr Martin Amies,.Cllr Kay Wesley, Heather Seddon, Cllr Duncan Aimes		
2	Notes of meeting of 26 October 2022	Accepted as a true record Note need more notice of meeting dates and times		
3	Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda	On Hold – Green Assembly - not a clear way forward and is still on hold Green Fayre 2023 – will be the 30 th September, not further action yet Wildlife Pools in Redrow Development – Amanda actioning	Amanda	
4	Update on Site Specific Biodiversity Plan –Cllr Suzy Firkin report back Adam from CWT thought the 30 plans were excellent, all now available at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/biodiversity Seven priority sites have been identified – discussions around how to engage more people, how to be able to measure improvements in biodiversity on these sites	Meeting with Ruth B, Patti, Suzy F, Margaret G to discuss the detail behind the 7 sites. Mark Stubbs to look at wildlife and birds in the 7 areas pre actions to increase Biodiversity. More publicity on the seven areas – to be discussed by the Green Marketing Team. Look to involve the hedgehog team to see if they could input on potential improvements if these areas are/could be habitats or foraging grounds for hedgehogs.	Group mtg Ruth B Green Mktg Jackie	
5	Update on Town Hall Carbon Reduction Plan Cllr Suzy Firkin updated the group on actions by the Town Hall Assets Committee. It's slow progress but the report from Thompson consulting has been accepted. Some potential easier projects around ventilation improvement. Early discussion with a local advisor with lots of technical expertise who may be able to assist with the development of the projects	Work being developed on the Town Hall Maintenance Programme including works on the decarbonisation programme for the Town Hall. This working group will be kept undated on progress. The Town Hall and Assets Committee is the lead committee for this work	Jackie/Suzy F to keep group informed	
6	Update on CTC Carbon Reduction Plan			

	<p>Discussed the spreadsheets for the three years since the base line report for 2018/19.</p> <p>Still some areas to look at discussions around</p> <p>Separating out purchases – should amortisation be in a different programme (noted some councillors spread the carbon footprint across the life expectancy of the purchase rather than in one hit.</p> <p>Not clear why electric fell so greatly in 2021</p> <p>Vehicles currently on a 3 month rolling lease until electric becomes available</p> <p>Need to make it easy for the public to see what we've been doing, what the progress is, what the difficulties are with easy to understand graphs</p>	<p>Discussion between Barry and Serena to address this – just need to be consistent.</p> <p>RFO re checking the electric figures</p> <p>Carbon footprint of leasing difficult. Short term leases more expensive.</p>		
8	<p>Green Marketing and messaging</p> <p>CTC has continued to push out green messages in line with the Green Calendar.</p> <p>Planning a wider Green Marketing Meeting for January to include lots of the active green groups to work together on a Green Marketing Plan for 2023. To include action days as well as print and social media</p>	<p>Organise a meeting for early in January when Heather, Patti, Kay, Jackie Kay and others can make it.</p>	Jackie	
9	<p>Report back on Meeting with Eaton Bank and CHS</p> <p>Margaret said both meetings were positive and interesting</p> <p>Eco groups at both schools and keen to get involved – unfortunately the teacher leading it at CHS is stepping down.</p>	<p>Engage more with the schools and share the Green Calendar</p>		
10	<p>Meeting for 2023 - January Meeting to be an extended marketing meeting. Next meeting w/c 13 February.</p>	<p>Jackie to send out dates for meetings February, March and April then re-establish after the elections.</p>	Jackie	asap
11	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Barry S asked about off-setting. Previously spoke to CWRT about off setting but CTC too small to be involved in a corporate off setting plan. Mustn't lose site of this as CTC will need some off setting to meet its carbon neutral pledge.</p>	<p>Research into Moorlands Restoration Trust 'Moors for the Future'</p>	?	
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting -</p>	<p>w/c 13th February</p>		

Congleton Green Calendar February-May 2023		
February - Biodiversity		
DATE	WHAT	LOCAL LEAD
All month	Show the Love - climate coalition	CCA
2 February	World Wetlands Day	SDM
11 February	REUSE AND RECYCLE cafe	OSM
All month	Gardening for Wildlife	CTC
During February	CTC Biodiversity plan - initial sites	CTC
25 February	Repair Cafe	CRC
All month	Decision on Low Mow Town	CTC
All month	Refill scheme focus	CCAG
MARCH - Focus on Spring Clean		
DATE	WHAT	LOCAL LEAD
2 March	World Book Day	
3 March	World Wildlife Day	
6 - 12 March 2023	Cultivation Street Week	
6 - 12 March 2023	Food Waste Action Week	
13-19 March	Compost Week	CIB
18th March	Global Recycling Day	CTC
20-26 March 2023	Trees are the Key Awareness	TFC
22 March	The Big Walk & Wheel	CST
22 March	World Water Day	
25 March	Earth Hour	CCA
25 March - 10 April	The Great British Spring Clean	CTC
26 March	Congleton Plant Swap	CPS
25 March	Repair Café	CRC
28 March	Woodland Trust event Congleton Park	CTC
APRIL - Focus on Food Waste		
DATE	WHAT	LOCAL LEAD
1 April	Walk to Work Day	
6 April	Launching Biodiversity sites	CTC
7 April	World Health Day	CTC
7-9 April	Eco Easter event	CAG
22 April	Earth Day	CAG
22 - 29 APRIL 2023	Fashion Revolution Week	
27 April	Stop Food Waste Day	CTC
29 April	Repair Café	CRC
30 April 2023	Congleton Plant Swap	LH
End April	Eco-School notice of the Green Flag 3 months	
MAY - Focus on Being Active		
DATE	WHAT	LOCAL LEAD
All month	Low Mow Town	
All month	Meat Free May - reduce consumption	
All month	National Walking Month	CST
	International Dawn Chorus	
2-8 May	National Gardening Week	CiB
15 - 21 May 2023	National Vegetarian Week	
16-20 May	National Walk to School Week	CST
TBC	Town Meeting	CTC
20 May	World Bee Day	CiB
	International Day for Biodiversity	CTC
27 May - 4 June	National Childrens Gardening Week	
	National Hedgerow Week	
27 May	Repair Café	CRC
31 May	Every Flower Counts	

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16 February 20223 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess, Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Low Mow Town		
Summary	<p>At Town Hall and Assets Committee on January 12 the Town Council agreed to a Low Mow approach to grass cutting for this season, with more swathes of grass left for the full growing season. The minute stated:</p> <p><i>THAS /35/2223 Resolved to accept the report regarding change of mowing regimes across Congleton Town Council maintained open spaces. Action Officers to develop a marketing campaign to clarify and to actively promote the changes in the grounds maintenance programme</i></p> <p>This paper is to update members of the Community and Environment Committee on the approach being taken in 2023 and its justifications and is for noting.</p>		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council's Streetscape services provides the grounds and street cleansing services for the Congleton area. This is under contract with Cheshire East to provide a minimum service and enhanced by the Town Council.</p> <p>The Town Council Streetscape team is responsible for 728,780m² of ground areas – including bedding, wooded areas and grassed areas. With current equipment and staff it would take around three weeks to cut the grass in all areas.</p> <p>Council officers have assessed each area that the Town Council is responsible for and has decided how that area will be cared for. The mowing schedule vary from area to area dependent on the location, highway sightlines, safety, visibility and what's practical. For instance, verges where lots of people walk will be cut more often than wilder areas. Congleton Town Council is not responsible for all the public grass cutting. Some areas are cut by Cheshire East Highways, by Plus Dane or by other contractors.</p> <p>Each area will be considered individually, but overall, in 2023 mowing on areas maintained by Congleton Town Council will be reduced. CTC Grounds Maintenance schedule for 2023 is included on the Town Council website and identifies many areas where the grass will now be cut twice a year rather than 15 times. In total 266,000m² of Town Council maintained grassland will be cut regularly (15 cuts) and 47,637m² will now be left wild for the growing season and cut in the winter to encourage regrowth.</p> <p>Some of the areas that CTC maintains are large sports fields which require cutting while residents will notice that some parks and gardens will have larger areas which</p>		

	<p>are left for nature. Signs will be put up in these areas to indicate that the areas are purposely being left to improve biodiversity.</p> <p>The Town Council is mindful of its Climate Change Emergency Commitment and the Nature Emergency Crisis and the need to moderate behaviour to give nature a better chance. Urbanisation, agriculture, and climate change have caused a long-term decline in much of the UK's wildlife-rich habitat and "common" species. As a result, since the 1950s, the number of hedgehogs has fallen by 95%, turtle doves by 98% and the common toad by 68%.</p> <p>The Town Council has agreed to adopt a 'low mow' all year approach, cutting grass according to needs and leaving specific areas as wildlife areas throughout the growing season rather than just during May. Less frequent cutting, but still within the capacity of the machinery should prevent some of the issues faced in 2022 when the machinery struggled to cut the extra-long, thick grass and operators struggled to remove the wildlife living in the longer grass ahead of cutting .</p> <p>Residents will be aware of more areas of taller grass left for bees, hoverflies, butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers and moths etc. These insects pollinate 80% of all plant species in Europe, including food crops like tomatoes, rapeseed and strawberries. The longer grassed areas will usually be on banks, around the edges of open spaces and in clearly marked areas where people do not need to walk. These areas will still be checked by streetscape for litter, but will be left to grow for the season and cut back at the end of the growing season to allow the goodness to go back into the soil.</p> <p>The Streetscape manager is writing other organisations in Congleton who are responsible for grass cutting in public or large spaces to seek support for leaving more areas for nature and areas that are to be cut to cut less frequently, adopting the 'low mow' approach. More blue hearts will be placed in areas where the grass is being left to grow to help explain the policy.</p> <p>The public will also be encouraged to relax their mowing regimes to provide early sources of nectar from dandelions, clover, and grass flowers to support bees emerging from hibernation and where possible to allow some wilder areas for nature. Congleton Town Council will not be cutting any grass at the beginning of May.</p> <p>It's noted that an increasing number of councils across the UK adopt a similar 'relaxed' approach to their grass cutting schedules.</p>
Recommendations	That the committee note this report
Financial Implications	Low Mow approach to grass cutting it not a moneysaving exercise as the staff that would be cutting are switched to other duties, for example the manual weeding of playgrounds where chemical weedkillers are no longer used.
Environmental Implications	The change to 'low mow' is part of working changes to support the Climate Change Emergency and Nature Emergency and encourage greater biodiversity in the areas left uncut.

Equality and Diversity Impact	This cutting regime will be applied across the town without prejudice. The effects of climate change and biodiversity loss have an impact on everyone, but those on low incomes are most adversely affected.
PROPOSALS	That the committee notes this report.

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

4th November 2022 Meeting,
Minutes

9.00am -12.00pm – Spencer Suite

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
 - a. David Brown- Cheshire East
 - b. Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG
 - c. Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - d. Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG
 - e. Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - f. Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG
3. **Streetscape reporting Email** – Received and understood
4. **General update from RB on Celebration Evening 17.11.22** – Update on the meetings arrangements, including, invite list, schedule for the Evening and presentation of awards
5. **Buzzing Bus Stop Project 2023 – Update RB** – Email request has been sent to CEC regarding the ownership of the different bus stops and request / report on our new idea for 2023 to turn bus stop roofs green
6. **Ivy Walls** – Make more of this for 2023 route and portfolio
7. **Cenotaph Plants – Back Wall Ivy Plants (Biddulph Grange) look into a project with the community spring 2023**
8. **Plants 2023 Choice** – chosen and sent to supplier
9. **AOB**
 - a. Discuss budget and our next meeting
 - b. Agree to hold a meeting every third Friday of the month

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

13th December 2022 Meeting, Minutes

Attendees: Chair : Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Chadwick, B Edwards,
Cllr M Gartside, G Williams, P Pinto, R Burgess

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance. – None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
 - a. David Brown- Cheshire East
 - b. Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG
 - c. Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - d. Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG
 - e. Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - f. Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG
3. **Minutes approved from previous meeting** – November 2022 – approved
4. **Judges feedback report**
 - The whole committee were very pleased with the judges report from both North West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.
 - Highest score we have received
 - Both sets of judges enjoyed their days around Congleton and loved the variety of sites which we showed them.
 - Comments throughout were very positive
5. **Update from Bernard Pendleton on RHS – RB**
 - RB fed back to the committee on the correspondence between RHS and North West in Bloom regarding extra IYN groups entering and working with them in future helping to grow the in bloom status in Congleton .
6. **Back to Back Gardens – Theme**
 - Back to back gardens and wheelbarrows theme will be based around the Coronation of the King
7. **Sites list and who is main contact**
 - See separate appendix 1, for full site list of volunteer and streetscape sites based around In bloom.
8. **Budgets** – Reviewed and agreed,

9. AOB

- Biowise compost to be delivered to Congleton Park in February – free to volunteer group, nurseries, and care homes.
- More neighbourhoods will be entering next year (so far the following have shown an interest)
 - Bromley Bloomers
 - Green Gables Care Home
 - Astbury Mere Care Home
 - Heath View Residential Home
 - Tennis Club
- Need to look into further sponsorship with groups and businesses.
- Cenotaph planting at the back wall
 - Brunnia
 - Periwinkle
 - Lamium

Next Meeting

- Source potential sites for Green Wall campaign 2023
- Arrange a walk around Congleton with committee making a note of all work required

Actions:

- Create maps for different things
 - Orchards
 - IYN groups
 - Tree planting schemes

NB: ROUTE- All – start to think about ready for our January meeting

Next meeting : 20th January 2023

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

20th January 2023 Meeting, Minutes

Attendees: Chair : Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Chadwick, B Edwards,
Cllr M Gartside, G Williams, P Pinto, S Conway, R Burgess

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance. – None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
 - a. David Brown- Cheshire East
 - b. Patti Pinto- William Dean Trust, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP, FoCG
 - c. Glen Williams- Bromley Farm, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - d. Margaret Gartside- Congleton Partnership, FoCG
 - e. Bob Edwards- Congleton Partnership, Congleton Park FoCP
 - f. Sue Conway – FoCP, FoCG
3. **Minutes approved from previous meeting** – December 2022 – approved
4. **Potential Green Wall Campaign 2023**
 - a. Tesco Express Roundabout Green Wall Shrubbery (path ways go around the back)
 - b. West Road
 - c. West Street by the cricket club
 - d. Clayton Bypass
 - e. Roodhill (Potential Future project)
 - f. Mountbatten Way (Back Park St Car park railings)
 - g. Dutch Wall (Potential future project)
 - h. Bear Grills Wall (Potential Future Project)
 - i. Community Garden
 - j. Cenotaph Wall (Potential Future Project) – Posts and wire with shrubs and plants growing up the frame work
 - k. Paddling Pool create a beech hedge boundary by the front fence (Potential Future Project)
5. **Maps Action from last meeting** – Not complete carried forward for next meeting -
 - a. Orchards (PP to send list, RB to update Map)
 - b. IYN Groups (RB to create)
 - c. Tree Planting Schemes (Trees for Congleton To share the map)
6. **AOB**
 - a. Police Station Wall – take a look on the walk around 17th February 2023
 - b. Kings Coronation Planting Project – site to be chosen on our walk around on 17th Feb
 - c. Walk around the Town all members – 17th February 2023 9am
 - d. Press Article
 - i. PP regarding Orchards around the town and how to prune
 - ii. Town Tidy 4th Feb (DC)
 - iii. 6th April Stirling Close, Start of the 30x site bio – plan (DC)

- e. Working Spreadsheet – resend to all members, working with the sweeper on all estates and routes reference weeding
- f. Calendar– online calendar, where residents can download the photos and calendar (DC)
- g. Bio-wise compost – send email out to all IYN groups, care homes, nurseries etc regarding free compost from 6th March 2023 (first come first serve)
- h. Margaret’s Place – Damage 2 x trees broken and juniper pinched,
- i. Elizabeth Garden – Contractor has been out to look into and quote of new fencing
- j. Town Tidy 4th Feb – Mossley – Village Hall Meeting point
 - i. Great British Spring Clean 17th March 2nd April ’23 9 (Site Railings Clean up)

Action

- TMC – Green Roof Project arrange a meeting
- List of Highways improvements needed to be reported and chased up
 - o Steps at the junction of Roodhill and Woodside Ave
 - o Mountbatten Way Railings damaged
- Check ownership of the high wall on rood hill next to Walkers Music shop
- Queens Green Canopy – Plaques to all sites
- Mountbatten Way Tree project – DB to liaise with contractor
- Promote the Town Tidy – to the local school and community groups, scouts and guides (DC)
- Elizabeth garden posts – one is missing and one is damaged streetscape to repair
- Competition Amberol – RB to enter
- St Peters Grave Yard – Project -

Notes :

- URC Church, are becoming a ECO Church, with a community garden at the rear (PP to find more info)

Next meeting : 17th March 2023 -9am Walk around meet at the front of Town Hall

Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING – Sole Discussion 20 mph zones

Date: Friday 17th November 2022

Location: Spencer Suite

Time: 3.30pm – 5pm

Present: Cllr Suzie Akers Smith (Chair), Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, , Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Robert Douglas, Jackie MacArthur.

Observers – two residents were invited by the Chair to observe

NOTE THIS MEETING WAS OPEN TO ALL COUNCILLORS - SOLE SUBJECT DISCUSSION ON 20 MPH ZONES

Cllr Suzie Akers Smith introduced the item to debate which roads Congleton Town Council may wish to recommend to Council that are put forward as the Town Council's preferences for 20 mph zones. Large maps were present in the room.

Main points raised in the Working Group meeting:

- Why is CEC not looking at a blanket approach like other counties have taken – it is expensive and confusing to work street by street or small area by small area. Noted that in Wales the Welsh Government has passed a law for the whole country.
- CTC would want to prioritise areas where there is risk to children and vulnerable adults.
- Eight primaries and two high schools in our area – how would CTC choose which is best suited for the investment of a 20 mph order?
- It's not necessarily the road the school is on, but the journey from the residential areas to the school or places where people go that need to be considered
- Town will be divided into five wards – but it wouldn't make sense to the public for one ward to be 20 mph and not other areas of the town.
- Cllr SAS stated that it may be that CEC will look to revise the rules. It is not clear where the funding for the legal orders to change the speed limits will come from. CEC would look at funding options.
- All residential estates should be treated the same.
- Town Council had previously agreed in the Local Transport Plan consultation that it would like to see 20 mph zone in the Town Centre
- Best and most effective approach would be a blanket approach to the whole town with the exceptions of the main through roads.
- Gradually the 20mph on residential roads and roads in built up areas where there are many other types of road users will be the norm. Already adopted in lots of areas.
- Would want to ensure it doesn't become a revenue raiser.

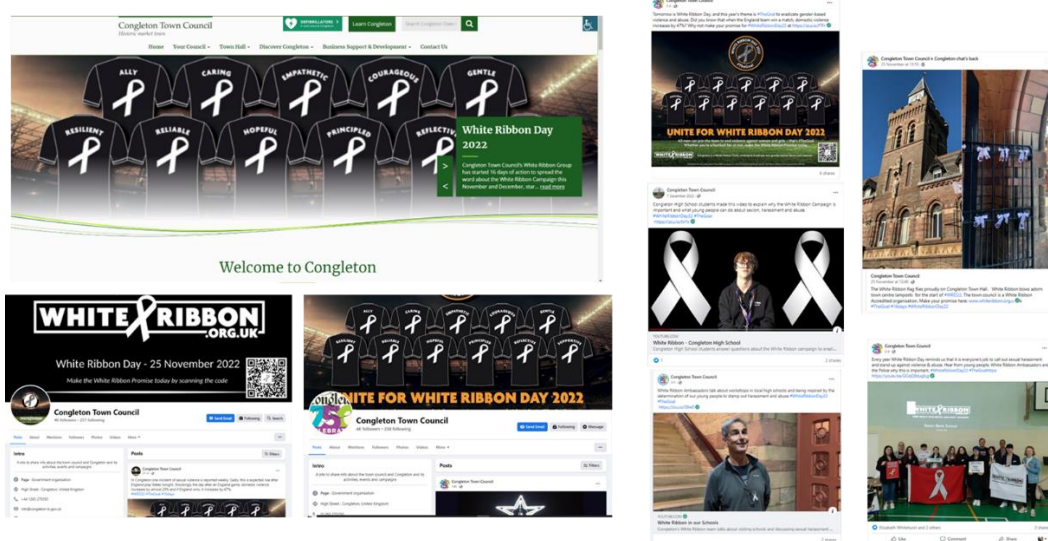
ACTION

As CEC had asked for preferences from the towns it was agreed it would be best to take a paper to Council so that a Council recommendation could be made to Cheshire East Council. Working Groups are not decision making groups. A paper from the group would be prepared for the Council meeting to be held on the 8th December 2022.

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	15. 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.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16 February 20223 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy Chief Officer, Communities and Marketing		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Christmas Lights 2023 and beyond		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council provides the Christmas lights for Congleton. This currently consists of lights on Lawton Street, High Street, Market Street, Pedestrian area, Victoria Street, Little Street, Mill Street, Swan Bank and West Street.</p> <p>The Christmas lights are installed to create a sense of pride in the town, encourage people into the town for the Festive season, create a positive atmosphere and to help create festive cheer. The Town Council has taken responsibility for the Christmas lights since 2012 and in 2013 carried out a major replacement of the town's lights.</p> <p>In 2020 the Town Council replaced the lights on the pedestrian area – including Victoria Street and Little Street, Market Street and the tree lights at a cost of £8682</p> <p>In 2021 the Town Council replaced the lights on the High Street at a cost of £1950</p> <p>In 2022 the Town Council replaced the lights in Lawton Street at a cost of £3100</p> <p>During Christmas 2022 it became clear that the following need to be replaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) The Merry Christmas Congleton sign at the bottom of Moody Street B) The two cross street banners used on Swan Bank C) The two lamp post banners on Mill Street D) The six lamp post banners on West Street E) The Cross Street banner that has been displayed in Lawton Street (this failed before installing and was not used for Christmas 2022) F) And there has been a request for Festive Lighting for the Market Area <p>This paper is seeking the committee's support for the principle of replacing the lights mentioned above and exploring options for the market area. If approved a detailed plan with costings and quotes would be prepared for Council to consider as it is expected that the costs will be in excess of £10k. This would be a capital expenditure. We are advised that lights can be expected to last 5-6 years, we have managed to keep the above lights working for 10 years!</p>		
The Plan	<p>A. We have been advised that now the making of lights is automated and so a bespoke design is likely to be 2 or 3 times more expensive than a cross street banner chosen from the catalogue. This may mean it is better to either seek a</p>		

	<p>local electrician that can help build a bespoke light or create something different for the bottom of Moody Street. This area does create a focal point for the Town Centre and helps to frame the town via the Market Street entrance and it would be good to have something spectacular in this location. A regular cross street banner is around £2k</p> <p>B. Swan Bank only has one lamp post, so if this area of the town is to be decorated it will need to be via Cross Street Banners. The fittings are already in place and regularly tested. The electric is supplied by two local businesses and reimbursed by the Town Council. Without the cross street banners there will not be decorations in this main town centre street.</p> <p>C. There are currently two lamp post banners in Mill Street. As this area is being transformed it would be worth exploring options with the Market Quarter to see if they would like to enhance the offer for Mill Street.</p> <p>D. West Street – the lamp post lights used here are the ones that were originally purchased for Market Street. Many started to fail during this season and would not be fit to install next year. West Street is a busy part of the evening economy and it would be good to support this area with new lights.</p> <p>E. Cross Street Banner in Lawton Street. In previous years there has been a cross street banner in Lawton Street. This was not installed in 2022 as it failed prior to installation and was not economically viable to repair. It adds to the appeal to have a cross street banner for this location. We did not receive any complaints about it being missing in 2022, possibly because of the new lights in this area and pre-warning the shops that it would not be used in 2023</p> <p>F. Congleton Market. We have received a request from Congleton Market for Christmas lighting to be extended to this area. A lighting scheme has not been planned or electricity supplies looked at. The opportunity could be taken to explore options with the Market Quarter and with Cheshire East who manage the Market Hall to see what could be possible in this area.</p>
Financial Implications	Three quotes will be needed and more work carried out to get exact costs. Initial conversations with suppliers indicate that cross street banners will be around £2k each. Lamp post motifs around £400 each. A bespoke light is around 2-3 times more than a standard one. Prices are subject to change and will only be guaranteed for 30 days. Delivery is around 12 weeks.
Environmental Implications	All lights will be LED. We will check the green credentials of the companies invited to give prices for this work
Equality and Diversity Impact	Not relevant
PROPOSALS	That the Community and Environment Committee agree in principle that to replacement lights for A-E and that officers should explore options for F and then take a paper to Council for funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th January 2020	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer and Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager/Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	19 Congleton Events Calendar for 2023		
Background	<p>This paper is provided to give Members an update on the larger public events taking place in Congleton in 2023 along with details of the organisers. It also contains details of events in discussions for the coming year and beyond. It does not include details of charity events, concerts, performances, displays and exhibitions. As we become aware of these events they are included on the What's on Calendar on the Town Council website.</p>		
Calendar of Events	<p style="text-align: center;">Key Events –Main Events</p> <p>Strictly High Tea Dance – Congleton Town Mayor Fund Raiser (Feb 26) Organised by Congleton Town Council, a more affordable fund raiser than the Mayor's Ball for 2023</p> <p>Congleton Swimathon (March) – organised by Congleton Rotary and raising funds for charities</p> <p>Congleton Unplugged (March 10 -12) - run by the Congleton Live Community Interest Company. 40 gigs in a wide range of Congleton Town Centre venues. Free for the public.</p> <p>Congleton Well-Being Fayre (March 28) – organised by the Congleton Partnership bringing lots of groups involved in Health and Wellbeing into the Town Hall for a public event.</p> <p>Easter Activities (April) – Hop around the Shops Easter Trail run by the Town Council from 3 April to 17 April. Easter Treats day – games in the Town Centre on April 4</p> <p>Easter Service in the Town Centre – Good Friday – Churches partnership.</p> <p>Local Elections –(May 4) - organised by Cheshire East Council</p> <p>Coronation Picnic in the Park (May 8) large free picnic in the park with entertainment, food, drink and games to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III</p>		

	<p>Annual Town Meeting (May 18) - organised by Congleton Town Council, public meeting for the electorate</p> <p>Annual Town Council Meeting and Mayor Making (May 25) - Election of the 2023/24 Mayor, Organised by Town Council</p> <p>Food and Drink Festival (June 11) now in its 14th year – organised by Congleton Community Projects along with a dedicated Food and Drink team. This year the group has invested a great deal of time in making the event more environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Congleton Duck Race (June 25) – organised by Congleton Lions – fundraiser.</p> <p>Congleton Pride (July 22) – organised by Congleton Pride Group. Town Centre all-day event and an evening event.</p> <p>Play Day (August 15) – organised by Community Projects and the Town Council to celebrate National Play Day – games in the Town Centre and a chance to promote summer holiday activities and play areas.</p> <p>Jazz and Blues Festival (August 26-27) – Organised by Jazz and Blues group volunteer team. Attracts thousands of people to Congleton's pubs and venues for some excellent music. Now in its 11th year.</p> <p>Green Fayre (September 30) – Organised by Congleton Town Council/ Congleton Partnership. Free event in the Town Centre and Town Hall promoting environmentally friendly activities, products and life styles.</p> <p>Congleton Half Marathon (October 1) – organised by Congleton Harriers – raises money for good causes and attracts around 500 runners. Now in its 36th year.</p> <p>Congleton Beer and Gin Festival (October 6-8) TBC and Congleton Town Council to take the lead.</p> <p>Congleton Bonfire and Fireworks (November 4) – organised by Congleton Rotary raising funds for local charities.</p> <p>Congleton Remembrance Sunday (November 12) – organised by Congleton Town Council and supported by the Congleton branch of the Royal British Legion</p> <p>Congleton Christmas Lights and switch-on (November 24) organised by Congleton Town Council, Congleton Community Projects and a team of volunteers.</p> <p>Tree of Light (December) organised by Congleton Rotary. Raising funds for local charities. Tree now in a permanent location in the Community Garden.</p> <p>In addition there will be 12 Makers Markets taking place in the pedestrian area on the last Saturday of the month. The Town Council can offer two free of charge community stalls at each market.</p>
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	<p>A monthly Repair Café is held on the last Saturday of the month at Old Saw Mill hosts a</p> <p>There will be a number of activities around the North West in Bloom 2023 competition. In Bloom creates its own events such as two kids plant up events per year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unique to 2023</p> <p>Triathlon: Congleton Town Mayor held a Sprint Triathlon in 2017, 18 and 19. This was paused in 2020 due to expected Leisure Centre works, with the idea that when the Leisure Centre was complete this would be reintroduced. Early discussions are being looked at for June 2023.</p> <p>Congleton Leisure Centre Opening – Anticipate the Cheshire East/ Everybody Leisure will be arranging an event to mark the opening of this facility.</p> <p>Green Calendar – there is a separate Green Calendar with monthly activities to promote during the year, the aim to create more events to coincide with the actions being highlighted that week, or to reflect the call to action.</p>
Proposal	To note this report and to act on any actions raised in the Committee Meeting.