

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets and Services		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	6 th July 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Streetscape Services		
Background	<p>Streetscape is a service run by Congleton Town Council (CTC) to maintain some of the outside spaces in Congleton Town Council. It is a Cheshire East Council (CEC) service which has been devolved to Congleton. The other towns of Cheshire East have their service provided directly by CEC (ANSA).</p> <p>The transfer of the service took place on the 2nd January 2014 and there is a formal contract in place between Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council which outlines our areas of responsibilities. There is a grant associated to the contract which is reviewed on an annual basis, currently the grant is £459,636 pa which gets reviewed annually taking into account inflation and pay increases.</p> <p>Eleven staff joined the Town Council as a consequence of the transfer, eight were protected by a TUPE transfer which means they have protected employment conditions and rights from their previous employment with Cheshire East Borough Council, however only 4 of these staff remain with the rest having being replaced.</p> <p>Through contractual negotiations in 2023 the mini sweeper service was transferred over to Congleton Town Council with agreed finance to support its operation which is included in the £459,636 grant. In total we now have 14 members of staff as we incorporated the previous officers who were handymen into the service. Basically part of the team delivers the contract and other staff who undertake additional work to enhance the overall environment and activity in Congleton of Congleton including the maintenance of our Assets, ie the town hall, the cenotaph, the paddling pool as well as supporting major events by helping with the setting up and clearance post event. We also have an enhanced cleaning programme in the town centre, and an enhanced planting programme that links heavily into Congleton in Bloom and the associated voluntary groups. We also promote our services to local parish and Town Councils nearby to help them improves their areas on a paid for basis which helps with our budgets. Most of this work takes place either side of the busy summer period.</p> <p>Congleton’s Streetscape service has received good feedback from the townspeople and the team are very proud of their town. Streetscape does not maintain ALL of the outside environment in Congleton, some of this is the responsibility of other organisations, such as CEC itself. The Streetscape team have published a map showing ‘who maintains what’ to help people in Congleton direct their questions to the right person. This is available to download on the CTC website.</p> <p>We currently have 7 vans and an 1 electric buggy for the park which is currently on trial. Consideration is being given into both the quantity and type of vans we should have for both financial and environmental benefits</p>		

	<p>In appendix 1 there is more detail about the operational aspect of Streetscape</p> <p>The streetscape service has both opportunities and risks which are currently being explored or assessed</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in vehicles • Transfer back to CEC the rural litter picking – resource would be better used in Congleton • Additional work in surrounding Parishes • Engage with Plus Dane to explore the synchronisation of grass cutting • Working with new developments in the town centre <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing workforce • Reduction in contract with CEC
General Financial Considerations	In all of the activity and equipment being used we work according to our Financial Regulations
General Environmental Considerations	Our KPIs are set to ensure that we are following the latest environmental concerns to see where we can improve and help sustain the environment for both the public and local wildlife.
General Equality Considerations	In the event of staff recruitment the roles would be accessible to all
Decision Requested	To receive the update report.

Congleton Town Council

1. Emptying of litter and dog bins in Congleton, Astbury, Brereton, Somerford, Swetenham and Smallwood
2. Litter picking and removal This includes litter on rural roads in Alsager, Goostrey, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach (Flytips on rural roads in these areas are done by ANSA)
3. Upkeep of green open spaces and footpaths owned by CEBC, includes cutting of hedges and keeping paths clear (Tractor mounted hedge cutting completed by ANSA)
4. Planting and maintenance of key areas including roundabouts, Congleton Park and other recognised public open spaces
5. Basic maintenance of and upkeep of play areas including weekly safety inspections, breakdown repair of play equipment is CEBC unless we can easily fix
6. Removal of fly tipping, flyposting and graffiti
7. Cleaning and maintenance of toilets in Market Street (Bus Station)
8. The market toilets are run by the Market
9. Street Sweeping – Small Compact sweeper as of May 2022 (large road sweeping ANSA)

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is carried out on Ornamental and Prestige Areas, General Amenity Areas, Public Footpaths, Sporting Areas, Recreation Areas, Rough Cut and Conservation Areas. These include:-

- a. Mowing main area. Perimeter and obstruction clipping; Re-forming edges; Seeding and renovation works; Pesticide application; Leaf clearance.
- b. Flower beds. Stripping of bulbs and plants; Preparation for planting; Bringing on and pricking out of plants in Propagation Unit; Planting of bulbs and plants; Weeding; Pesticide application; Pest and disease control; Plant maintenance e.g. dead heading; Leaf clearance; Renovation operations e.g. after vandalism.
- c. Rose and shrub beds. Planting; Weeding; Pesticide application; Rose and shrub maintenance e.g. dead heading; Pruning; Leaf clearance; Renovation operations;
- d. Trees. Planting; Removal; Inspection; Pest and disease control; Pruning of immature trees;

Area of Playing Fields made up of
Back Lane
Congleton Park
Hankinson Fields
St Johns

Other functions undertaken

Hedge and Maintenance

- Up to 2 times per year depending on variety.

Leaf Clearance-Autumn

- Clear all accumulations of leaves from all areas of grass and soft landscaping ensuring no damage is caused to any grass area or plants.

Litter and Debris Clearance

- In accordance with the Litter Code of Conduct and shall further include branches, twigs and fallen fruit.

Snow Clearance and Gritting.

- May be required to maintain access or to provide for public safety by undertaking snow clearance and gritting operations of hard areas in the event of snowfall.

Arboriculture Works

Congleton Town Council

Will only undertake very minor tree work, other work is undertaken by a specialist Arboriculture Team by ANSA

PLAY AREAS

Formal Play Areas in Congleton Town: 11

Formal Play Areas in Brereton: 1

- Play facilities should be maintained in a safe condition and fit for purpose.
- Equipment should be kept free from graffiti and the play area should be free from litter, debris, glass and dog fouling.
- Any safety hazard identified should be resolved immediately or the equipment/ area be taken out of public use.
- Rubberised safety surfaces should be maintained in a clean and tidy condition.
- This standard is achieved by:

Also visual inspection when operative on site 1 or 2 time per week. Clean site of litter/glass etc, reports vandalism or any repairs necessary.

Sweepers- Run by ANSA

- 1 mini sweeper that is in use 6 days a week covering Congleton
- 2 large sweeper covering the estates and main roads on a 12 weekly cycle for estates and fortnightly cycle for main roads