

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	13th July 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	13		
REPORT TITLE	Biodiversity		
Background	<p>At the January Community and Environment Committee, the committee agreed to move forward with appointing a consultant to help create Site-Specific Biodiversity Plans for 30 sites across Congleton. This paper is to update members on the plans for the Site-Specific work and for the Town Council plans for No Mow May, which is a campaign aimed at helping wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>30 Biodiversity Sites</p> <p>An initial meeting was held on the 10th of March attended by Ruth Benson, the consultant expert on the subject, along with Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin and Streetscape Development Manager - Ruth Burgess. At that meeting, the following sites were approved for more work: (also see map in Appendix)</p> <p><u>West Heath</u></p> <p>1 Padgbury Lane/Langdale Close/Rydal Close (CTC rewilding site) 2 Thirlmere Close 3 Newcastle Road linear green space</p> <p>4 Quinta Park Play Area</p> <p>5 Sycamore Avenue-Chestnut Drive 6 Longdown Road-Chestnut Ave (CTC rewilding site) 7 Bowness Court 8 Newcastle Road-Solly Crescent</p> <p>9 Back Lane/Hawthorne Close group of small green spaces</p> <p><u>Central</u></p> <p>10 Hankinson’s Field (CTC rewilding site) 11 Banky Fields (CTC rewilding site) 12 Thames Close-Townsend Road? 13 Quayside-Goldfinch Road 14 West Road (former Danesford frontage) 15 Stirling Close (CTC rewilding site)</p> <p><u>Lower Heath</u></p> <p>16 Land off Hillfields Close (CTC rewilding site) 17 Lower Heath Play Area 18 Hertford Close-Riverdane Road 19 Lady Warburton’s Walk. Ownership unclear (CTC rewilding site)</p>		

Buglawton

20 Mardale Close

21 Havannah Lane/St John's Road

22 St John's Recreation Ground, Play Area and River Dane floodplain

23 Redfern Avenue-Buxton Road (CTC rewilding site)

Bromley Farm

24 Bromley Woods (has an old management plan)

25 Bromley Farm Play Area

26 Windsor Place

Mossley, Astbury Lane Ends, upper Canal St

27 Derwent Drive (CTC rewilding site)

28 Isis Close-Tamar Close (CTC rewilding site)

29 Bridgewater Close (CTC rewilding site)

30 Blackshaw Close? Marshall Grove is larger but not owned by CEC.

Please note the sites in bold are the priority sites.

Other alternative sites suggested:

A River Dane walkway (extent of CEC ownership to be determined)

B Area off Howarth Avenue

C Area off Pirie Road

D Congleton Cemetery (part-owned by CEC)

E Area off Camborne Close

F Area off Lamberts Lane, including bridleway

G Marshall Grove Play Area (managed but now owned by CEC)

NOTES

Not included:

- Schools
- CEC Highways land
- Biddulph Valley Way
- Astbury Mere Country Park
- Very small sites unless as part of a group
- Sites still owned by the developer and managed by a management company (as far as is known).
- Plus Dane sites

Congleton Park together with Town Wood - as a Historic England Grade 2 registered park with Local Wildlife Site this area should have its own management plan or plans.

Our parks and open spaces are valued in Congleton and used by hundreds of people. The current climate emergency presents the Council and the community with challenges that we cannot ignore. Our parks and open spaces are essential to helping us address the impact of global warming and take actions to take to tackle climate change head-on. Cheshire East and the Town Council need to make sure

	<p>that our parks and open spaces are managed and maintained sustainably, and the Town Council intends to lead by example to influence positive change.</p> <p><i>Congleton Town Council have been working with Cheshire East to adopt more sustainable methods of managing our open spaces.</i> We are committed to making our approaches to the management and maintenance of the park and other areas more sustainable. This year we have been leaving some areas of the parks and open spaces unmown. This is a simple way to provide a more diverse landscape for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, and pollinating insects</p> <p>We held our Launch event back in April which we found was very helpful and successful, and encouraged the team to move forward with our next set of plans for many sites in Congleton, in Autumn we will start putting place the site-specific plans on many of our 30 sites.</p>
Proposal	For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape and volunteers with their site-specific plan
Environmental	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council’s response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
Equality	Tackling environmental issues is to the benefit of everyone.
Financial	Taking part in these site-specific biodiversity plans will positively impact the Town’s carbon footprint and reduce fuel costs used for mowing.
Decision Requested	For the Environment Committee to note the 30 areas where site-specific Biodiversity Plans are being developed and support Streetscape and the volunteers in adopting the new approach.