

Congleton In Bloom Working Group	
Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public	

Purpose

The Congleton In Bloom group works alongside many community and youth groups in Congleton, as well as businesses to help make Congleton an attractive, cleaner, and greener town to live, work and visit.

This is closely connected with CTC's initiative to reduce our carbon footprint and declaration of a Climate Emergency which will always be a key part of our In Bloom agenda.

Areas of work include but are not limited to:

- Support projects and initiatives that will enhance the town and the environment, health and well-being of people in Congleton.
- Encourage Conservation of the built & natural environment.
- Promote and support floral and planting initiatives.
- Ensure that Climate Change impact is considered in all activities and decisions.
- Encourage activities which reduce, reuse and recycle in order to reduce waste and promote responsible management of waste.

Delegation of Functions of the Working Group

- This working group takes on tasks assigned by the Environment Committee and conducts research and brainstorming to come up with potential projects and ideas to improve the town of Congleton through the use of nature-based solutions.
- Encourages new volunteer groups and Friends of Groups to take responsibility for an area, ensuring the site is kept clean and safe for all to play and enjoy, ensuring the ethos of sustainability and biodiversity is driven through to all new groups.
- It is chaired by a member of the Town Council and its membership is made up of interested town councillors plus local experts at the discretion of the group. It will meet as needed but at least four times a year. Separate task teams can also be called on for specific items.
- Minutes will be taken by Town Council staff and the intention is to circulate draft minutes to the chair and forward to the group within a week of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the Town Council website and noted at Environment Committee.
- This is not a decision-making body; all solutions, ideas and funding requirements must be presented to a Council Committee and/or full Council, with relevant supporting evidence, to make a decision.
- All proposals taken from the Group to Committee must explain the impact on the financial, environmental and equality impact of the decision.

Membership, Voting and Roles

- Town Councillors, and co-opted or invited members of the public, such as In Your Neighbourhood Groups (IYN).
- Co-opted or invited members will sign a volunteer agreement and be in post for one year, after which their agreement can be renewed if desired.

Congleton In Bloom Working Group

Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public	
---	--

- On an as-needed basis, others may be invited to meetings, for example biodiversity specialists. RHS judges/ officers
- The Chair (and Vice-Chair if wanted) will be elected by a vote of the Working Group Town Council members only.

Specific Activities of the Working Group may include but not be limited to:

- To make Congleton an attractive place to live, work, shop and visit.
- To provide opportunities for the community to become involved either individually or in groups.
- To make Congleton a clean, green town through anti-litter campaigns, organising litter picks, removing graffiti, fly posting, improving local grot spots and recycling campaigns.
- To support the retail sector and promote tourism by providing attractive floral displays and green spaces.
- To raise standards and promote the town by entering competitions such as North West in Bloom and the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards.
- To encourage Eco-Schools and gain green flag awards, encourage biodiversity, energy conservation and the growing of local food.
- To encourage and involve young people in taking an active role in Congleton in Bloom and related initiatives.
- Using strategic planting and nature-based solutions to make Congleton a more climate-resilient town and to mitigate climate change – for example, green walls, cool spaces, water collection etc.
- Work towards a Carbon Positive In Bloom approach which reduces our Carbon Footprint
- Show leadership in sustainable planting and creative rewilding to achieve In Bloom success.