

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21st September 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Agenda 8 Wildflower Verges and Congleton Open Spaces		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council set to try out a new approach to grass cutting last year in an attempt to preserve wildflowers and the wildlife who rely on them. Some of our sites we where part of our trial scheme and wildflower strips where added, the team have leant a lot from these trials and from this we know how we can improve and add further wildflowers areas across congleton.</p> <p>Under the new approach, the grass which the Town Council is responsible has not be cut fortnightly, as per the original schedules, but have been left. The parts which have been left will be cut only once or twice per year depending on what we find growing naturally on the open space, with the grass cuttings then removed.</p> <p>This will prevent aggressive plant species from dominating the areas and will allow for the growth, flowering and seeding of wildflowers. This in turn will provide the ideal habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council is determined to protect and improve Congleton’s natural environment and this fairly simple change to how we cut our grass will help increase the habitats and food that our pollinating insects rely on.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council’s progressive move towards a better management of their grass areas is part of their Sustainable Strategy and Climate Responsibility.</p>		
			
Financial Considerations	The plans can be achieved within the allocated budget which the Town Council has approved and within the contract agreed with Cheshire East Council.		
Environmental Considerations	Efforts will be made in line with the Town Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration to help provide the ideal habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.		
Equality Considerations	Impact on accessibility has been considered		

Decision Requested	To agree to carry on with many wildflowers verges, agreeing to the proposal of changing the way we maintain some of our open spaces to encourage the local wildlife to create a habitat.
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