

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	<b>LOCATION</b>	Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Chief Officer		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Agenda Item 14 Astbury Place Bridge proposed consultation</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Town Council has continually expressed it's desire for the bridge to be built linking Astbury Place to the Park as this was an integral part of the original planning application which the Town Council approved and was covered by a Section 106 agreement. The Planning Committee has been continuously seeking updates from Cheshire East Planning Enforcement but little progress is being made. The latest update from Cheshire East Council was in September 2023 where we were advised that there are ongoing discussions with Morris Homes about several issues impacting the ability to build the bridge in this location. Whilst CEC are still pursuing this the reality may be that it is not viable.</p>		
<b>Recent meetings</b>	<p>At recent meetings of the Planning Committee there has been representation from residents of Astbury Place expressing their views about the bridge at Astbury Place, at the first meeting residents expressed their views for the bridge and at the last meeting in November views were expressed about reasons for not having the bridge. Following debate at the last planning committee meeting the committee agreed to the following</p> <p><b>PLN/22/2324 Resolved to</b> request that Council approval is sought for a formal consultation to be undertaken of an agreed area to establish</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If Cheshire East Council decide not to enforce the construction of the bridge there needs to be an agreement on how the Section 106 funding could be spent to provide safe access to the park via Buxton Road.</li></ol> <p>This links into the proposed next steps of Cheshire East Council and would enable the Town Council to input into any alternative use of the section 106 funding based on our own public consultation. We would need to advise Cheshire East Council of the proposed consultation and for them to agree to the format, the timing and the outcome.</p>		
<b>Environmental considerations</b>	These will need to be considered if alternative use of Section 106 funding is agreed		
<b>Financial considerations</b>	Should the bridge not be built It would be expected that the whole value of the Section 106 agreement is allocated to the agreed alternative options. Undertaking a public consultation will take officer time and some costs for materials		
<b>Equality considerations</b>	If applicable considerations will be determined if alternative use of Section 106 funding is agreed upon with a focus on accessibility to the park.		

<b>Proposal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="405 136 1501 248">1. If Cheshire East Council decide not to enforce the construction of the bridge there needs to be an agreement on how the Section 106 funding could be spent to provide safe access to the park via Buxton Road</li><li data-bbox="405 253 1430 322">2. Advise Cheshire East Council of our proposed consultation and for them to endorse it.</li></ol>
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