

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>Item 14</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Biodiversity update</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>At the January 2023 Community and Environment Committee, the committee agreed to move forward with creating the Site-Specific Biodiversity Plans for 30 sites across Congleton.</p> <p><b>30 Biodiversity Sites: (<a href="#">view plans on CTC website</a>)</b></p> <p><b><u>West Heath</u></b></p> <p>1 Padgbury Lane/Langdale Close/Rydal Close (CTC rewilding site)  2 Thirlmere Close  3 Newcastle Road linear green space</p> <p><b>4 Quinta Park Play Area</b></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><b>9 Back Lane/Hawthorne Close group of small green spaces</b></p> <p><b><u>Central</u></b></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)  <b>15 Stirling Close (CTC rewilding site)</b></p> <p><b><u>Lower Heath</u></b></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> <p><b><u>Buglawton</u></b></p> <p>20 Mardale Close  21 Havannah Lane/St John’s Road  22 St John’s Recreation Ground, Play Area and River Dane floodplain  <b>23 Redfern Avenue-Buxton Road (CTC rewilding site)</b></p>		

**Update**

**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.

Our parks and open spaces are valued in Congleton and used by hundreds of residents and visitors. 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 thus we need to take positive actions to tackle this head-on. Cheshire East and the Town Council need to make sure that our parks and open spaces are managed and maintained sustainably, and the Town Council intends to lead by example to influence positive change.

***Congleton Town Council have been working with Cheshire East to adopt more sustainable methods of managing our open spaces.*** We are committed to making our approaches to the management and maintenance of the park and other areas more sustainable. This year we will be again 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

The majority of the sites are now either complete or in progress with all the sites having had either new meadows created, hedges and trees planted. Our next step is to be based around surveys and signage to ensure there is public awareness of the work that we are doing as well as well looking into further habitats which can be created or purchased.

In January Congleton Town Council paid for a Public Hedge Laying course at Stirling Close which was very well received and fully booked in February, we are hoping to run this course each year for the public.

There has also been two very successfully meetings which provided a great wealth of knowledge for both officers and the many councillors that attended. The first meeting held was - ***Cheshire East Tree Conference - Congleton Town Hall 17th January 2024 7pm to 9.30pm***, this was joint meeting organised by Transition Wilmslow and Congleton Town Council, The aim of the meeting was to bring together interested parties to share knowledge and experience so we can accelerate tree planting across Cheshire East and devise strategies for accelerating tree cover in and around towns.

Moving onto the next day we held a Farmers and land owner meeting at the Town Hall, we welcomed a guest speaker from a local farm in Winkle who is leading the way in farm biodiversity, at the meeting we also spoke about how Trees for Congleton are happy to discuss any planting ideas and to see how/ if they can help with expert advice and/or volunteer-power. There is also an

	opportunity to host company away-day planting sessions, supported by CTC and the Trees for Congleton Group.
<b>Proposal</b>	For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape and volunteers with the ongoing site-specific plan and working with local business's and land owners
<b>Environmental</b>	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
<b>Equality</b>	Tackling environmental issues is to the benefit of everyone, and there will be opportunities for the community to get involved with planting and maintaining these sites, which has shown to be good for community cohesion and mental well-being. We will consult the Equal Access Congleton group to ensure the plans for the bio diversity sites need consider accessibility for all where practical.
<b>Financial</b>	Funding for the development of the sites is currently being covered via grants, streetscape labour and volunteer time .
<b>Decision Requested</b>	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 and working with local business's and land owners