



# Annual Report of Congleton Town Council 2023-24



# Congleton Town Mayor 2023-24 – Cllr Rob Moreton



**Being Congleton born and bred, it has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as Congleton Town Mayor.**

**I have had the pleasure of meeting some fantastic people, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support and participation in making our town a better place. The truly memorable experience is one that I will cherish forever.**

*Congleton Town Mayor - Cllr Rob Moreton*

## Community Engagement and Events

During the Mayoral year, I attended more than 200 events, supporting local groups and organisations on behalf of the town council. Every occasion highlighted the vibrant community spirit that defines our town.

One of the year's early highlights was the Mayor's Civic Service in June, a special event to signify my commitment to the community. Following this, the Food and Drink Festival in June showcased the best of Congleton's culinary talents, attracting food enthusiasts from all over.



Opening July's Pride event was a joyful celebration of diversity and inclusivity, reflecting Congleton's commitment to being a welcoming and supportive community for all. September's Green Fayre was another standout event, emphasising the town council's dedication to the environment, sustainability and green living.

Remembrance Sunday was a poignant and solemn occasion. It was deeply moving to see the Cenotaph and High Steet packed with people paying their respects to our armed forces. Later in November it was an honour to take part in the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Thousands enjoyed the festive entertainment.

One of the major highlights of my tenure was attending the official opening of the revamped and refurbished Congleton Leisure Centre. This multi-million-pound project has provided our town with state-of-the-art facilities, promoting health and wellness among residents of all ages.

Being invited to open the Congleton Market Quarter was another milestone. This vibrant market space provides a fantastic addition to the town for independent artisan traders and has quickly become a hub for the local night-time economy.

A personal initiative that I am particularly proud of is my All Abilities Discos. These inclusive events provide a fun and accessible environment for people of all abilities to enjoy music and dance.

I've had the privilege of going 'behind the scenes' and meeting many people who contribute to making Congleton the thriving community we all love. Visits to schools, care homes, and local groups allowed me to engage with a wide range of residents and witness the incredible talent and dedication present in our town. From the performances at Daneside Theatre and the Town Hall to sports events and community gatherings, I have been consistently amazed by the passion and talent of Congleton's residents.

## Fundraising and Charitable Work

A significant focus of my year as mayor was fundraising for my two chosen charities: Vale Juniors Kickabout and Visyon. The charity Town Mayor's Ball was a sell-out success, attended by the High Sheriff of Cheshire, civic guests, and community members. It was an elegant evening where we raised substantial funds for these worthy causes. I am delighted to advise that over the year more than £5186 was raised for the Town Mayor's charities.

Vale Juniors Kickabout offers children of all ages the chance to participate in weekly football sessions free of charge. This inclusive programme promotes physical health and fosters teamwork and community spirit among our youth.

Visyon is a charity that supports the emotional health of children, young people, and their families in Cheshire East. Their work is crucial in ensuring that our young residents have the support they need to thrive emotionally and mentally.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my gratitude to my civic team for their unwavering support throughout the year. My wife, Helen, served admirably as Mayoress, providing invaluable assistance at numerous events. Steve Hodgkinson, my Mayor's Chaplain, offered guidance and support. Amelia Downing, our Mayor's Cadet from the Congleton West Rangers, brought youthful energy and dedication to her role. I am also grateful to Cllr Kay Wesley, who served as Deputy Mayor.

As Chair of the Town Council meetings, I would like to express gratitude to my fellow councillors for their dedication and hard work. This year, we welcomed 12 new councillors to the administration for the 2023-2027 term.

After I hang up my robes, I will continue my duties as a town councillor. My commitment to prioritising the best interests of the people of Congleton remains as strong as ever.



# 2023/24 Councillors, Personnel & Council Meeting Dates

## Town Council

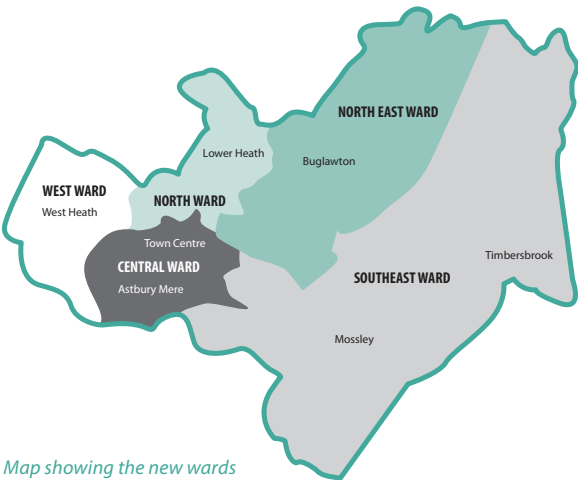
This was a year of change for the Town Council. The financial year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March, but the Civic Year runs from mid-May to mid-May. For the first month of this reporting year the Town Council had 20 Councillors, who were elected to one of two wards in the town. These councillors were elected from May 2019 to May 2023:

East Ward	West Ward
Duncan Amies (I) David Brown (C) Robert Douglas (LD) George Hayes (C) Sally-Ann Holland (C) Robert Moreton (I) – Deputy Mayor Denis Murphy (LD) Mark Rogan (I) James Smith (LD) Kay Wesley (WEP)	Suzie Akers Smith (I) Dawn Allen (C) Martin Amies (I) Russell Chadwick (I) Paul Duffy (LD) Suzy Firkin (LD) Margaret Gartside (LD) –Mayor Robert Hemsley (LD) Amanda Martin (C) Jean Parry (C)

Local elections took place on the 4 May 2023. The Town elected 22 town councillors to serve in five wards. You can find out [more about the councillors on the Town Council website](#). Councillors serving from 7 May during this annual report were:

South East Ward (Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook)	North East Ward (Bromley, Buglawton)	Central Ward (Town Centre, Newcastle Road)	North Ward (Lower Heath)	West Ward (West Heath)
David Brown (C) Arabella Holland (C) Sally-Ann Holland (C) Heather Pearce (I) Kay Wesley (WEP) – Deputy Mayor	Charles Booth (C) Susan Mead (WEP) Rob Moreton (I) - Mayor Shaun Radcliffe (I) Glen Williams (C)	Mark Edwardson (I) Heather Seddon (L) Richard Walton (L) Liz Wardlaw (C)	Dawn Allen (C) Russell Chadwick (C) Emma Hall (C) Amanda Martin (C)	Suzie Akers-Smith (I) Robert Brittain (C) Robert Douglas (LD) Suzy Firkin (LD)

C = Conservative I = Independent L = Labour LD = Liberal Democrat WEP = Women's Equality Party



Map showing the new wards



## Officers for the period of this annual report (04/23 to 03/24) were:

- Chief Officer - David McGifford
- Communities & Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer – Jackie MacArthur
- Finance Manager and RFO – Serena Van Schepdael
- Streetscape Development Manager- Ruth Burgess
- Town Hall Manager - Mark Worthington
- Bookings and Administrative Officer - Celeste Smith
- Finance Officer – Sue Trow
- Senior Information Advisor – Jessica Thyer
- Marketing, Communications and Civic Officer – Debbie Coxon
- Town Centre & Events Officer - Rachel McCarthy
- Communities & Admin Officer - Cathy Dean
- Facility Officers - Tim Muston, Martin Simpson (May 23) Peter Wilcox (May 23). Pete Foster (casual).
- Information Advisors – Celeste Smith, Linda Fox, Barbara Fynn, Natasha Henson, Paolo Pinto (maternity cover, June 2023)
- Casual Information Advisors – Annette Bradley, Jackie Potts
- Streetscape Supervisor - Simon Farrall
- Streetscape Operatives - John Acton, Chris Banks, James Bibby, Terry Davies, Dave Foster, Mick Pritchard, Rob Serwin, Mark Stubbs, Noel Stubbs, Mike Wild, John Braun and Adrian Bullock. Jack Appleton (Left: August 2023)
- Casual Paddling Pool Attendants - May to September

Find out more on the Meet the Team pages of the [Town Council website](#).

## Council Meetings

The Council has five main committees in addition to Council. The dates for the meetings in the civic year 2023/24 were:

<b>Community</b>	29 June 23 • 03 Aug 23 • 26 Oct 23 • 4 Jan 24 • 29 Feb 24
<b>Council</b>	15 June 23 • 10 Aug 23 • 12 Oct 23 • 07 Dec 23 • 25 Jan 24 • 22 Feb 24
<b>Council AGM</b>	16 May 24
<b>Emergency Council</b>	29 June 23 • 19 Oct 23 • 4 Apr 24
<b>Environment</b>	13 July 23 • 21 Sep 23 • 02 Nov 23 • 11 Jan 24 • 28 Mar 24
<b>Finance &amp; Policy</b>	20 Jul 23 • 05 Oct 23 • 23 Nov 23 • 25 Jan 24 • 14 Mar 24
<b>Planning</b>	22 June 23 • 27 July 23 • 17 Aug 23 • 14 Sep 23 • 19 Oct 23 • 16 Nov 23 21 Dec 23 • 18 Jan 24 • 15 Feb 24 • 21 Mar 24 • 25 Apr 24
<b>Town Hall, Assets &amp; Services</b>	06 July 23 • 28 Sep 23 • 30 Nov 23 • 01 Feb 24 • 11 Apr 24

New for this year the Town Council split the Community and Environment Committee into two committees, recognising the growing importance of both areas of work. For a copy of the minutes and agendas for each committee meeting see the [Committees section of the town council website](#).

# What Services does the Town Council Provide?

Congleton Town Council is one of the largest of the 108 town and parish councils in Cheshire East. The Council was founded in 1980 and became fully operational in April 1981. It provides the most local tier of government for Congleton.

It serves the local community by:

- Providing an essential link between town residents and Cheshire East Borough Council to ensure grassroots views are heard and considered.
- Encouraging economic development and regeneration of Congleton.
- Examining planning and licensing applications and giving opinions to the Borough Council on behalf of residents – 221 applications in 2023-4.
- Managing a range of local services and facilities to benefit Congleton including the Town Hall, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services, paddling pool and allotments.
- Runs campaigns and activities to promote and encourage a greener and more sustainable and inclusive community.
- Providing financial support to a variety of community groups and organisations which support the well-being of Congleton residents.
- Organising and supporting events that encourage the community to enjoy and celebrate being part of the Congleton community.
- Communicates with local people through the [Bear Necessities newsletter](#), social media, the town guide, leaflets, surveys and stalls in the high street, emails and letters.
- Looks for opportunities to bring funding, pilot schemes or any opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents in Congleton.

Congleton Town Council covers an area of 2255 hectares (22.55 sq. km or 8.7 square miles) with a population of 28,482 (figure from the 2021 census).

Since January 2014 the Town Council has delivered Grounds and Cleansing Services for Congleton, via a devolved services agreement with Cheshire East and ANSA. This includes grounds maintenance - mowing, hedge cutting, pruning of shrubs etc. and street cleansing functions- emptying more than 200 litter and dog bins each day, removal of fly-tips, litter picking and generally keeping Congleton a safe and tidy place to live.

The Town Council is the accountable body for [Congleton Partnership](#), and provides grants to [Congleton Community Projects](#), Congleton Partnership and Congleton's Citizen's Advice Bureau as well as running a grant scheme for local groups and organisations.

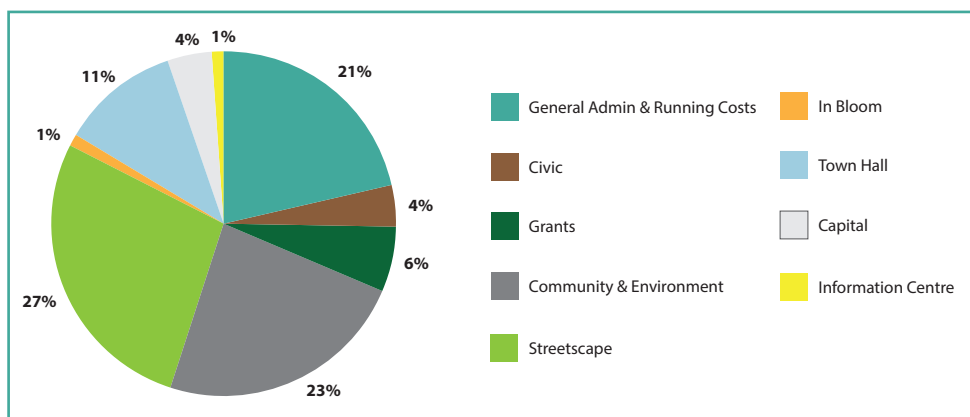
Congleton Town Council activities revolve around eight key strategic objectives shown on pages 10-11 and the central thrust of the [2019-2023 business plan](#). Decisions are made via public committees and ratified at Council. There is a 15-minute public question time at the start of each committee. For more about the work of the Town Council see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk).

# How is the Town Council Financed?

The majority of Congleton Town Council's funds come from a Precept, which is added to the Council Tax levy set by the Principal Authority, Cheshire East Council. In 2023-2024 the Precept for Congleton was worth £1,068,179. This was collected from a tax base of 11,084 households (up 367 on the previous year). The average band D property was charged £96.37 for the year.

Additional funding is raised through a contract with Cheshire East to deliver the streetscape service (£459,636), through private works carried out by Streetscape, hiring rooms in the town hall, sales in the Congleton Information Centre and other grants, sponsorship and letting space at events. 2023-24 was the final year of a grant from CEC to support the running of the Information Centre.

The Financial Information provided is unaudited, our year-end was 31st March 2024. The [Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return \(AGAR\)](#) is available for public viewing from 18 June 2024 to 29 July 2024, available via our website Finance page. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be available by 30th September 2024 in line with Accounting Regulations. More details about the Town Council's finances can be seen on the [Finance pages of the website](#).



*Town Council Management Accounts: Expenditure 2023-2024*

Overall Outcome		
General Admin and Running Costs	£229,220	21.47%
Civic	£47,736	4.47%
Grants	£60,398	5.66%
Community and Environment	£247,235	23.16%
Streetscape	£293,002	27.45%
In Bloom	£14,573	1.37%
Town Hall	£116,342	10.90%
Capital	£46,777	4.38%
Information Centre	£12,117	1.14%

A more detailed breakdown of the finances can be seen at [Item-13-Management-Accounts.pdf \(congleton-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2023/2024 Grants Allocated

The Town Council has supported local and voluntary and community groups with approximately £38,000 worth of grants in 2023-2024. Among those assisted were:

Name		
Grants given to hirers of the Town Hall	Town Hall Hire	£3,511
Congleton Museum	Notional Rent	£4,500
Congleton Community Projects	Project Support	£16,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£24,011</b>

Name	Project	Grant (£)
Congleton Bath House and Physic	Garden Signage	£150
Congleton Museum	Website Project	£750
Girl Guiding North West	Netherlands Trip	£300
SOL Theatre School	August Summer Show Places	£525
Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network	English Lessons	£527
Congleton Pride	Stage Hire	£360
Congleton Amateur Youth	Mics & Transmitters	£1,000
Congleton Harriers	Medical Cover Half Marathon	£750
Vale Allotment Association	Allotments	£2,000
Aura CIO	Drama Therapy Session Costs	£250
The Old Saw Mill	Insulation Project	£250
Friends for Leisure	Youth Group Activities 2024	£1,000
Beartown Patchwork & Quilters	Exhibition 2024	£500
Puparazzi Flyball Team	Defib	£150
Congleton Harriers	Medical Cover Cloud 9 Race	£450
Trinity Operatic Society	Sound & Lighting for Show	£1,000
Congleton Museum	Pride of Place Exhibition	£550
Congleton Rotary	Swimathon 24	£906
The Green Tree House	Food Pallet	£1,000
Marton & District CofE PTA	Playground Equipment	£1,000
SOL Theatre School	Summer Places x 2	£730
Our Gang	Sound/Lighting	£800
Mossley Toddler Group	Playground/Kitchen Equip	£240
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£15,188</b>

To find out more about how to apply for a Town Council grant see the [Grants section of the Town Council website](#). All applications for Town Council grants are considered by Councillors at the Council's Finance and Policy Committee.



# Some Notable activities for Congleton in 2023/24

- Reorganisation: Following the May local elections, Congleton benefited from two additional councillors, with 22 councillors based across 5 wards, rather than 20 councillors across 2 wards.
- Congleton Leisure Centre re-opened following a £10 million plus refurbishment by Cheshire East Council. The 1970s centre transformed into a state-of-the-art leisure centre, something the Town Council has lobbied to achieve for the town.
- The Congleton Market Quarter opened phase 1– breathing new life into the Town Centre.
- The Town Council set up an Equal Access Advisory group to help improve accessibility across the town.
- The Town Council was successful in gaining a major grant to explore work to decarbonise the Town Hall.
- The East Cheshire NHS Trust received £5m grant to build a diagnostic centre at the War Memorial Hospital. The hospital celebrated its centenary.
- The Town celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III.
- The Trees for Congleton group planted 25,973 trees, shrubs and hedgerows around Congleton.



*H&W Fayre*



*Bridestones Meeting*



*Food & Drink Festival*



*Rewilding Site*



*Makers Market*



*Paddling Pool*



*Tree Planting*



*Town Hall - Rode Hall Silver Band Concert*



*Streetscape - Park Plaque*

# Progress on the Town Council's Strategic Objectives

## **SO 1 Ensure growth of the town is matched by adequate services and infrastructure**

- Liaising with Cheshire East on S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions towards infrastructure projects in Congleton.
- Continued work on the Neighbourhood Plan to create a community plan for Congleton's future.
- Considered and gave feedback on 221 Planning applications.
- Continued to work with Plus Dane on a well-being hub for Congleton.
- Continued to campaign for a Household Waste Recycling Centre for Congleton and better local recycling options.
- Continue the campaign to see the new houses within the link road recognised as part of Congleton.
- Liaised with East Cheshire Health Trust over improved medical services in Congleton.
- Commented on consultations on car parks, bus services, flexi-link, street crossings, Congleton Library opening hours.

## **SO 2 Ensure transport infrastructure is integrated and sustainable**

- Planning committee commented on the transport infrastructure on all relevant applications.
- Work ongoing on plans to improve walking and cycling routes across Congleton.
- Lobbied Cheshire East about improved public transport options.
- Lobbied Cheshire East Council about road crossings needed to improve walking and cycling in Congleton.
- Gave a robust response to the Cheshire East Car Parking Review, rejecting the level of parking charge increases proposed by CEC and the increase in chargeable hours.

## **SO 3 Reduce economic, social and health inequalities within our community**

- Considering Equality and Inclusion implications of all Council decisions.
- Created a new Community Committee to cater for the increased work on accessibility, inclusion and community issues in Congleton. Previously part of Community and Environment Committee.
- Introduced an Equal Access advisory group and carried out a detailed survey to understand the issues facing people with a disability living in Congleton. This led to a programme of actions.
- Worked with community partners on the cost of living crisis.
- Supported the Social Supermarket in Lawton Street.
- Continued to give grants to groups and organisations supporting reducing inequalities.

## **SO 4 Ensure that the town centre is fit for 21st century**

- Worked with Cheshire East on improving the CCTV coverage in Congleton.
- Continued to support and liaise with town traders, putting on town centre events and promoting the town.
- Liaise with shops and pubs on safety and anti-crime campaigns.
- Worked with Gazer Agency on a Totally Locally Congleton scheme and introduced totally tenner Wednesdays.
- Gained £13.5k of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to increase Town Centre events.

## **SO 5 Greater promotion of Congleton as a place to work, live, visit and do business**

- Supported the work of Congleton in Bloom – winning Gold in the North West competition and gaining recognition for the town.
- Congleton Town Council secured the future of Congleton Information Centre following the end of the grant from Cheshire East Council.
- Hosted a grand community picnic in the Park to celebrate King Charles III Coronation.
- Hosted 4 Tribute events – all of which were profitable.
- Increased the space available for the Christmas lights switch-on by closing Mill Street and Swan Bank.
- Produced an 84- page Town Guide – highlighting all that Congleton has to offer.
- Worked with the Gazer agency to launch Totally Locally Congleton.

## **SO 6 Congleton Town Council will be sustainable and carbon neutral**

- Was awarded a major grant to help with decarbonising the Town Hall.
- Created a new Environment Committee to deal with the increasing prominence that the Town Council is giving to environmental matters, (previously part of Community and Environment).
- Continued to work on 30 Biodiversity improvement sites.
- Helped organise the Green Fayre in September.
- Increased the number of wildflower meadows and borders across the town.
- Helped prepare the land for Trees for Congleton Group to plant trees, hedges and shrubs.
- Introduced a low mow regime for the town.
- Promoted the Congleton Sustainable Living in Congleton on-line learning platform.
- Improved the recording methods for measuring the Town Council's carbon footprint.
- Hosted a Green Business meeting.

## **SO 7 Ensure we effectively communicate with all sections of our community**

- Produced 26,000 Congleton Events and Attractions booklets using UKSPF funding.
- Increased promotion via social media and print media.
- Version 4 of the Town Council website was put out to tender, whilst continuing to update and enhance the current live version of [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)
- Increased the Town Council's Social Media presence. Produce Bear Necessities four times per year and other promotional material.

## **SO 8 Ensure a high standard of operational quality and asset management**

- Worked on medium and long-term maintenance needs for the Town Hall.
- Increased the number of bookings in the Town Hall.
- Reviewed investment strategies.
- A 3-year Streetscape street cleaning and grounds maintenance contract was approved.

# Working Groups 2023-24

The Town Council had nine working groups and an advisory group operating in 2023-24 to help develop its work. Working groups are usually proposed by a Town Council Committee to deal with a subject that would benefit from more in-depth work than can be carried out via a committee. Sometimes working groups co-opt non-council people with an interest or expertise in the subject to contribute to the group either as a regular member or as a guest to the meeting.

Each working group has its terms of reference, approved by the main committee. Working Groups are not decision-making bodies and return their findings to the committee from which they originated.

Unlike committees, working groups are not open to the press or public unless specifically invited. Their minutes, membership and actions can be seen on the [Town Council's Website](#)

A brief summary of the active Working Groups during the 2023-24 year can be seen below.

## Community Safety Working Group

This was formed from the previously titled Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group - the group also includes the Police and Cheshire East Council ASB team. It considers and addresses crime and antisocial behaviour and its underlying causes in Congleton including Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse and Traffic issues. This Working Group reports to the Community Committee.

## Congleton Green Working Group

This group was established following the Town Council's Climate Change Emergency pledge in September 2019. It is working on a priority list for reducing the carbon footprint of Congleton Town Council activities, based on a baseline data spreadsheet of activities. It also develops plans relating to Nature Emergency and ways to increase biodiversity in Congleton. The group reports to the Environment Committee.

## Congleton in Bloom Working Group

This is a long-standing Working Group that was set up in 2011 when the previous In Bloom volunteer group retired after 13 successful years. It is made up of councillors, officers and volunteers. The Congleton in Bloom group works alongside many It's Your Neighbourhood, community, business and youth groups to help make Congleton an attractive, cleaner and greener town. It also coordinates activities around the annual In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood competitions. It reports to the Environment Committee.

## Congleton Regeneration and Town Centre Working Group

This group explores and where possible implements or works with partners to implement improvements to the town centre. The remit includes physical and social changes. The group will work collaboratively with East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, landlords, developers, Cheshire East Council and other interested and vested partners with the aim of future-proofing the Town Centre and to ensure that it can continue to service the needs of our growing town. The working group reports to the Finance and Policy Committee.

## Health and Wellbeing Working Group

This Working Group lobbies for adequate Primary Health Care facilities that relate to the growth of the town and to develop and promote initiatives or events relating to improving physical and mental health within Congleton. It reports to the Community Committee.

## Integrated Transport Working Group

This group has been considering the Local Transport Development Plan, ways to improve public transport in Congleton, infrastructure needs to make walking and cycling around Congleton safer. Most of the projects rely on large amounts of funding from CEC or central government. The group helps to prepare consultation responses. The group reports to the Community Committee.

## Neighbourhood Plan Development Working Group

This group considers all aspects of work relating to the emerging Congleton Draft Neighbourhood Plan. The group helps to track the policy development and consider the consultation aspects of the plan. The Working Group reports into the Planning Committee.

## White Ribbon Working Group

This group promotes White Ribbon values and behaviours to end male violence against women. The Town Council received White Ribbon accreditation in November 2019. The White Ribbon charity works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. Congleton Town Council wishes to end all harassment, abuse and violence. The group reports to the Community Committee.

## Web Development Working Group

This group was new for 2023-2024 and was set up to work on the production of version 4 of the Town Council's website [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk). The group reports to the Community Committee or Finance Committee.

## Equal Access Advisory Group

This is not a Working Group, but a group of local people with a wide range of disabilities which meet to help advise Congleton Town Council on making Congleton, its town, events, transport and communications more accessible and inclusive for all members of our society. Its work links with the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.



# Congleton Climate Change & Nature Emergency Updates

Congleton Town Council is committed to reducing the Town Council's carbon footprint. The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019.

The three main areas where the Town Council is looking to reduce its carbon footprint are:

- Energy Use - especially heating the Victorian Town Hall
- Vehicle Use - reducing fossil fuels in council vehicles
- Plant Strategy – moving to more sustainable planting

In 2023-24 Congleton Town Council worked hard on a Salix grant submission and have been awarded a £400k grant to explore and develop plans to decarbonise the Town Hall.

The Town Council is also committed to boosting biodiversity in Congleton. Work includes:

- Tree Planting
- Site management of areas looked after by Congleton Town Council
- Plans to boost Biodiversity on 30 sites in Congleton
- Working with partners

During the year the Town Council has:

- Held a Business Net Zero Forum with the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce
- Introduced a Building Sustainably Checklist for planning
- Operate a Community Food Stand in Congleton Park with Rotary
- Held a best practice meeting with community events organisers
- Held an information exchange event with local landowners
- Reached out to surrounding parish councils
- Held quarterly information stands in the town centre on green issues
- Provided an on-line sustainability course for residents
- Use glyphosate free weed control

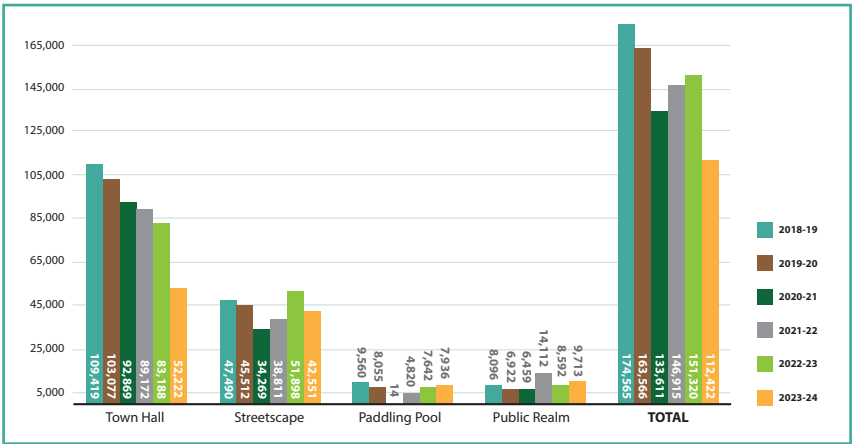


Chart showing Congleton Town Council Progress on Carbon reduction 2019 – 2023-24:



# Key Priorities for 2024/25

- Produce a new business plan for activities 2024 – 2027.
- Increase bookings in the Town Hall to reduce the overall running costs.
- Negotiate with Cheshire East about devolution of more services to benefit local people.
- Make sure that the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan is fit for purpose and one that local people will want to support at Referendum.
- Promote and encourage people to vote in the General Election.
- Organise local events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the War Memorial Hospital.
- Work with health providers to ensure the physical and mental health of residents can be treated locally.
- Continue to develop the Streetscape Services and generate income to help off-set costs and maintain the high level of service that the town expects.
- Develop plans to decarbonise the Town Hall taking advantage of the Salix Grant.
- Have plans ready to take advantage of any additional funds that may be available to improve sustainable transport, increase bus routes or regenerate the town.
- Develop a new fit-for-purpose website to include bookings and the information centre.
- Obtain Gold in the North West in Bloom competition.
- Improve the running of the Paddling Pool using a clicker rather than a booking system.
- Work to make events in town more inclusive and accessible.



# Congleton Town Council - 2023 - 2024



**221**

Planning Applications considered by the Planning Committee



**£39,199**

of grants awarded to 26 Congleton organisations



**200**

public litter bins emptied daily



**22**

organisations received subsidies to hold charity events in the town hall



**41**

Committee meetings held making 445 resolutions



**19**

public events organised by the Town Council



**21**

public events supported by the Town Council



**2.1**

million Facebook post impressions



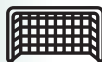
**200**

Mayoral visits



**138,622**

linear miles of Congleton streets kept clear of litter



**120,732 m2**

of playing fields maintained



**179,010 m2**

of Public Open Space maintained

**Congleton Town Council**  
Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

**Email:** [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01260 270350

**[www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)**

 Congleontown

 Congleton Town Council