



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CILCA

18th September 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

- **The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note** - There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally or at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.
- There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press in accordance with Section 100 (B) (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Yours sincerely,

David McGifford

CHIEF OFFICER



Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

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

Tel: **01260 270350**

Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

Please note this is the first committee meeting as a Paperless Council unless otherwise requested.

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings (Enclosed)

To approve and sign the [minutes of the Environment Committee held on 11th July 2024](#) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

4. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

Date of Meeting	Item Number	Details of Action	By who	Progress
11.07.24	Item 4	In Bloom to actively promote in Bear Necessities and on social media, the reduction in costs and numbers of plants planted for Congleton in Bloom	RB/DM	In Progress
11.07.24	Item 8	Streetscape Accounts - As well as the colour code system, add Bold text for overspending to allow readers with visual impairments to follow the document correctly.	RB	In Progress
11.07.24	Item 9	Send a full breakdown % of the areas where fly-tipping occurs to all councillors.	RB	In Progress
11.07.24	Item 12	Biodiversity Update - Look into signage for the rivers and canals as well as our biodiversity signage on our open spaces, signage to have	RB	In Progress

		Congleton Town Council and logo on the signs.	
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5. **Questions from Members of the Public**

There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

6. **Urgent Items**

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

7. **Congleton In Bloom Working Group** (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 10th September 2024

8. **Green Working Group** (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Green Working Group held on 1st August 2024

9. **Streetscape Trading Account** (Enclosed)

To receive the Streetscape Trading account report.

10. **Streetscape Update** (Enclosed)

To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

11. **Carbon Footprint Summary** (Enclosed)

To receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

12. **Biodiversity Update** (Enclosed)

For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and next site launch event.

13. Carbon Neutral Update (Enclosed)

To receive update and review the Town Council Carbon Neutral set date

14. Solar Together and Green Fayre (Enclosed)

To receive information on Green Events

15. Cheshire East Report (verbal update)

To receive a verbal update on items of interest from Cheshire East Environment and Communities Committee from the Ward Councillor.

To: Members of the Community Committee

Cllrs: Suzy Firkin (Chair), Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)

Suzie Akers Smith, Charles Booth, Dave Brown, Sally Ann Holland, Amanda Martin, Susan Mead, Heather Seddon, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor) Robert Brittain (Deputy Mayor)

Other members of the Council for Information, Police, Honorary Burgess (5), Press (3), Congleton Library, Congleton Information Centre.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 11th July 2024

Please Note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of this Committee

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda & Papers – 11th July 2024](#)

In attendance:

Committee members: **CLlrs**

Suzy Firkin (Chair)
Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)
Sally Ann Holland
Amanda Martin
Susan Mead
Heather Seddon
Glen Williams

Ex Officio	Kay Wesley (Town Mayor) Robert Brittain (Deputy Mayor)
Non-Committee	CLlr Robert Douglas and Robert Moreton

Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford – Chief Officer
- Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager
- Public x 1

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

CLlrs Charles Booth

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

ENV/01/2425 Resolved to approve and [sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 28th March 2024 as a correct record.](#)

3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs : Sally Ann Holland, Emma Hall, Heather Seddon, Liz Wardlaw and Robert Moreton on matters relating to Cheshire East Council

4. Outstanding Actions

There were no outstanding actions.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

We received two questions from the public – [View the questions and responses click here.](#)

Action: Re In Bloom to actively promote, in Bear Necessities and on social media, the reduction in costs and numbers of plants planted for Congleton in Bloom

6. Urgent Items

Cllr Firkin raised 1 x urgent item regarding the announcement from Cheshire East Borough Council with regards to the temporary closure of Household Waste and Recycling Sites across the Borough and that there will be temporary pop-up sites available whilst the closure is in place. A request for our CEC Councillors to seek a pop-up site for Congleton.

7. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

ENV/02/2425 resolved to receive the minutes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group from 1st March

8. Streetscape Trading Accounts

ENV/03/2425 resolved to receive the Streetscape Trading account report.

Action – As well as the colour code system, add Bold text for overspending to allow readers with visual impairments to follow the document correctly.

9. Streetscape Services Update

ENV/04/2425 Resolved to receive the report relating to Streetscape Services.

Action – Send a full breakdown % of the areas where fly-tipping is occurring to all councillors.

Action – More promotion on marketing on how residents can dispose of their waste

10. Carbon Footprint Summary

ENV/05/2425 Resolved to receive the report and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

11. Paperless Council

ENV/06/2425 Resolved to receive the report and agree on trial within the next Environment Committee meeting.

Action – resend survey monkey survey to all councillors

12. Biodiversity Update

ENV/07/2425 Resolved to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape and volunteers with the ongoing site-specific plan and work with local businesses and land owners.

Action – Look into signage for the rivers and canals as well as our biodiversity signage on our open spaces, signage to have Congleton Town Council and logo on the signs.

13. Cheshire East Report

There was no new information for the committee from Cheshire East.

**Cllr Suzy Firkin
(Chair)**

Congleton In Bloom- Wash Up Meeting
Tuesday 10th September

ATTENDEES: Bob Edwards (VOL) Ruth Burgess (OFFICER), David Brown (CLLR), Glen Williams (CLLR), Russell Chadwick (CLLR), Sue Conway (VOL)

Notes :

A meeting to discuss how the North West in Bloom Judging two days went on 14th and 15th August 2024

- Acknowledgement of emails from Cllr S Mead and Volunteer P Pinto, regarding :
 - Sending out marking sheets to all the IYN before judging next year so the volunteer groups have an idea of what the judges expect
 - All IYN groups if they so wish can purchase t-shirts to show their own brand – grants for these can be requested from many Congleton Grant giving groups – Ask to see in any Congleton In Bloom Working group members require a Purple Congleton In Bloom T-shirt, these are only to be worn for Congleton In Bloom activities, not IYN activities.
 - Due to storm damage on the polytunnel, all members were aware that there would be a rush in getting the back-to-back garden project set up once the repairs had been done and signed off
- More support is needed around the volunteer's gardens, separate meetings to be held with the team, with a reduction of sites needed, and sites passed back to streetscape.
- Going forward NW In Bloom requesting a 10-site max on full in bloom judging route to allow time at each site and the judges to take on board all aspects of each site and not to feel rushed – action separate meeting to be arranged to talk about the route and the chosen 10 sites
- It is not necessary to have a new project each year it could just be improvements on a site to increase a certain subject matter (biodiversity, community support etc)
- Ensure the portfolio as per previous years goes on the website as well as the PowerPoint presentation
- Set dates for both portfolio and presentation to be completed by the end of June, to allow all group members to view and make comments as well as send off for editing and printing
- ALL photos are to be sent in as soon as they are taken to Ruth, Ruth will then save them all in a named file so we are not chasing or searching for photos when they are needed for presentations, display boards etc
- Any documentation any of the IYN groups create, Congleton Town Council will print for all the groups
- Action to arrange a separate meeting with Sue C regarding the Community Garden
- Action – arrange a meeting with park volunteers
- Reminder of North West In Bloom results day 30th and 31st October at Bolton, max 3 tickets per group this includes in Bloom groups and IYN groups, names can go on a waiting list but highly likely will not be fulfilled due to 140 in bloom entries and 16 schools all going on the 31st October In Bloom, max capacity seating at Bolton 330.
- Big focus on a new starting point for a route for 2025

See below break down of the judging route with comments on how each site went; (Appendix A)

NWIB Judging Day - Congleton In Bloom on 14 August 2024

NWIB 2024 Large Town Category, lunch plus 3 IYN groups & 1 business & Congleton park

Time	Location	Section	Meet and greet by:	COMMENTS	On the day Notes	After Judging Comments
	NWIB Judges					
08.30-8.55	Arrive at AMVC, welcome to CIB team, refreshments, comfort break					
9.00 15m max	Astbury Mere Visitor Centre Presentation	C1, C2, C3	D. Brown, plus In Bloom team at VC: BE, GW, MG, PP, RC, RB, SC		DB – Welcome and PowerPoint with talk over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation Time Scale so all members can see before hand - Voice over judges welcomed and thought was different - Less people on bus went well , judges made comment to this
Congleton in Bloom main tour begins <i>Travel in the mini bus – DB (Chair), BE (Time Keeper), PP (photographer) and handover at each site</i> Driver 2 NWIB judges				GW –		
9.15 15m	Astbury Mere Country Park – Eco centre Green flag holder. Outside: biodiversity, conservation, wildlife/ wildflower areas, view of AMCP	A1- 4, B1-3,	Meet Astbury Mere Ranger Matt Axford AM Trustees Chair MG & wildlife expert (displays)	Discuss proposed extension to wildlife area (orchard, seating 10K grant)	Mark 4 mins and Margaret 5min speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Stubbs does not get long enough - Need more walking and talking - Has the site lost its wow now we can not see the mere?
9.30	Drive along A34 to					
9.35 25m	Alexandra Court Hotel grounds (Business)	A1-4 C2	If owner Andy Bourne is not there on the day Jane will be there in his absence		Handover to Andy or Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andy met with the judges lovely welcome good site went down well - Can be added to 2nd day
5m	Drive & view sustainably planted roundabout at Tesco express, continue along A34 to	A1-4 B1-3, C3		Refurbished central display		
10.00 15m	New Life Church Allotment Garden (Jubilee Club)		Steve Hodgkinson & NLC volunteers,	Make sure NLC are available	Handover to Lyndsey and Steve (Jeff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entered as a last minute - Excellent display - Lindsey was very positive and enthusiastic
	Walk to					
10.15 10m	Elizabeth's Garden, West Rd,	A1-4 B1-3, C1-3	Community gardeners, e.g. Kath Bratt, John Sherwood Elizabeth's group Heather Seddon	Spiral garden partially replanted	Handover to Susan Munro and Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time went over on this site, need to look at time slot for next year - Need to ensure visitors keep to the timing
	Return to vehicle					
10.30	View as we drive along St Mary's Church from vehicle	A1-4, B3 C1				-
2-3m	Fire station roundabout					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too much red - Needs height
10.35 5m	Stirling Close: Biodiversity site May Need longer at site (10m)	B C	CTC Suzy Firkin Volunteer Patti Pinto, resident Rebecca Franklin	Hedge laid, orchard extended, hazel coppiced, wildflowers sown/planted	Handover to Ruth Burgess and Suzy F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage to be re sited - Adrian and Suzy firkin met on site with judges - Like the new addition - Seating to be added - Look at sponsorship for the site - Work with residents more

10.40	Two Bears' Roundabout (Community Pride Little Gem & heritage story), drive all along <u>Mountbatten Way</u> , (floral displays) Drive back to town	A1-4 B1	DB story of two bears Partnership sponsorship			- Need to add cosmos back into the roundabout (bear)
10.50 10m	Stop at Fairground car park to view Dutch wall & Food4free garden (drop to 5m)	A1-4 B1, 3	meet Volunteer gardeners & F4F volunteers Sue Conway, Janet, Val & Alec Scaresbrook		Handover to Val	Dutch Wall – needs more colour and add plants for drought dry conditions, does the site add anything ?? Fairground car park back bed - Great addition - Judges like talking to Val and Alec
	View bus station, taxi rank, continue to Colehill Bank					
11.05 10m	CWMH Canal Rd Visit new wellbeing garden	A, B, C	Meet staff, patients, volunteer gardeners		Handover to patti	- Last minute addition for IYN judges went back the following day to be judged - Lovely mix of people on site, volunteers, nurses, patients
11.20 25m	IYN Bath House & Physic Garden, Colehill Bank (L%)	A1-4 B1-3 C1-3	Meet volunteers from IYN group.		Handover to vanessa and John	- Brilliant site volunteers very enthusiastic - Good labelling of the plants and informative
	Walk down Colehill Bank to start					
	Town Centre (walking tour)		<i>All CIB at different points</i>			
11.45 5m 25m	Treo statue, IYN Friends of Community Garden, (L5) (Community Pride Little Gem, Tree of light, Garden of Reflection)	B1,3 A1-4, B1-3 C1-3	Treo statue: Jackie MacArthur ? Community gardeners PP, SC, MG, KB, JP, JS, RG Rotary?	St Peters in portfolio & display	David B = Treo talk Handover to Sue C and Patti – community garden	Community Garden - Judges seem enthusiastic about the site - Concerned over lack of attention had this year due to other volunteer site - A lot of work needed – tree work, police have been involved due the amount of ASB
12.20 10m	Town Hall & other buildings: heritage	B	DB, Kay Wesley (Town Mayor) and Ian (museum)		Walk and talk Ian to wildlife at back of town hall Then walk to town centre – David to talk	
5m	Town hall comfort break if needed					
12.35	Walk through town centre, view planters, baskets, shops, flower towers, Elizabeth's statue,	A, B, C	RC, RB Elizabeth group at statue,	CMQ?	Two ladies at Elizabeth statue Only walking to statue and return	Town centre walk through – Tiers failure – a lot of the black plastic on show Back of town hall = heart wildflowers judges like the idea and working with rotary like the change of a piece of waste land which is now maintained Town centres – bedding plants looked well added colour
12.50	drive to Mountbatten Way, turn into Worrall St View Congleton Paddling pool & theatre planters. Park and stop at car park, Park Rd					To paddling pool rota opening times so that the pool is open when you drove past The troughs on Mountbatten way looked very well
13.05	LUNCH break		Stock at the pavilion			Lunch – based in the park by the Bee Garden

40m						Look in to buffet options for next year Nice fresh buffet works well in the park Nice to see a variety volunteers from IYN More formal members to be briefed so when introduced to the judges they are aware of the campaign all invites to put through the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driver concerns over rushed from dropping of the judged and parking up look into time keeping
13.50 15m	Community Gardening Festival including Back-to-back gardens, young peoples' Gardens & WDT Wheelbarrow Challenge, displays. [Theme: Number 10, RHS Bloom 60 & friendship]	A, B C	PP, Meet young designers & gardeners WDT Wheelbarrow Challenge, meet the gardeners <i>Trees for Congleton tree nursery & orchard nursery</i>		Handover to patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back to back gardens success , note that there was less entries this year – can we find out why are we going to be reduced even more next year? - Look into the admin of inviting the display group and wheelbarrow entries - Make more of a feature of the water pump - Mindful of the weather whilst waiting in the Polly tunnel
14.05 15m	Press call	C2	Local press & radio	Chronicle, Nub News, Churnet & Beartown Radios		
14.20 25m	IYN Friends of Congleton Park, (L5) (16 Green Flag holder, 4x Heritage Flag) sustainable borders, bug hotel, compost bays, Discuss the park and their contribution with Friends of Congleton Park volunteers	A1-4 B1-3 C1-3	RB, Meet Streetscape gardeners Stock at the pavilion IYN FoCP volunteers. Rotary	NWIB IYN L5	Handover to Glen and Ruth walk and talk, a Boat – Rangers Hot and cold bed, Patti, Sue Margaret and John Bee Garden – Patti and team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flower bed by the tree before the bandstand need weeding on the morning (sustainable bed) - Comments regarding changed to boat bed in the last week before judging (all last minute) turf over the tree beds all plants to be saved - Remaining floral beds look fantastic
5m	<i>Rickshaw ride around the park to</i>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judged loved this a nice quirky addition
14.50 10m	Just Bee garden	A, B, C	Meet Patti and volunteers New golden bee trail			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bee garden last minute jobs on the site before judging look into who does what volunteers and streetscape - Bushes around the perimeter need some sort of cutting back to stop any ASB
15.00 15.30 NWIB Park assess't 30m	Congleton Park Tour of formal planting in park Jubilee Gardens & floral plaque (100y Congleton War Memorial Hospital). Wildflower meadow, historic trees, lime avenue, playing fields, bowling green etc St Stephen's Gate (display), view edge of Town Wood, park allotment, hedgehog homes, bird houses etc	A1-4 B1 -3 C1-3	Interpretation boards Allotment Streetscape NWIB Park judging, year 5 (4 RHS Gold medals)	? displays for IYNs & other projects not on the tour		See notes above in FoCP section

CIB 3h C park 30m 3 x IYN 1h 30m presentation 15m press 15m 1 x business 30m
 [3x IYN 30 mins each FoCP, CBHPG FoCG 1 business Alexandra Court 30m]
total: 6h plus 45m lunch break i.e. start at 9.00 - 15.45 this schedule (draft 3) has 20minutes slippage time (CMQ visit?)

Minutes – CONGLETON GREEN

1st August 2024 @ 1pm-2.30pm

Attendees: Councillors: Chair Heather P, Heather S, Suzy F, A Martin,

Volunteers :

Officers, Ruth Burgess

Invited guest Speaker Jackie Kay

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence.

- Cllr G Williams and K Wesley

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Heather Seddon, on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

Cllr H Seddon matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Approved minutes of the previous Green Working Group as a correct record (March 2024)

4. Action Log

See separate Appendix of Action Log

5. Green Marketing

Update received from Cathy Dean re Green Fayre planned for 28th September, bumper edition on the Repair Café and Big Clothes Movement in the Town Hall.

High Street is closed, we have space for 30 stalls – 23 reserved so far so if you know of any groups/services/businesses a few stalls are still up for grabs (no charge).

We have Bee people dressed up (similar) to hedge people last year.

Green Fayre Talks – HP to look at who we can invite on the following subjects ;

- Solar Together
- Climate Emergency UK – Score Cards
- Nature Frindle gardening
- Composting
- Solar and electric cars
- Installing air source pump systems
- The one project in Macclesfield
- Retrofitting
- Speakers – Barry Speed

Debbie Coxon ~ update on Marketing , lots of social media messages have been sent out each week, issued & shared a few posts on Plastic Free July.

Other posts we have focused on :

Love Parks Week activity

Stall at the Play Day

Promo of the Green fayre in Bear Neccs, Effective Directories and Cathy has done some posts

6. **Further funding to drive the decarbonisation plans** e.g. Community Municipal Bonds – Action to be looked further into at the next meeting. Cllr H Pearce to lead on grant funding for Green initiatives

7. **Biodiversity**

The next Biodiversity site launch – 31st October in Mossley, 10 am-1 pm focuses on Halloween activities as well as green initiatives. Groups to be invited :

- Hedgehog Group
- Bat Man
- Climate Action Group
- Wildlife Experts Mark and Jack
- Eco Crafts
- Congleton food 4 free VS
- Hillfields Groups
- Allotment Groups

Marketing the event to be done by DC – Posters, social media, notice boards chronicle, flyer to the schools, promotional material at the green fayre.

8. **Carbon footprint update**

7th September Air Quality Day – look into the possibility of having a stall in the Town Centre, and look to see if anything else is on during this time too. Focus on talking about air quality, understanding the effects on the environment and making more people aware. HP to look into a script for the day

Discussion around the CTC Green Tariff Energy.

9. **Carbon offsetting**

Community carbon offsetting report, need to work on a budget line for the next financial year,

Also, look into the new study on peatland patches which can be rejuvenated and what the barriers are that we may face. Working alongside Cheshire Wildlife Trust. SF to work on this project

10. **Water Quality**

Contact Groundwork regarding the training they provide on volunteer water testing in local communities, - RB to action

11. **Reports going to the Next Environment Committee**

- a. Water Quality
- b. Site Specific – Update on generating Friends groups
- c. Carbon Offsetting

Next meeting dates

3.10.24 @ 4.15pm

6.12.24 @ 1pm

7.2.25 ' 4.15pm

3.4.25 @1pm

Appendix A

Details of Action	By who	By When?	Latest Update	Progress
Chris Hilliard has offered a use of a Ecargo Bike (SF)	Cllr S Firkin & H Pearce		1.2.24 Loan for a trial bike Cllr Pearce to chase up	Suspended
New streetscape Carbon Footprint document	R Burgess		Date - Update Details	Complete
Margaret Gartside has an action speak to all the local Parish Council how they can help and join in with tree planting and also help bring more land opportunities for planting, (SF) would like to help contact the PC if needed	Cllr S Firkin & Margaret Gartside		1.2.24 Mg has already contact many Parish councils that attach to our boundary Cllr Firkin to have follow up at their next PC meetings	In Progress
Ruth Burgess to send copy of wildlife leaflet a to the group	R Burgess	Next Meeting	resent with ammendments 7.2.24	Complete
Carbon footprint methodology meeting - create a sub group and some ownership	Cllr S Firkin		Date - Update Details	In Progress
Green Fayre 2024 - HP to look in to the talks for next years	Cllr H Pearce		Date - Update Details	In Progress
Eco - Schools Ongoing action to be added, various liaison needed with the local primary and high schools by Cllr Firkin and Margaret Gartside.	Cllr S Firkin & Margaret Gartside		Date - Update Details	In Progress

New Actions from Meeting

1.8.24	5.00	Green Fayre2024 - speaker and presentations - Cllr HP to look into who can be invited to talk	Heather P		Date - Update Details	In Progress
1.8.24	6.00	grant funding opportunities	Heather P		Date - Update Details	In Progress

1.8.24	6.00	To go through site specific plan and add £ values to what is required at each site	Ruth B		Date - Update Details	In Progress
1.8.24	7.00	invite guest speaker to one of our future green meeting CEC officer James Baguley	Suzy F		Date - Update Details	In Progress
1.8.24	9.00	carbon offsetting - start looking into financial costs aswell as pros and cons of peatland patch project working with CWT	Suzy F		Date - Update Details	In Progress
1.8.24	10.00	contact groundwork re their training on water quality	Ruth B		Date - Update Details	In Progress

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 th September 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 Streetscape Services Trading Account		
Background	Variance analysis of the Trading Account for the year 2024-2025 for the month ending 31 st July 2024, see Appendix 1.		
Updates	<p>This trading account is information for 4 months of 2024/25, which equates to 33% of the budget, the below figures are based on full annual budgets.</p> <p>Income 47.6%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cheshire East Council Income at 50% as 2 quarters have been paid.○ External Income (Private Works) 20.9%.○ Other Income (in Bloom, Grants, Sponsorship) 27.8%. <p>Expenditure 35% based on budgeted lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● General expenditure includes £2,700 for unexpected repairs, without that General Expenditure is £2,156.● Steet Cleansing include £1,758 for Fly tipping costs. <p>Nothing further to add to the notes on the summary.</p>		
Decision Requested	To receive the Streetscape Trading Account for Month 4 to 31 st July 2024.		



Month 4
Percentage 33.3%

STREETSCAPE	
4000 Staff Costs	577,073
4008 Training	3,200
4009 Protective Clothing\H & Safety	5,900
4013 Office rent	2,000
4016 Cleaning Materials	8,000
4021 Telephone	1,175
4025 Insurance	9,150
4041 Property maintenance	1,500
4043 Horticultural etc Supplies	14,000
4047 Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc	12,800
4048 Vehicle fuel and oil	16,285
4049 Vehicle rental charges	77,880
4050 Street Cleansing	8,000
4162 General expenditure	5,300
4168 Other Expenditure	0
6000 Central Overheads Reallocated	44,832
Streetscape Expenditure	787,095
3030 Purchases for recharging	0
1165 CEC - Income	-419,256
1167 External work income	-15,000
1184 Other income	-12,000
1199 Miscellaneous	-900
1040 Recharges	0
Streetscape Income	-447,156
Net Expenditure over Income	339,939

ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M4	ACTUAL SPEND TO M4	£ VARIANCE OF M4 BUDGETS	% SPENT AGAINST M4 BUDGETS	% SPENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M4 EXPECTED
	192,358	182,012	10,346	94.6%	31.5%	-1.76%
		0	1,067	0.0%	0.0%	-33.30%
	1,967	1,805	162	91.8%	30.6%	-2.71%
	667	667	-0	100.0%	33.4%	0.05%
	2,667	1,810	857	67.9%	22.6%	-10.68%
	392	236	156	60.3%	20.1%	-13.21%
	3,050	9,846	-6,796	322.8%	107.6%	74.31%
	500	923	-423	184.6%	61.5%	28.23%
	4,667	4,168	499	89.3%	29.8%	-3.53%
	4,267	2,135	2,132	50.0%	16.7%	-16.62%
	5,428	5,250	178	96.7%	32.2%	-1.06%
	25,960	26,558	-598	102.3%	34.1%	0.80%
	2,667	3,332	-665	125.0%	41.7%	8.35%
	1,767	4,856	-3,089	274.9%	91.6%	58.32%
	0	10,550	-10,550	#DIV/0!	0.0%	-33.30%
	14,944	21,205	-6,261	141.9%	47.3%	14.00%
	262,365	275,353	-12,988	105.0%	35.0%	1.68%
	0	3,140	-3,140		0.0%	0.00%
	-139,752	-209,628	69,876	150.0%	50.0%	183.30%
	-5,000	-3,134	-1,866	62.7%	20.9%	95.98%
	-4,000	0	-4,000	0.0%	0.0%	33.30%
	-300	-250	-50	83.3%	27.8%	116.63%
	0	0	36	#DIV/0!	0.0%	#DIV/0!
	-149,052	-213,048	63,996	142.9%	47.6%	176.24%
	113,313	65,445	47,868	57.8%	19.3%	-24.46%

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

Paid at start of the year.
Repairs to fence panels £525

In line with set budget
Flvtp invoice cost: £1,758

Dependant on requirements, includes £2,700 for unexpected repiars, other expenditure is £2,156 122.0% for M4
Roundabout works. arant due in.

No budaet
Income Variance 100% Green. 75% to 99% Amber. 0%-75% Red
Two of four payments received

No budaet

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

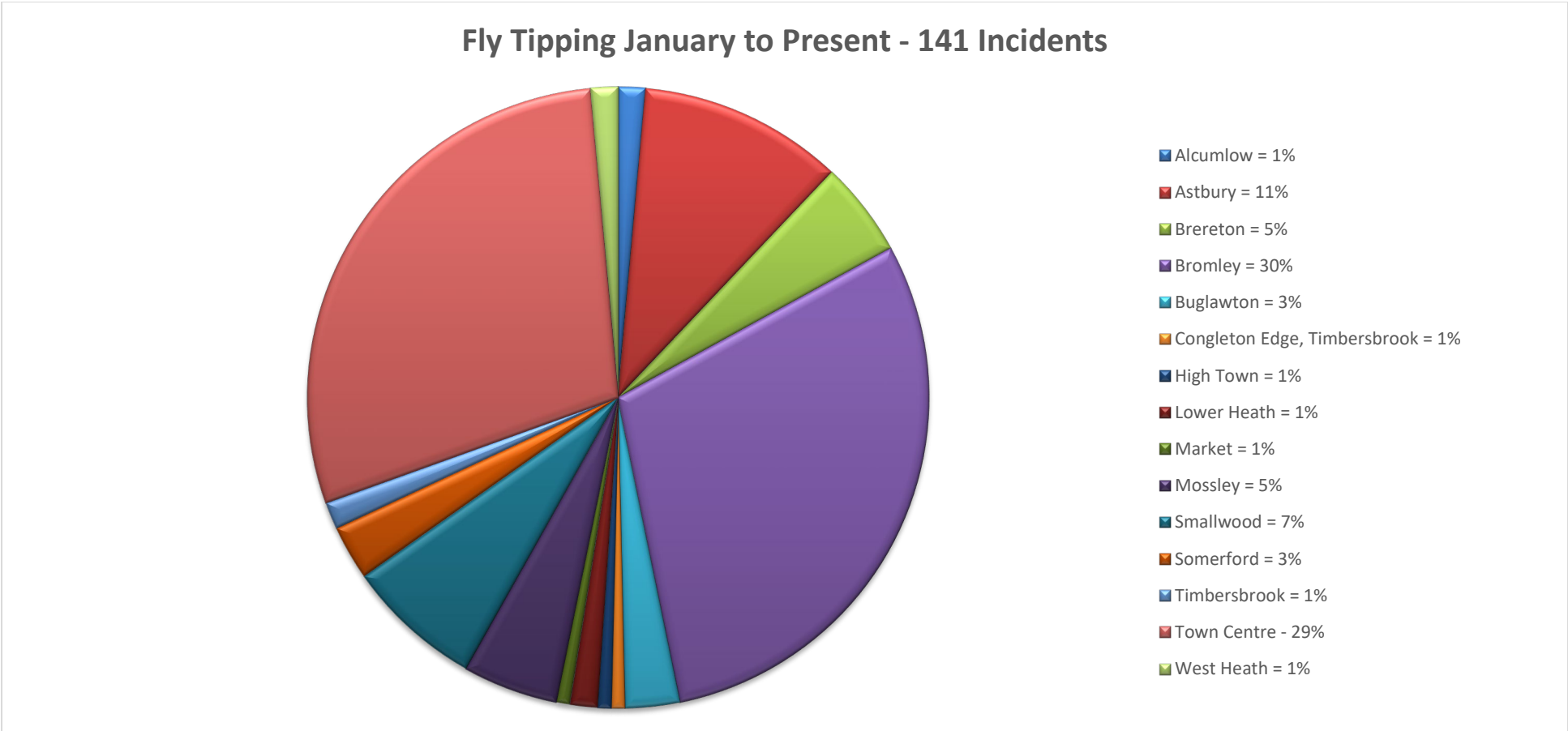
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

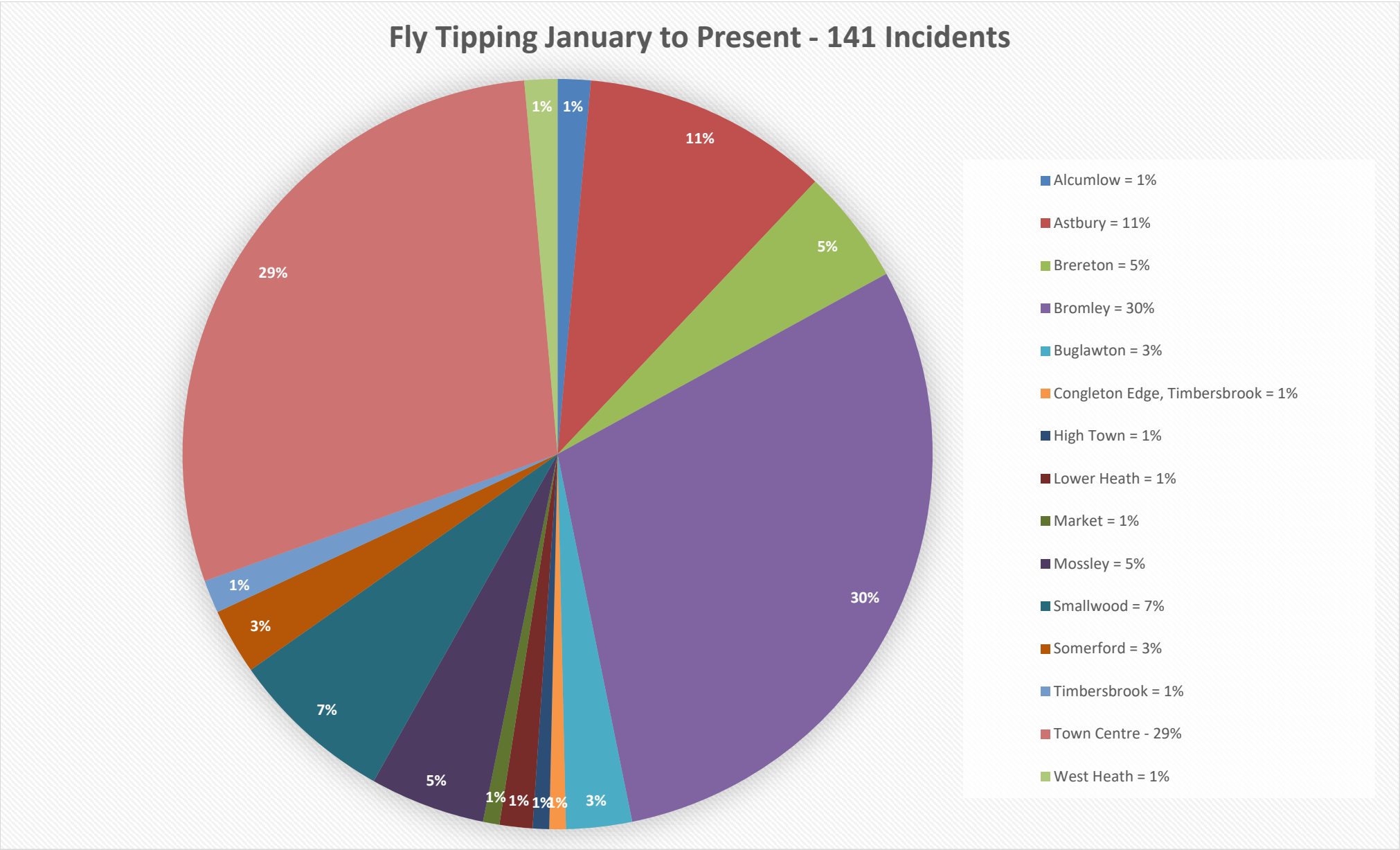
COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee																																																																																																																												
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 th September 2024 7.00 pm		LOCATION	Town Hall																																																																																																																									
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess																																																																																																																												
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Streetscape Services - Update																																																																																																																												
Update	<p><u>Fly Tipping</u></p> <p>As well as noting the quantity of fly tips per month and annually we are now calculating the cost for each specific fly tip over the course of a year. Below you will note the number of fly tips we have dealt with over the last four months, in comparison to previous years :</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>2019</td><td>2020</td><td>2021</td><td>2022</td><td>2023</td><td>2024</td></tr><tr><td>January</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>16</td><td>30</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>25</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>March</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>32</td><td>24</td><td>14</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>April</td><td>10</td><td>12</td><td>19</td><td>10</td><td>19</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>5</td><td>40</td><td>22</td><td>11</td><td>11</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>4</td><td>22</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>26</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>July</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>August</td><td>5</td><td>18</td><td>10</td><td>26</td><td>19</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>14</td><td>23</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>October</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>17</td><td>25</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>December</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>10</td><td>30</td><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>70</td><td>136</td><td>150</td><td>205</td><td>206</td><td>159</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total Cost</td><td>2324.16</td><td>5380.52</td><td>2481.45</td><td>£12,300.87</td><td>£ 15,360.76</td><td>£ 11,339.80</td></tr></table> <p>See Appendix A for percentage graphs as per Action from our last Environment Committee Meeting, please can we discuss which is the preferred graph style option going forward – Option A, B or C</p> <p><u>Vehicles</u></p> <p>We are currently looking into the option of having HVO vehicles (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) via West Wallasey and other lease companies, and we are seeing that Electric Transit Tipper vans are not coming onto the market any time soon, we would also need to look into where we store the fuel .</p> <p><u>Budgets</u></p> <p>Our annual budget for street cleansing is £5,000 which covers the following activity</p>							2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	January	4	4	4	16	30	20	February	10	2	10	11	25	7	March	4	0	32	24	14	27	April	10	12	19	10	19	24	May	5	40	22	11	11	24	June	4	22	2	8	26	20	July	8	21	0	13	9	19	August	5	18	10	26	19	18	September	6	6	14	23	13		October	5	3	10	8	21		November	4	4	17	25	4		December	5	4	10	30	15									Total	70	136	150	205	206	159								Total Cost	2324.16	5380.52	2481.45	£12,300.87	£ 15,360.76	£ 11,339.80
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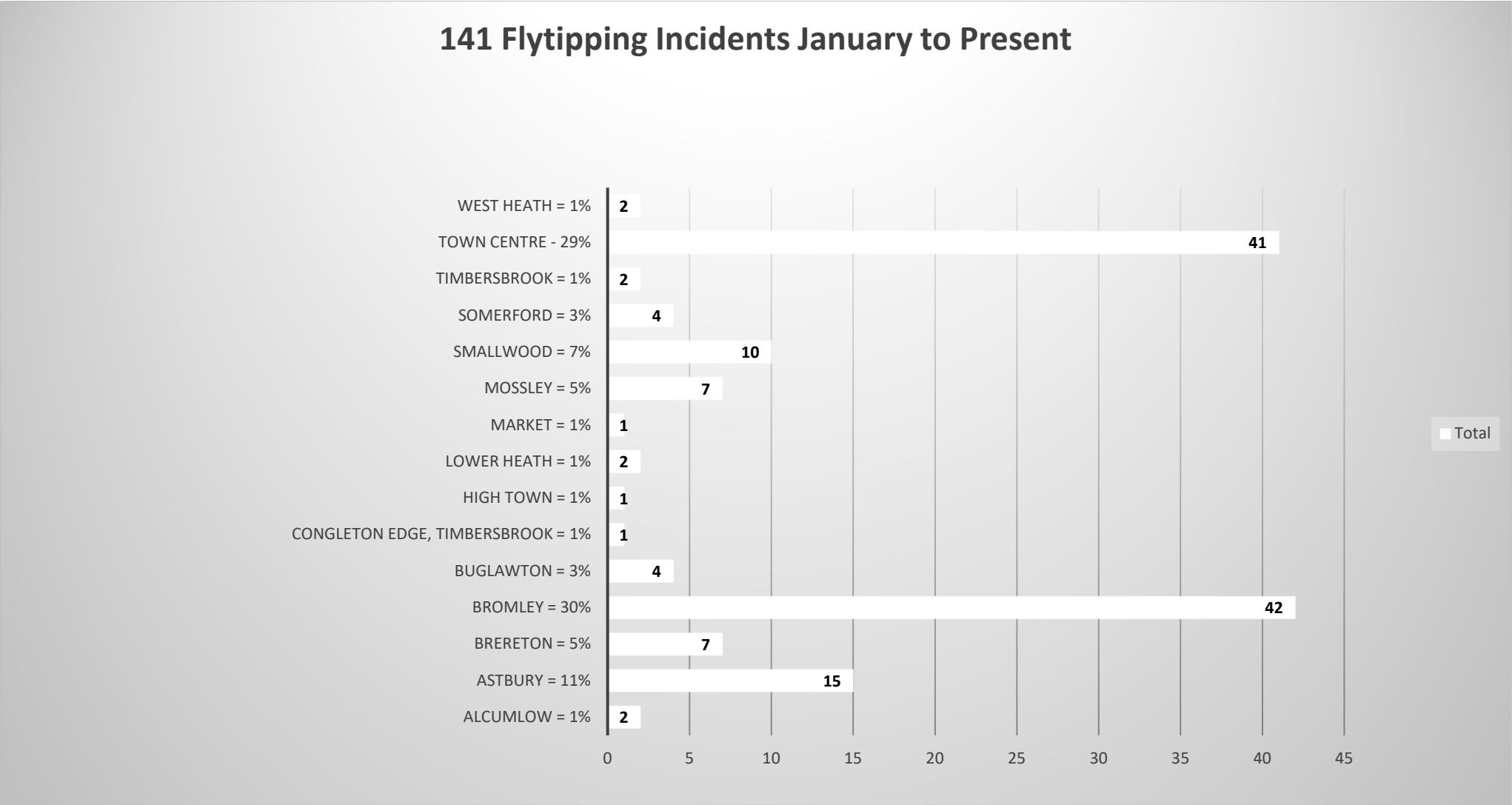
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly tips where external contractors are required ie asbestos, builders waste • Bin bags for day-to-day waste collection <p><u>Private Works Budget £15,000</u></p> <p>External income from Parish Councils and private companies £7158.63 Work in progress £7,813.00</p> <p><u>Additional income</u></p> <p>Any other income/streetscape/in Bloom to date £8759.00 Hanging baskets £3759.00</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>We currently have one member of the Streetscape team currently off work due to ill health.</p> <p><u>Training schedule update</u></p> <p>Streetscape Development Manager :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities Completed - Climate Action for Smaller Councils Completed - Public Versus Climate Action Completed - Conservation and Biodiversity Diploma Ongoing <p>Streetscape Operatives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Awareness Training Completed (5) - Diversity in Nature within local Parks Completed (2) - Nature and Wildlife Conservation Diploma Completed (2) (2) - RHS Planting in the new word for public sectors Completed (2) - Biodiversity within a local council Upcoming September (2) - Sustainable Planting schemes-Upcoming September (2) - Conservation and Biodiversity – Upcoming September (1)
Financial Considerations	<p>We will be looking to align public realm refurbishment to budgets and the business plan.</p> <p>Concerns over the financial impact of fly-tipping.</p>
Environmental Considerations	<p>Additional training of staff will help to progress environmental initiatives.</p>
Equality Considerations	<p>Good quality benches are particularly important to help those with disabilities, certain health conditions or reduced mobility to access and enjoy our green spaces.</p>
Decision Requested	<p>To receive the report.</p>

Appendix A – Fly Tipping Graphs

Option A







CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

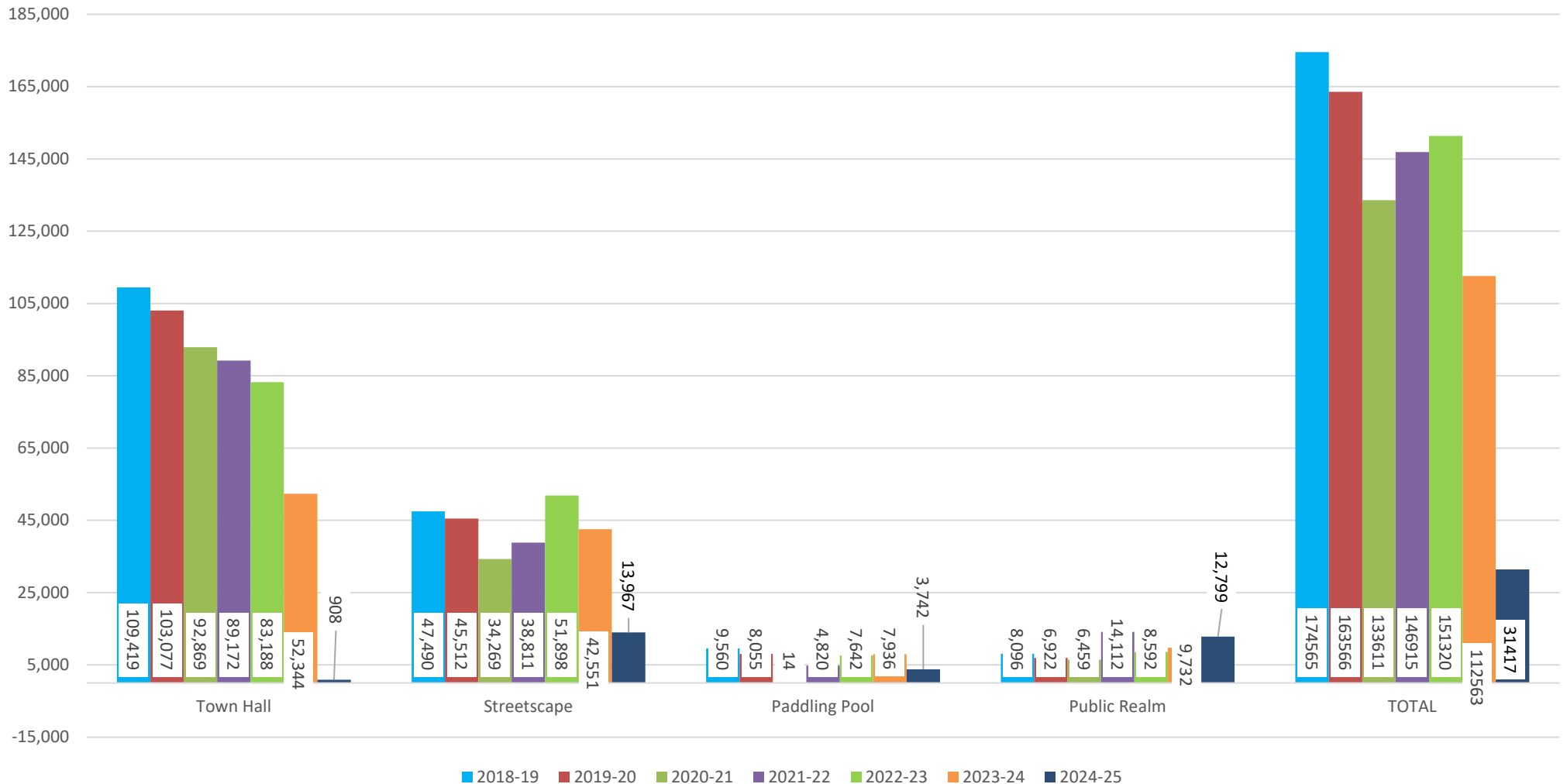
COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee																																																														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 th September 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION				Town Hall																																																									
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager																																																														
AGENDA ITEM	11																																																														
REPORT TITLE	Carbon Footprint Update																																																														
Update	<p>Each Environment Committee Meeting we will provide and up to date graphs and figures on the Town Council Carbon Footprint which is Based on the updated methodology, we have attached Appendix A which shows the current carbon figures for the Town Council, which is split under the 4 main headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Hall• Streetscape• Paddling Pool• Public Realm <p>Latest Figures shown in graph Appendix A</p> <table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>TO MONTH 4</td></tr><tr><td>Area</td><td>2018-19</td><td>2019-20</td><td>2020-21</td><td>2021-22</td><td>2022-23</td><td>2023-24</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>Town Hall</td><td>109,419</td><td>103,077</td><td>92,869</td><td>89,172</td><td>83,188</td><td>52,344</td><td>908</td></tr><tr><td>Streetscape</td><td>47,490</td><td>45,512</td><td>34,269</td><td>38,811</td><td>51,898</td><td>42,551</td><td>13,967</td></tr><tr><td>Paddling Pool</td><td>9,560</td><td>8,055</td><td>14</td><td>4,820</td><td>7,642</td><td>7,936</td><td>3,742</td></tr><tr><td>Public Realm</td><td>8,096</td><td>6,922</td><td>6,459</td><td>14,112</td><td>8,592</td><td>9,732</td><td>12,799</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>174565</td><td>163566</td><td>133611</td><td>146915</td><td>151320</td><td>112563</td><td>31417</td></tr></table>														TO MONTH 4	Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Town Hall	109,419	103,077	92,869	89,172	83,188	52,344	908	Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	13,967	Paddling Pool	9,560	8,055	14	4,820	7,642	7,936	3,742	Public Realm	8,096	6,922	6,459	14,112	8,592	9,732	12,799	TOTAL	174565	163566	133611	146915	151320	112563	31417
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Environmental	Reducing carbon is key to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and its responsible Environmental Management approach.
Equality	The impact of Climate Change is predicted to affect the most vulnerable in society and those already living in poverty. The town council must show leadership in addressing climate change and decarbonising our assets and services where possible.
Financial	Driving down our carbon footprint will also have the benefit of reducing fuel and energy consumption which will in turn save the council money in the long term. However, in some cases investment in equipment and infrastructure may increase short-term costs and the balance of these two opposing trends must be carefully assessed.
Decision Requested	To receive updated carbon footprint figures.

Appendix A

Congleton Town Council
Carbon Footprint
Kg CO2
Per Cost Centre
Per Year
Baseline 2018-2019

NB 24-25 WME not updated C/Emissions, since December 2023. Other data is to month 4.



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26th September 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	Item 12		
REPORT TITLE	Biodiversity update		
Background	<p>WHAT WE'VE DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified potential tree planting locations across the town • Supported tree planting programme • Identified verges for wildflower planting • Identified and put in place schemes for reduced mowing regimes • Ceased the use of Glyphosate on defined sites • Install bug hotels and hog houses at appropriate sites • Install bat and bird boxes in our open spaces • Sow wildflower meadows on appropriate sites • Professional Wildlife and Bird Surveys carried out on Land maintained by CTC • Created a list of what more can be added to each specific site 		
Next Steps	<p>WHAT WE COULD DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify open spaces where hedges can replace fencing • Starting writing to planning applicants to encourage tree planting/replacement planting • Organise an annual bulb planting programme • Launch a campaign to promote hedgehog holes and highways • Work with landowners to identify the potential for wildlife corridors • Identify ponds for planting improvement schemes • Encourage landowners to plant trees and hedges to connect wildlife corridors • Make more allotment space available. 		
Current working projects	<p>Working with the volunteer groups who have planted many trees across Congleton open spaces, these sites have now been passed back to Streetscape to maintain and further enhance the biodiversity. Currently, 12 sites have been passed back and after surveying the sites we have noticed a slight increase in wildlife, insects and fauna. With the opportunities for even more increase over the next few years and more opportunities for us all to learn what works well on each site.</p>		

	<p>The biodiversity site green event will be taking place in the October Half Term, the site chosen this time will be Mossley off Bridgewater Close, we will be inviting the local community groups who are connected to Sustainability, Biodiversity and Climate Change, we will also have on display the work we have achieved so far and the next steps. This will also be another opportunity to encourage more members of the community to get involved, ready for the dormant season.</p> <p>We also have ordered many new signs for some of the 30 x site-specific sites, some which are in place already. These new signs are child-friendly and allow both young and old to learn more about what is happening on the site they are visiting and also what types of wildlife can be seen both trees, plants and animals.</p>
Proposal	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 businesses and land owners
Environmental	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
Equality	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 is 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 to consider accessibility for all where practical.
Financial	Funding for the development of the sites is currently being covered via grants, streetscape labour and volunteer time.
Decision Requested	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 businesses and land owners.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 th September 2024 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Carbon Neutral Council		
Update	<p>In November 2019, we committed to becoming carbon neutral as a council by 2025. We also pledged to raise awareness of the importance of taking action to combat climate change across the Town, working with others to consider and tackle their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and promoting carbon efficiency. Our resolution to do this remains, however we now have to accept that achieving this by 2025 is impossible due to the financial landscape and hurdles within the council setting. The works that we committed to in 2019 are continuing, but we would like to move the target date to 2030, which still remains an ambitious target but hopefully more realistic.</p> <p>We believe we have made enormous progress in understanding the key elements of our carbon footprint and investigating the options we have to reduce or mitigate them but we are still some way away from being carbon neutral and many of those big-ticket items are not fully in our control.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Town Hall Decarbonisation will be a huge chunk of carbon removed but the project will not be complete until early 2026 and, as you know, there are still significant barriers to overcome before we can guarantee it will go ahead.2. We have not yet managed to secure an economic green electricity tariff for 2025 onward.3. Replacement of our fleet with electric vehicles is a large financial hit that we will struggle to meet in the short term. The ability to piggyback on CEC procurement has not materialised due to the financial situation at CEC.4. Identification of an Offsetting Project is still proving elusive and we do not have a budget line for Offsetting accepted as an essential yet with other councillors. <p>With all of the above in mind, I believe we need to push back our target for Carbon Neutrality. CEC have also done something similar and pushed back to 2027. We could do the same or we could give ourselves some breathing space and go for 2030.</p>		
Financial Considerations	The financial impact still needs to be ongoing and calculated in each of the above areas		
Environmental Considerations	All actions being considered are to have a positive impact on the environment		
Equality Considerations	There should be no negative equality impact however this needs to be taken into consideration in each of the areas being investigated		
Decision Request	To agree a target date for Carbon Neutrality subject to endorsement by Council		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26th September 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	14		
REPORT TITLE	Solar Together and Green Fayre – for information		
Update	<p>Solar Together</p> <p>Solar Together offers residents a way to begin powering their home through renewable energy. An initiative ran through Cheshire East Borough Council, there is a sub – group which Cllr Firkin sits on to help organised Solar Together events with Congleton and also feed back to the Green Working Group and Town Council any information. The next event is on 7th October 2024 7pm held at Congleton Town Hall, this is an open event for all , the speakers on the evening will be : Mark Thompson – Benefits of Solar and Battery, Eco Building Design. Paul Williams, Tech Dane Valley Community Energy and then finishing of with testimonials from local residents.</p> <p>This meeting will also be duplicated again on the 16th October 7pm at Sandbach town Hall</p> <p>Green Fayre</p> <p>Working together for a greener future</p> <p>Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership host an annual Green Fayre and Climate Festival. The 5th annual Green Fayre is due to be held on the 28th September 2024.</p> <p>The Climate Festival and Green Fayre is a chance to explore green issues and local solutions. Visit the Congleton Partnership website for the latest news as they organise the event:</p> <p>Congleton Climate Festival – Congleton Partnership</p> <p>Who takes part in Congleton’s Green Fayre?</p> <p>Around 30 stallholders take part on the day, a good mixture of local businesses, groups and organisations.</p> <p>There is no charge for a stall, but ask for commitment on the day to have volunteers at the stall from 10am -4pm. As the Green Fayre coincides with the Makers Market it is always a busy day. The Makers Market is on the Bridge Street area and the Green Fayre on the closed High Street and Town Hall.</p> <p>To date the following groups will be part of the Green Fayre 2024:</p> <p>Ansa Environmental Services, All Saints, Bare Health, Beartown Rickshaw, South Cheshire BeeKeepers, Cheshire East Hospice, Congleton & District Conservation Volunteers, Congleton Climate Action Group, Congleton Green, Congleton Museum, Congleton Sustainable Travel, Dress2mydoor Ltd, Dane Moss Action Group, Fine Design Fired Up, Friends of Congleton Park, Hydro / Congleton Solar, JB Woodwork - nature artefacts in recycled wood, Old Saw Mill / Apple Press, Congleton Rotary, Siemens , TBT Electrics (Solar Panels), Trees for Congleton, Eco Schools, William Dean Trust, Tropic Skincare, Recycled Bags, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, THC Homes, Solar Together CEC</p>		

	Inside the Town Hall, there will be a bumper edition of Congleton's Repair Café and Cheshire Kids Clothes Swap. (Big Clothes Movement). Plus Facepainting and Book Swap.
Environmental	Reducing carbon is key to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and its responsible Environmental Management approach.
Equality	The impact of Climate Change is predicted to affect the most vulnerable in society and those already living in poverty. The town council must show leadership in addressing climate change and decarbonising our assets and services where possible.
Financial	Driving down our carbon footprint will also have the benefit of reducing fuel and energy consumption which will in turn save the council money in the long term. However, in some cases investment in equipment and infrastructure may increase short-term costs and the balance of these two opposing trends must be carefully assessed.
Decision Requested	To receive updated Green Events within Congleton.

