



# Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

Dear Councillor,

## **Community Committee – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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 in 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

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## **AGENDA**

### **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 Community Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 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. 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 before the meeting.

### **5. Urgent Items**

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

### **6. My CWA Presentation**

To receive a presentation from Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie Cheshire Without Abuse MyCWA

### **7. Cheshire Police (verbal)**

To receive and consider a verbal report from Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

### **8. White Ribbon Working Group (enclosed)**

To receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meetings held on **the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024** and receive a short report from the Chair.

- White Ribbon day video <https://vimeo.com/1025842574>

**9. Committee updates** (enclosed)

To update progress on actions from items discussed at the previous Community Committee meeting.

**10. Health and Wellbeing Working Group** (enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 and receive a short report from the Chair.

**11. Community Safety Working Group** (enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and receive a short report from the Chair.

**12. Communications Update** (enclosed)

To receive and note a report from the Town Council's Communications and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon, highlighting the Town Council's Communications activities for September to October 2024.

**13. Congleton Town Centre Cycling and Pedestrian Routes** (enclosed)

To receive a proposal to 'join up' Congleton's town centre cycle and pedestrian routes.

**14. Congleton Bonfire Report** (enclosed)

To receive a report following the Congleton Rotary bonfire on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

**15. Christmas Lights Switch on** (enclosed)

To receive an update on the 2024 Christmas lights switch on.

**16. Congleton Partnership Activities** (enclosed)

To receive a report from Congleton Partnership on activities and direction.

**To:** Members of the Community Committee  
**Cllrs:** Richard Walton (Chair), Glen Williams (Vice Chair)  
Dawn Allen, David Brown, Mark Edwardson, Suzy Firkin, Emma Hall, Sally Holland, Susan Mead, Shaun Radcliffe.  
**Ex Officio:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor), Cllr Rob Brittain (Deputy Mayor)

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
29.08.24**

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

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 29 August 2024](#)

**PRESENT:**

Committee members:

- Cllr Richard Walton (Chair)
- Cllr Glen Williams (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Dawn Allen
- Cllr Dave Brown
- Cllr Mark Edwardson
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Emma Hall
- Cllr Sally Ann Holland
- Cllr Shaun Radcliffe

**Ex Officio:** Mayor Cllr Kay Wesley, Deputy Mayor Cllr Robert Brittain

**Non-Committee Members:**

**Officers:** David McGifford, Chief Officer and Jackie MacArthur (DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager)

**Also in attendance:** Guest Speaker Dr Deborah Lawson, 3 members of the Public, 1 press

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received Cllr Susan Mead.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**CO/07/2425 resolved** to approve and sign the [Community Committee minutes](#) held on 27 June 2024 as a correct record.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Declarations were received by Cllr Dave Brown, Cllr Emma Hall and Cllr Sally Ann Holland concerning Cheshire East Council

**4. Questions from Members of the Public**

A request was made via a statement from the Congleton Climate Action Sustainable Travel Group for the Town Council to apply to Cheshire East Council to have a path from the Bus Station to the Police Station and Library to Market Square added to the Definitive Map as a Right of Way. It was suggested that as it makes no difference to CEC who fills in the forms then in may be best for the Climate Action Group to do this. If not it would need to be a paper to Council to see if that Council wanted to apply to CEC to make this a recognised Right of Way. A copy of the [question and the response](#) can be downloaded here.

## 5. **Urgent Items**

Cllr Mark Edwardson, on behalf of Cllr Rob Moreton raised concerns about the Cheshire East Council consultation, launched on August 28, proposing to introduce car parking charges on a Sunday and extending charging until 10pm daily. He asked for CTC to call an emergency council meeting to discuss the proposals and prepare a united, all-party response.

## 6. **Cheshire Police**

Jackie MacArthur read a statement submitted by Sergeant James Bell. The Congleton Beat team apologised for not being able to attend. The [statement can be downloaded](#) here.

**CO/08/2425 resolved** to write to the Police Inspector to organise a meeting to discuss current ASB, crime and policing issues in Congleton and to encourage the Police to attend the next Community Committee.

Action: - Note 24 September in Councillors diaries at day of action

## 7. **Updates from Previous Community Committee**

**CO/09/2425 resolved** to note the updates from the previous Community Committee.

**Action:** - Thanks the Events team for the successful playdays – would like to see repeated in 2025.

**Action:** - Give feedback on the issues reported via the ‘Listening Tent’

## 8. **Equal Access Action Plan and Updates**

Councillors thanked Dr Deborah Lawson for her [presentation](#) and her ongoing work with the Equal Access Advisory group. **CO/10/2425 resolved to**

1. To confirm support for the Equal Access Advisory Group
2. Support to the group in implementing
  - Promotional Campaign for the Public (including social media and high-quality video) £1000
  - Disability Guide to Congleton £1000 Business (Shop/Pub) ‘Disability Welcome’ Scheme (certificates & stickers) £250

3. Include ongoing accessibility work in the Council's forthcoming Business Plan
4. Support expenditure as outlined for the above

**9. Health and Wellbeing Working Group Minutes**

**CO/11/2425 resolved** to approve the notes from the Health & Wellbeing Working Group held on 11 July 2024 with an amendment change Helen Charlesworth to Helen Charlesworth-May

**10. Community Safety Working Group Minutes**

**CO/12/2425 Resolved to** receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 11 July 2024 with an amendment to correct the East and West Neighbourhood Police Beat teams.

**11. White Ribbon Working Group Minutes**

**CO/13/2425 Resolved to** receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meetings held on 28 May 2024

**12. CEC Library Consultation**

**CO/14/2425 Resolved** to respond to the Cheshire East Council consultation on library Strategy. Councillors agreed to use points 1-10 in the paper as the basis for the response, moving point 10 higher up the list, adding depriving many towns across the borough of an essential library service to point 2 and making it clear in the response about volunteers that volunteers should only be used to staff partnership style activities and the professional role of a librarian should always be paid.

**13. Civic Awards**

**CO/15/2425 Resolved** that the Chief Officer/Deputy Chief Officer works with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Community and Environment to help design the Annual Civic Awards Scheme and present this as a Policy for approval at the next Full Council meeting on the 3 October.

**14. Town Crier**

**CO/16/2425 Resolved** to note the information about appointing a Town Crier and continued to support the principle.

**15. Communications Update**

Councillors received and noted a Communications update prepared by the Community and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon.

#### 16. Speed Indication Devices

**CO/17/2425** Resolved to add Speed Indication Devices to a list of items being taken into Business planning and budget setting activities.

**Action:** - More research is required into SIDs for Councillors to make a decision

**Action:** - See if the Congleton Repair Café can repair the SID purchased a few years ago. Understand what went wrong with this SID.

#### 17. Mayor's Hospitality and Retail Service Awards

**CO/18/2425** Resolved to approve the introduction of a Congleton Mayor's Retail Awards and Congleton Mayor's Hospitality awards

**Action:** Develop criteria, certificate and window sticker.

**CO/19/2425** – Resolved that Councillors were happy to take the final item, although it would take the meeting over its two-hour limit.

#### 18. **Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Item 19**

**CO/20/2425** Resolved to pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to commercial sensitivities.

#### 19. **Congleton Community Projects**

**CO/21/2425** Resolved that the Committee recognises the importance of the Food and Drink Festival for the town and the events team should bring options to bring to Council for consideration on its future. Congleton Community Projects SLA will be discussed separately.

Cllr Richard Walton  
Chair of Community Committee

*meeting finished 9.14*



# White Ribbon Group

## Minutes 9/10/24

- **Attendance:** Richard Walton, Kay Wesley, Mike Wesley, David McGifford, Rachel McCarthy, Peter Munroe, Jonathan Dakin
- **Apologies:** Shaun Radcliffe, Mark Edwardson
- **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed
- Resignation of Cllr Rob Moreton – Agreed. Thoughts on inviting Cllr Robert Brittain? Richard to invite via email. Councillor session run by the group tagged onto another council meeting, then ideally invite others to join the group.  
**ACTION RW**
- Spiking posters and frames – town hall. We believe the police carry test kits for alleged spiking cases on the vehicles, but we need to clarify this with a follow up on Community Safety Group. **ACTION RMC** What is the process when someone is spiked, ambulance or police, ask publicans what do they do if they suspect spiking on a victim. Some are afraid to contact police in case they are a social user of recreational drugs thinking there would be repercussions. Who has tests, what do they test for? **ACTION RMC**
- 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7 pm Community meeting, WR presentation. **ACTION DMCG**  
23<sup>rd</sup> November in the town centre with a stall.
- MP unavailable for any dates regarding film 2024. 25/11 in the town centre we have Shaun and Richard. Follow up on Congleton Town Football Club, Chas and Adam. Beartown Brewery, James Groves and the rugby club agreed, ideally need to talk to Rugby club and Jez managing director for rugby hopefully wearing a white ribbon. Check training is completed as pin badge not received **RMC**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the town centre with giveaways on the table, beer mats, leaflets, white ribbons if they make their promise, collection bucket on the table, check A1 posters are ok, Video will go out 'It starts with men' send your quote via email starting with the above. **ACTION EVERYONE**. 25<sup>TH</sup> November book Blueys for a drop in session offering tea coffee and cake for 30 people, ask Mark on catering and availability, Kay will provide icing discs with a white ribbon logo for the top of the tray bakes. **ACTION RMC** could Celeste make an A5 leaflet, Kay to send over on a PowerPoint **ACTION KW** ideally needs an A1 poster 'Make your

Promise', table top boards would be ideal with white ribbon projects on **ACTION KW**

- BBC webpage looks very interesting for fundraising ideas, next year Kay participating in Mayors walk for SEND, Astbury Mere, Pride, My CWA walk, maybe a Mayors white ribbon walk?
- Tie up white ribbons again in the town on 23<sup>rd</sup> after the stall, Richard offered on the Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> after 6pm. Fly the flag on 25<sup>th</sup> **ACTION DMCG**
- Pub crawl – Beermats hand out in the venues, RM to sound out venues if they are happy for the group to enter and talk to customers, put on socials, hand out beer mats before the pub crawl too, **ACTION RMC**  
Pub crawl date 4<sup>th</sup> December. **ACTION EVERYONE**
- Presentation at CHS 27<sup>th</sup> November, can the student leaders meet after the presentation, asking what the follow-up could be? **ACTION KW**
- Local drama groups needed, New Vic too busy to help Congleton, Mothers union follow up photos for a press release, regional WI Jonathan to arrange to speak to them **ACTION JD**
- Kay draft an email for the schools, send it to Rachel and she will forward it onto primary schools.
- Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 10am

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November 2024</b> <b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall, Bridestones</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>David McGifford, Chief Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Updates Paper</b>		
<b>Background</b>	This paper has been written to update members on progress on actions from items discussed at the previous Community Committee. These items do not need a full paper and are either ongoing issues or confirmation of completion or resolution.		
<b>Updates</b>	<p><b>item 5 Urgent items</b></p> <p><b>Cheshire East Car Parking Consultation.</b></p> <p>The DCO generated a response on behalf of the council and forwarded it to councillors for comment. Only minor amendments were required and the response was therefore sent to Cheshire East Council</p> <p><b>CO/08/2425</b></p> <p><b>Re Police Day of Action</b> on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September was forwarded to councillors' diaries. It was a very successful and interesting day supported by councillors and officers of the council</p> <p><b>CO/09/2425</b></p> <p>Thanks were given to the Community team for the successful playdays and subject to finance these will be repeated in 2025</p> <p><b>CO/10/2425 Equal Access Action Plan</b></p> <p>Promotional campaigns are being developed ahead of the Equal Access Group on the 12<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p><b>CO/17 Speed Indication Devices (SIDS)</b> – Research into SIDS to enable Cllrs to make a decision on future use and establish if Congleton Repair Café can repair current damaged SID</p> <p><b>Mayors Hospitality &amp; Retail Awards</b></p> <p>Criteria have been developed and window stickers are to be done.</p>		
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	To Note this Report		

## Health and Wellbeing Working Group Minutes

Thursday 3 October 2024 TEAMS Meeting (Virtual) 3 – 4.30pm

**Present CTC:** Cllr Liz Wardlaw (chair), Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Heather Pearce, Cllr Kay Wesley (teams), Jackie MacArthur (CTC), Cathy Dean (CTC)

**Teams** (virtual) Cllr Amanda Martin, Kate Fallon, Emma Hall (briefly) Usman Ashiq (for item 4/5)

1. **Apologies** Cllr David Brown, Cllr Richard Walton, Dr Paul Bishop, Dr Vicky Buckley, Rachel Wallace, Head of Communications and Engagement NHS Cheshire East Trust and Usman, Plus Dane Community Engagement Officer
2. **Draft Agenda Approval** – approved without changes
3. **Agreed notes of meeting held on the 11 July.** Updates via the agenda.
  - Carry forward the list of Community wellbeing hubs (Cathy)
4. **Update on Primary Care Network**
  - a) Waters Green Same Day Access has been quite successful. They are using Physician Associates with GP support, but the practices have certainly seen some benefits. their geography helps them with this.
  - b) Still working towards a same day service at CWMH –and potential to set something up using our own surgeries in the meantime. The aim of this would be to provide capacity across the week rather than on certain days.
  - c) The surgeries are busy with the Covid/flu campaign
  - d) The main thing area around support is for the buildings and also parking has become more difficult around the surgeries.
  - e) In the room there was some concern about the generalisations in the tartan rug as a tool for measuring health of areas.
5. **Wellbeing Hub - Usman updated the group**

Plus Dane continuing to work on logistics and legalities. Emma and Usman took a proposal to management. The CEO supported it. Suggested a pilot using 5 organisations to start with. Checking which organisations still interested. Also trying to establish if there is any profiling to see if Plus Dane residents involved so that they can offer additional support. Three levels of involvement

  1. Lead Organisation (Plus Dane) – Engagement and Project Team
  2. Delivery Partners – hot desk/ use the space
  3. Steering Group – help shape and grow the project

On-going costs about £4k per year. Set up costs around £35k. Go live in Q1 2025.

**Action: Usman to keep group informed of progress at end of October.**

## **6. CHOC Community Plan**

Kate Fallon updated the group.

- Priorities still around Cardiovascular health, children's health, Smoking cessation and weight management.
- Everybody Leisure taking over from One You on the health and weight management. Just starting to get sign ups.
- Also working on Management of Frailty and High Dependence patients.
- The Know Your Numbers Week was successful and resulted in 171 blood pressures being taken, 131 of which were registered with CHOC GPs. 21 were raised.
- 2025 will see a push on Legs Matter and particularly around leg ulcers.
- Breast Screening low in Congleton – want to bring the breast screening vehicle to Congleton.

## **7. Assisted Living Plans and Places**

- Item carried over to next time. No significant news from CEC on Mountview, Carter House, Newcastle Road, former Green Gables.

## **8. War Memorial Hospital**

Rachel Wallace gave her apologies. Kay reported there will be a meeting about bus transport at the CWMH on the 21 October. Many of the group attended the well-being garden opening at the hospital in September.

## **9. Disability Positive**

Report went to Community Committee on the 29 August. Progress is being made on the Town Centre, communications, events, and transport.

Cllr Firkin asked if possible for someone to assess the museum.

## **10. CEC Scrutiny Committee** - little to report for Congleton

## **11. Public Health Calendar**

- NHS bus in town on the 22 October and 16 November
- Work Around World Mental Health Day
- World Aids Day – 1 December

**AOB** Kay reported that she is working on setting up a Women's mental health group.

**Date of Next Meeting** – to be confirmed in January

Cathy Dean is likely to be the lead officer on this working group going forward.

**\_Draft Minutes of Meeting  
Community Safety Working Group  
Tuesday 12 September 2024 3pm – 4.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Robert Brittain, Cllr Glen Williams, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy. St James Bell

**Via Zoom** Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Shaun Radcliffe.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Linda Webber (Street Pastors), Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Richard Walton,
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 11 July 2024 were accepted as correct
3. **Draft Agenda for today was approved**
4. **Action Log** - extra updates
  - a) Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Richard Walton and Jackie MacArthur met with the PCC Dan Price via teams. Positive noises about the need for more policing in Congleton. The PCC to attend Community Committee in January.
  - b) Police Day of Action planned for the 24 September - letter to be completed and signed, There will be a follow-up day on the 14 October
  - c) Caravans have now left Edinburgh Road and Dale crescent. Concern that we need a process to stop it happening again.
  - d) Hate Crime incident in town – PC Matt Steele has spoken with witnesses and taken a statement for follow-up.
  - e) PCSO Karen Linden and PC Helen Weeks will attend the Green Fayre from 10am – 1pm.
5. **Police update on Crime (Sergeant James Bell)**

The figures covers June, July and August and was presented to the Town Council Community Committee on the 29 August - [download a link to the paper to committee](#)

Of note - Crime is up 582 crimes reported compared with 435 over same time in 2023. This is in line with the rest of the constabulary.

**5.1 Assaults and Public Order** offences remains the highest number of crimes. Note if two people have a fight this would be logged as two assaults and two public order offences.

**5.2 Residential burglaries** - 15 reported – includes sheds and garages. All victims have been visited as part of operation shield.

**5.3 Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls** - remains a force priority and zero tolerance. 117 incidents of DA and 182 as VAWG. Police will arrest on suspicion of abuse. Police will visit victims with domestic disclosures (Claire's Law) and enforce Domestic Protection Orders. Two breaches this quarter led to one heavy fine and one custodial sentence.

**5.4 Shop Lifting** – there were 32 reported incidents, 62% closed with no suspect identified. The gap between the number of cases reported to the police and the information received by the Town Council would suggest that the figure is much higher. The Days of Action will aim to address this. We expect that figures for shoplifting in Congleton will increase.

**5.5 Drug and Alcohol** - key areas town centre, Congleton Park and Community Garden.

**5.5i Action** Jackie to discuss the community garden issues with Streetscape Manager.

**5.6 Hate Crime** – two calls relating to Congleton Pride being investigated.

**5.6i Action** – Kay to speak to one of the victims about making a statement

**5.7 Speeding and Traffic** - Most complaints are about speeding on the bypass – although this is outside of Congleton it is a concern. Police looking to see if CEC or the parishes can help with CCTV.

**5.8 Road Safety** concerns about vehicles using the pedestrian area as a cut-through – mainly between 4pm and 10am when the barriers are not in place. This is a safety problem.

**5.8i Action** Jackie to write CEC Community Safety and CCTV to see if action can be take with signs and ANPR.

**5.8 ii Action** Police – looking to reintroduce Speedwatch

**6. Police Priorities** – Town Centre and shoplifting.

**7. Cheshire East Council ASB team** - not able to make the meeting

**8. Street Pastors Update** – Unable to attend the meeting

**9. CCTV Update** - works complete and nothing new to add

**10 Shop Watch Update** - Rachel reported that Shop Watch was a bit quieter at the moment.

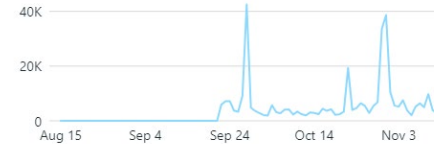
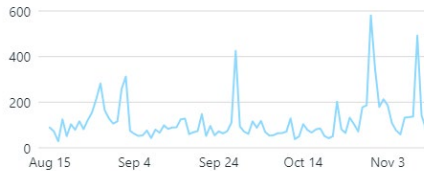
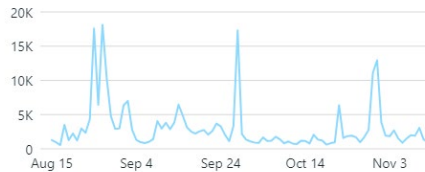
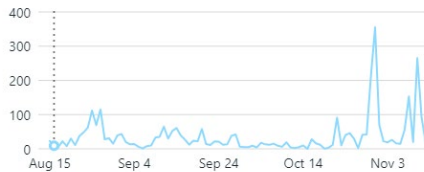
**AOB** : - Market Area becoming an issue again. Meeting with CMQ, new owners of Bridestones, CEC and CTC to agree on actions that could be taken to make the area less of a ASB hotspot.

**Action: Request for the Youth Liaison Van to come to Congleton to engage Youth in the Market Area**

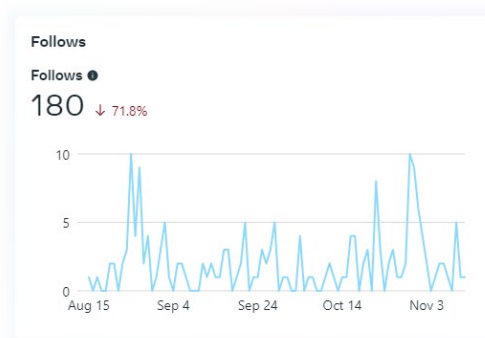
**Date of Next Meeting** Thursday 5 December 3pm– 4.30pm Bridestones. There will also be a zoom option.

Jackie announced that she will be leaving CTC on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Rachel McCarthy, the Town Centre and Events Officer, is expected to take over supporting this working group.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	21 November 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall												
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Officer														
AGENDA ITEM	12														
REPORT TITLE	Communications Update														
Background	This paper has been prepared to give committee members an update on the communications activities that took place over the last 90 days (15 Aug-12 Nov)														
Details	<b>Social Media Overview</b> Facebook Followers: 5.5K Instagram Followers: 1.1K Twitter: 3.5K <b>Facebook Performance Overview</b>														
	<table><tr><th>Views</th><th>Visits</th><th>Reach</th><th>Interactions</th><th>Followers</th><th>Clicks</th></tr><tr><td>347.5K</td><td>10.6K</td><td>89K</td><td>3.3K</td><td>5.5K</td><td>951</td></tr></table>			Views	Visits	Reach	Interactions	Followers	Clicks	347.5K	10.6K	89K	3.3K	5.5K	951
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**Social media posts issued** (excluding shared posts): **366** (-14.7%). Avg. 4 per day

#### Top 5 FB Posts:



#### CTC social posts are usually shared to:

Congleton Chat's Back	26.9K members
Congleton News & Views	13.2K members
Congleton Radio	1.1k followers

#### CTC Website:

- Thrive working on the new structure & visuals – managed by Cathy Dean.

#### Key Statistics for the website:

**Views: 24K, Users: 9,500, Views per user: 2 pages, Av engagement time: 51sec**

Organic searches (**8.5K visits**) continue to generate the highest traffic, via search engines such as Google/Bing etc.

#### Top 10 pages (largest numbers of visits)

Page	Views
<b>Rotary Bonfire and Fireworks</b>	5,098
<b>Welcome to Congleton</b>	2186
<b>What's On</b>	750
<b>Committee Meetings</b>	558
<b>Plan your visit to the paddling pool</b>	425
<b>Shopping in Congleton</b>	425
<b>Meet the Councillors</b>	318
<b>Congleton Market</b>	288
<b>Job Vacancy</b>	277
<b>Contact Us</b>	276

#### **Users by City**

City	Users (K)
<b>London</b>	2.8
<b>Congleton</b>	1.4
<b>Manchester</b>	502
<b>S-O-T</b>	447
<b>Liverpool</b>	324

#### **Noticeboards**

The six town noticeboards and the CIC What's on Window are updated weekly to promote town council events and activities organised by local organisations and community groups.

#### **Key Events**

20 & 27.8 Play Days

27.9 Electromantics Tribute

28.9 Green Fayre

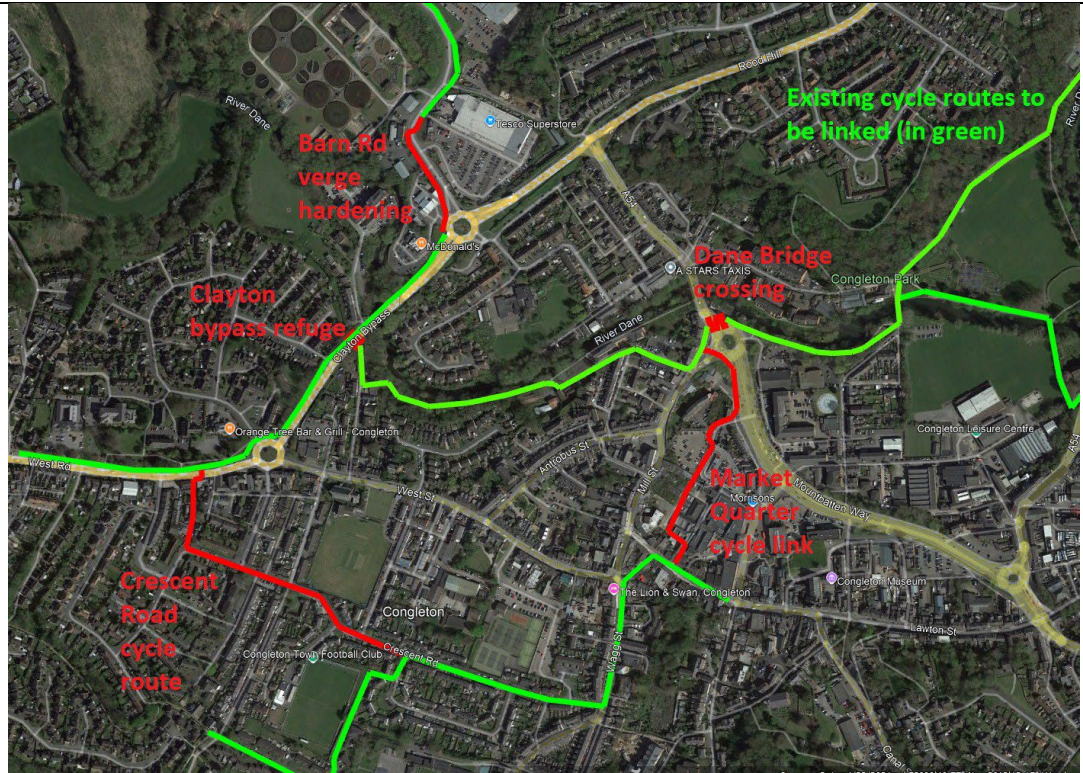
	<p>30.10 Witchy Wednesday</p> <p>1.11 Take That Tribute</p> <p>10.11 Remembrance</p> <p><b>New publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood Plan Consultation</li> <li>• Bear Necessities (Autumn 2024)</li> </ul> <p><b>Press Releases:</b> 29</p> <p><b>Radio Interviews:</b> 4</p> <p><b>Editorial:</b> Effective Directories, Sept – Nov (circl. 11k)</p>
<b>Proposal</b>	For Councillors to note the report and for the officer team to take on board suggestions and recommendations from Councillors.
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Work is delivered within the annual budgets set by the Town Council
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	Considered as part of each piece of work. Carbon-neutral certificates are obtained for Bear Necessities and paper from sustainably managed sources used for other work.
<b>Inclusivity Diversity Impact</b>	The team uses different channels and communication tools to meet different audiences.
<b>Decision Required</b>	That Councillors note this report.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 7 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Mayor and Chair of Green Working Group, with Congleton Sustainable Travel, Congleton Climate Action</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>13 Congleton Sustainable Travel</b>		
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<p>Congleton is a town divided by a simple river and a road. For residents of the new housing estates to the north of town, the River Dane and Mountbatten Way/ Clayton Bypass form two strong physical barriers to non-car-users wanting to negotiate their way safely into and through Congleton. Fortunately, Congleton has existing, overlooked assets which would, with a little retrofitting, overcome these obstacles.</p> <p>Cheshire East's own North Congleton Masterplan (October 2015), envisaged a traffic-free East-West Greenway connecting all the new housing developments proposed within the Link Road with each other.</p> <p>Developers are being asked to fund and build the East-West Greenway with varying degrees of success. However, there is little of the same joined-up cycle infrastructure to bring these new residents into the town centre.</p> <p>Providing direct, traffic-free routes is crucial to encouraging people to travel sustainably, leave their cars at home and alleviate the severe traffic problems experienced in Congleton. As such, this proposal has two aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Link together 5 disconnected cycle paths to create a legible, linear pathway for cyclists and pedestrians into the heart of Congleton.</li> <li>2) Overcome the physical barriers to the take-up and disjointed accessibility of walking and cycling within the town of Congleton.</li> </ol>		
<b>THIS PROPOSAL</b>	<p>The scheme intends to implement only minor interventions which together, take a comprehensive, strategic area-based approach to fulfil the above aims.</p> <p><b>Problem 1: Link Clayton bypass and Barn Road cycle paths</b></p> <p><b>Solution 1: Barn Road grass verge hardening and new refuge</b></p> <p>This would entail replacing 145 metres of the existing grass verge with a hard surface to widen the footway to shared footpath / cycleway width. Clearly this measurement excludes the vehicular accesses / egresses to business premises which would remain as uncontrolled crossings.</p> <p>By asphaltting the verge along the south side of Barn Road from the Shell garage to the first bend adjacent to Halfords autocare garage, then several metres on the north side,</p>		

	<p>this would link together two existing cycle paths which already run alongside Clayton bypass to the south and Barn Road to the north.</p> <p>Placement of a refuge centrally within the first bend (at the road's widest point) would allow maximum sight-lines to aid crossing at this point. In addition, decreasing the very wide one-way Shell garage/McDonalds entrance to the necessary single vehicle width would greatly improve pedestrian safety against vehicles leaving the roundabout.</p> <p>Zooming out for a broader view, we see that this small “missing link” would form a complete active travel route between West Road/West Heath and the Business &amp; Retail Park and the new housing development inside the link road.</p> <p>From this small step, residents of Congleton’s growth areas would have safe, attractive routes to the existing facilities in and around the traditional town centre without using a car. Without this key linkage along Barn Road, then the amount of vehicular traffic emanating from the Congleton North Urban Extension will soon surpass the amount of traffic that the Link Road is aimed at reducing.</p> <p>The Barn Road cycle link is also critical to prevent the town from being divided in two.</p> <p><b>Problem 2: Crossing the A34 trunk road at the optimum / most efficient location</b></p> <p><b>Solution 2: Clayton Bypass refuge</b></p> <p>At the northern end of Dane Street, a refuge could be placed centrally on Clayton bypass sitting just to the west of the junction to provide a 2-stage crossing of this busy road. The bigger picture indicates that crossing improvements over this busy trunk road would facilitate safer walking and cycling from all parts of town. A refuge in this location would enable a complete route between the town centre and the Barn Road retail, businesses and growing housing estates (alongside Barn Road verge hardening above).</p> <p><b>Problem 3: Linking the town centre and its river.</b></p> <p><b>Solution 3: Cycle route from the town centre, past Congleton Market Quarter to the riverside</b></p> <p>Currently, cycle routes between the north and south of Mountbatten Way follow Sustrans route NCN573 along Market Street past the bus station. Whilst no accidents with cyclists (or indeed any road users) have been reported here, there are perceived safety issues with this route given how busy and narrow Market Street is, which could be off-putting to potential cyclists.</p> <p>An alternative takes a less trafficked route which can be signposted via the level access from Victoria Street, taking the alleyway opposite Specsavers in the pedestrianised area to Princess Street, past the Market Quarter to Stonehouse Green and Brookside Road (the service road parallel with Mountbatten Way). The pavement here could become shared-use with a short length of minor verge hardening to widen the path around to Mill Street (low budget), or the grass embankment could provide an access track from Brookside Road to the pavement. Mill Street has a suitable existing refuge to allow safe crossing to reach Rope Walk and the existing riverside path to the west, leading to Dane St. All roads named here are adopted highways.</p>
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	<p>The opening of this route, in conjunction with the previous two interventions in this report, would allow uninterrupted journeys between the town centre and the Barn Road retail, businesses and growing housing estates inside the new link road.</p> <p><b>Problem 4: Crossing Mountbatten Way</b></p> <p><b>Solution 4: Zebra crossing at Dane Bridge roundabout</b></p> <p>Investigate a zebra/light-controlled crossing on the town side of the Rood Hill bridge. This has been requested before and seemingly, the available visibility for approaching vehicles prevented a crossing from coming to fruition. This is exactly what makes this location unsafe for pedestrians currently crossing at this point. A compromise needs to be found around this impasse to improve the hostility of this location for active travel.</p> <p>This would complete a green active travel artery along Congleton's riverside spine allowing safe cycle and pedestrian passage east to west, work to home, house to shops and most importantly providing for and complementing the Safe Routes to School scheme.</p> <p>A safe crossing at this location would allow a safe and direct cycle route for the residents of Buglawton and Bromley Farm to reach the town centre and the Barn Road retail, businesses and growing housing estates inside the new link road, as well as the park.</p> <p><b>Problem 5: Unsuitability and hostility of West Street for cyclists</b></p> <p><b>Solution 5: Signed cycle route to the town centre via Cycle Store, Garden Street and Crescent Road</b></p> <p>A signposted route from the pedestrian crossing between The Orange Tree and the Cycle Store via Crescent Road to the town centre would provide a safe and quiet cycle route between West Heath and the town centre. It would also divert cyclists who currently use the pavement along West Street, creating a safer environment for all.</p> <p>The map shows all these improvements:</p>
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### Conclusion

Small improvements could create definitive shared-use routes across town to benefit equal access (mobility aids, pushchairs, people on foot or cycles). In combination, these relatively minor interventions would allow people to travel from West Heath, Barn Road Retail & Business Park and the new developments within the new Link Road to the town centre and onwards to Buglawton and the Railway Station entirely along the riverside and linked quiet roads and pathways without needing to travel alongside busy road traffic.

<b>Environmental Considerations</b>	Promoting cycling and walking is a key part of the green agenda and will help to lower the carbon footprint, noise and pollution generated by people travelling around our town centre.
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	Cycling and walking are accessible to many people who do not or cannot drive a car. This includes the old, the young, the disabled and those on a low income. To make cycle routes more accessible and joined-up will improve accessibility for all.
<b>Financial Considerations</b>	Not known. The government has promised investment in cycling routes as part of its active travel strategy. The responsibility for the cycle routes lies with Cheshire East Council.
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	That CTC supports the provision of these improvements to 'join up' Congleton's town centre cycle and pedestrian routes, write to Cheshire East Council to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the proposed work and</li> <li>2. Request a meeting with CEC to discuss it, including timetable and funding</li> </ul>



Congleton Rotary Bonfire and Fireworks Display  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Congleton Town Centre UKSPF Grant

Provision of portable toilets and portable lighting

Ref: PO number CD521/2425, Committee Ref FAP/19/2425

The Congleton Rotary Bonfire and Fireworks Display took place in Congleton Park on Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.

1. Advertising

The event was extensively advertised throughout the Town, via Town Council notice boards, posters in various premises throughout the Town, via advertising banners and of course in the local newspaper

2. Inclusivity

Special provision was made in an area of the Park to accommodate the disabled, whilst the car park at the end of Park Road was reserved exclusively for disabled parking.

The event is dominated by people of all ages and in particular family groups and was also attended by the Town Mayor as a guest of Rotary.

3. Provision of additional facilities

The event once again was a great success with nearly 5000 spectators in attendance who enjoyed two fireworks displays and a bonfire

On site where fairground rides and various catering outlets to support the large crowd







Access to the display was orientated alongside the railings bordering the River Dane which is an unlit section of the Park. Thus, the provision of 150m of portable lighting guiding spectators safely along this path to the event was crucial from a safety perspective

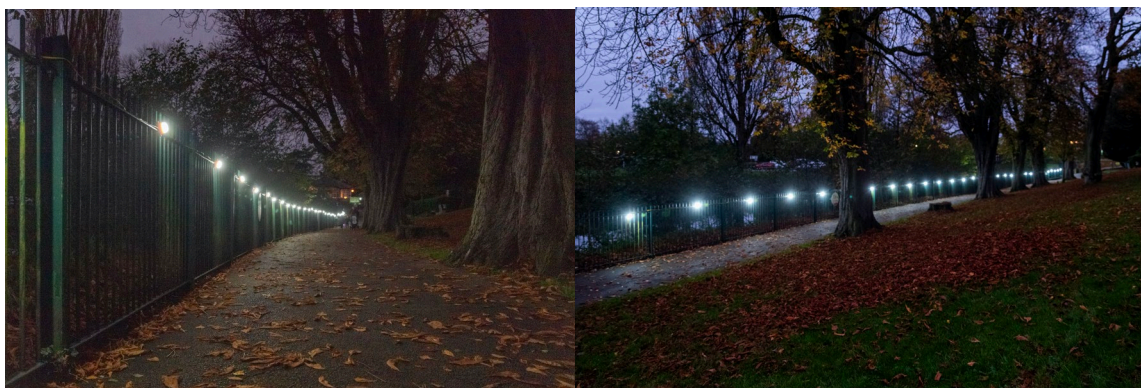
In addition, the large crowd requires the provision of other facilities to ensure their comfort and this year for the first time portable toilets were installed on site in close vicinity to the bowling green which proved to be very beneficial.

Cost of Luxury and disabled toilets £1224 Inc. VAT

Cost of portable lighting £120 inc. VAT

Total £1344





#### 4. Increase in footfall

Whilst it is difficult for Rotary to measure, there is little doubt that the release of nearly 5000 people departing the park at just after 8pm would have a positive effect upon the night time economy as it is not unreasonable to assume that a considerable number would have migrated to the restaurants and bars in the Town

#### 5. Cost of the event

The final items of expenditure are still being collated, but it is anticipated that it will amount to about £k18.

The whole *raison d'être* in putting on the event is to raise money to distribute to charities and good causes, in the main, in and around the Congleton area. There is little doubt that when the accounts are finalised for the bonfire and fireworks display that it will yield a substantial sum of money to use throughout the Town in supporting good causes.

Brian Hogan  
Congleton Rotary  
6.11.2024

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November 2024</b> <b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall, Bridestones</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>David McGifford, Chief Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>15</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Christmas Lights Switch On</b>		
<b>Background</b>	This paper has been written to update members about the details of the Christmas Lights Switch which is taking place on Friday the 29 <sup>th</sup> Of November 2024		
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The festivities begin in the town centre at 4 pm</li> <li>• Big Switch-On at 6 pm.</li> <li>• Free entertainment on the main stage and the community stage, newly located at Swan Bank.</li> <li>• A free Santa's Grotto in Radley's (bookable via Ticketsource),</li> <li>• face painting, food vendors, crafts, fairground rides and the traditional Lantern Parade.</li> <li>• New for 2024 is an Inclusivity Area on Mill Street, including a big screen with a live stream and a quiet space within the TMC building.</li> <li>• More volunteers are still required to help out on the night please advise Rachel, Cathy or Debbie if you are able to help.</li> </ul>		
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	To Note this Report		

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>21 November 2024</b> <b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean, Communities and Admin Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Congleton Partnership Update</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>This paper has been prepared to update committee members on the Congleton Partnership activities and direction.</p> <p>Founded in 2006, the Partnership originated from the Congleton Market Town Initiative, evolving significantly since its first constitution in January 2007. The Partnership continues to respond to the needs of the community and support the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) sector, leveraging local resources to enhance Congleton.</p>		
<b>Details</b>	<p>Congleton Partnership voted in a new Constitution at their AGM on 10 September 2024 to open up Congleton Partnership membership to support Congleton's VCFSE sector.</p> <p>The Partnership will be managed by a board known as the Oversight Group (replacing the Executive Board) which shall meet every month or as business dictates, plus an AGM. The Oversight Group shall appraise projects, approve funding and be responsible for monitoring projects. The Accountable Body (Congleton Town Council) reserves the ultimate right to sanction or refuse any proposal endorsed by the Oversight Group. The group shall have 9 voting members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Chair</li> <li>• 1 x Vice-Chair</li> <li>• 1 x representative of the local business community</li> <li>• 2 x elected Congleton Town Council Members</li> <li>• Plus 4 other positions representing other Congleton Interests decided by the democratic process.</li> </ul> <p>The Chief Officer from Congleton Town Council will attend as Ex Officio. The Partnership Officer will provide administration support.</p> <p><b>The Goal</b></p> <p>Create a forum in which different members of the community can come together to generate &amp; share ideas. Including our local business community.</p>		

	<p>A way of information sharing, providing an accessible means of communication and consensus-building that anyone can tune into which improves Congleton for its residents.</p> <p>The first community event to promote and attract new members to the Partnership is 'Meet the Funders Event' (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, 4-6 pm). Objectives of this event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the knowledge in the community of funding opportunities</li> <li>• Attract new ideas for projects &amp; enable people to take action</li> <li>• Increase the knowledge of Congleton Partnership &amp; the work it does</li> <li>• Bring together community stakeholders – Funders, Businesses, Voluntary, and Local Authorities.</li> <li>• Attract new volunteers and project leads to the Partnership</li> </ul> <p>At the time of writing the paper, we have 10 funders attending and 61 attendees booked.</p> <p><b>Other Activities Planned:</b></p> <p><b>Changing Lives Buddy &amp; Befriending</b> scheme contract has been renewed for 24/25, we are looking to expand the offering with a warm welcome group so we can offer face-to-face befriending. Since the scheme began (in the 3rd year) they have received 62 referrals, Matched 54 and recruited 104 volunteers in the Congleton area to date. There are 36 active clients being supported in Congleton at present.</p> <p><b>Free IT sessions with Ability Net</b> - Tuesday 19th 2-3 pm at Bromley Farm Welcome hub and Tuesday 17th 2-3 pm at the Old Saw Mill.</p> <p><b>Christmas Tea Dance</b> is booked for the 4th of December 2 pm- 4 pm, Andrew Bell is providing the entertainment. We have invited local care homes and are canvassing West Heath bungalows.</p> <p><b>Health and Wellbeing Fayre</b> - 18th March 2025, Congleton Town Hall.</p> <p><b>Minibus Driver Training</b> – Successful application to Flourish fund, awarded £8200 for driver training to increase our pool of volunteer drivers for Partnership buses (D1 category is a license requirement to drive 17-seater.)</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	None. Work is delivered within the reserved funds for Congleton Partnership.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	Considered as part of each piece of work.
<b>Inclusivity Diversity Impact</b>	The Congleton Partnership uses communication tools to meet different audiences and provides events/activities that try to reach isolated members of our community.
<b>Decision Required</b>	That Councillors note this report.