

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

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b> <b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>David McGifford, Chief Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Town Centre Updates</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p><b>15.1 Town Centre Code of Conduct (See appendix1)</b></p> <p>Within our Town Centre we have had a few issues that impact on both businesses and shoppers, these issues include aggressive preachers, professional beggars and general anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Through research, we found that Staffordshire Moorlands Council had similar issues and developed its Town Centre Code of Conduct.</p> <p>We have used this document and elaborated on this, adding a few items to it. Police and Crime Commissioner James Bell mentioned that this would actually help them, and although they can't actually enforce/arrest individuals they can ask them to leave the town centre as they can state that the Town Council have a code of conduct and that they are breaking that policy.</p>		
<b>Financial Considerations</b>	There is no cost to the council but could help footfall in the town centre if anti-social behaviour is gradually reduced in the town centre		
<b>Environmental</b>	The policy could generate a more pleasant environment for both shoppers and business		
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	The policy could generate a more pleasant experience for all that choose to use the Town Centre		
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	<p>For the committee to agree to the Town Centre Code of Conduct including any amendments.</p> <p>Note as this is a Policy this would need to be approved by the Finance and Policy Committee or Council</p>		
<b>Background</b>	<p><b>15.2 Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions (CIL'S) £21,684</b></p> <p>Cil's contributions are generated through development with the developers being expected to contribute funds towards community facilities, these funds are paid to Cheshire East Council and then forwarded the funds to the relevant Town Council. We held a Strategy Working Group meeting to receive the thoughts of the councillors on where this could best be utilised.</p> <p>The areas relating to the Town Centre included the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing towards a solution to traffic misuse of Bridge Street.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements/maintenance of town centre public realm ie bins, benches planters, signage</li> <li>• Public Toilet provision</li> </ul> <p>Also discussed were the improvements to pathways leading into the town and safer routes for schools.</p>
<b>Next steps</b>	There is nothing for this committee to decide as the council needs to demonstrate public support for the projects. The options will be put before the attendees of the Annual Town Meeting on the 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025.
<b>Decision request</b>	For the committee to note this report

# **Code of Conduct for Congleton Town Centre**

Congleton Town Council welcomes people to our town who want to busk, speak, entertain or otherwise engage local people. It is important that we do all these things respectfully and do not cause a nuisance for, or endanger, other people. This Code of Conduct is designed to ensure everyone feels safe and is treated with respect in our town centre. *(add: Our local Police Beat Team will use this as guidance as to what is acceptable to the people of Congleton.??)*

## **SOUND**

Temporary producers of sound such as buskers, speakers, protests etc are welcome, but loud noises can disturb other users. Please be aware that others may also want to use the same space.

- If using amplification, the sound should not be audible inside any nearby commercial or residential property
- Buskers – please keep your performance to 2 hours maximum.
- Speakers/Protesters – please do not speak or shout for more than 15 minutes at a time in any one area.
- Content of any speeches/music must be within the law and suitable for a family audience. In particular, we will not tolerate hate speech of any kind.

## **STREET FURNITURE – STATIC ITEMS**

When putting items out on the street, please be aware that some users may be using wheelchairs or buggies, or may have limited mobility or vision. Certain items can easily cause injury if placed thoughtlessly. Please follow this guidance (also refer to the CEC 'Clear Way Forward' Policy):

- A-boards or other advertisements – no more than one per shop, and should be directly adjacent to premises, NOT obstructing pavements. They should measure no more than 800mm by 800mm, and stand no more than 1m above ground level.
- Tables/chairs and merchandise displays are permitted provided they are directly adjacent to the shop (unless specific permission has been granted), extend no more than 2.5 metres, and take up no more than one-third of the pavement.

## **VEHICLES IN PEDESTRIAN AREA**

This area is not intended for vehicular traffic, in order to preserve the safety of pedestrians. We have had accidents and injuries in the past due to inconsiderate users. Some vehicles are permitted at certain times/under certain conditions, so please follow these rules:

- Deliveries are only permitted during the authorised hours (outside 10 am-4 pm, 7 days a week).

- No motor vehicles (vans, cars, lorries, motorcycles, scooters) may enter the area outside these times for any reason.
- No parking is allowed AT ANY TIME, day or night.
- Bicycles and mobility scooters should move AT WALKING PACE OR LESS, as a consideration to other users of this shared space.

## **POSTERS, STICKERS AND BANNERS**

Let's keep our town centre looking smart.

- Fly-posting is a crime and the Town Council will remove any unauthorized posters or stickers at a minimum charge of £50 to the advertiser.
- Organisers of town-centre events may apply to the Town Council for permission to attach temporary signage to street furniture on the day of the event. No other signs may be attached to lampposts, railings or any other street furniture.

## **DOGS**

Our furry friends are welcome and many people enjoy bringing their dog into town, but not everyone is comfortable around dogs, so it is important to consider others.

- Dogs should be on leads and under close control at all times in the town centre.
- Dog fouling is horrible for everyone (and a crime), so please pick up after your dog. You can put your poo bag in any general waste bin.

## **LITTER AND BINS**

Please don't drop litter in our town centre – it makes the area unpleasant for everyone (and fly-tipping is a crime). We all have a role to play in keeping our town looking great.

- There are plenty of bins and recycling bins near the shops. Please use the right bin.
- Businesses must use their trade waste bins and not put rubbish into the public waste bins.
- Any stall-holders or event organisers must take their own rubbish away after the event and not place it in public waste bins.
- Wheelie bins and bin bags must not be left outside shops except on collection day.

Thank you for following this Code of Conduct. We hope you have a wonderful time in Congleton Town Centre!

Congleton Town Council.