

Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CiLCA

26th June 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 3**rd **July 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

Please note the Personnel Committee will follow this meeting at 8.00 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

David McGifford

CHIEF OFFICER

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 <u>minutes of the Environment Committee held on 3rd April 2025 as</u> 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 (Enclosed)

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

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 and Verbal)

- 7.1 To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Accounts
- 7.2 To receive a verbal update on preparations for the In Bloom competitions.

8. Streetscape Management Account (Enclosed)

To receive the Streetscape Management account report.

9. Streetscape Update (Enclosed)

To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

10. Carbon Footprint Summary (Enclosed)

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

11. Green Fayre (Enclosed)

To receive updates regarding Congleton's Green Fayre on Saturday, September 27th 2025.

12. <u>Decarbonisation Project Update</u> (Verbal)

To receive updates and comments regarding the Decarbonisation Project.

13. Mobile Waste Service (Verbal update)

Verbal update regarding the status of a mobile waste service in Congleton.

14. Cheshire East Report (Verbal update)

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

To:	Members of the Community Committee	
10:	iviembers of the Community Commutee	

Clirs: Suzy Firkin (Chair & Deputy Mayor), Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)

Suzie Akers Smith, Dawn Allen, Charles Booth, Dave Brown, Sally Ann

Holland, Susan Mead, Heather Seddon, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Robert Brittain (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 Environment Committee held on Thursday 3rd April 2025

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the committee.

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the Agenda & Papers – 3rd April 2025

In attendance:

Committee members: Cllrs

Suzy Firkin (Chair)

Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)

Sally Ann Holland Glen Williams

Ex Officio: Cllrs Kay Wesley (Mayor) & Robert Brittain (Deputy Mayor)

Non-committee Members: Cllrs Robert Douglas

Congleton Town Council Officers: David McGifford - Chief Officer and Ruth Burgess -

Streetscape Development Manager

Members of the public: None

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for the absence were received from: Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith, Amanda Martin, Susan Mead and Heather Seddon.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

ENV/37/2425 Resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 6th February 2025 as a correct record.

3. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

Declarations of interest were received from Cheshire East Borough Ward Councillors: Cllr Sally Ann Holland, on matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

ENV/38/2425 Resolved to receive the list of outstanding actions.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

None received.

6. Urgent Items

None received.

7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group

ENV/39/2425 Resolved to receive the verbal update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group members regarding judging dates for 2025 and thanks to RHS Roy Down for taking the time to visit Congleton and support our entry.

8. Green Working Group

ENV/40/2425 Resolved to receive the notes of the Green Working Group

9. Streetscape Trading Account

ENV/41/2425 Resolved to receive the Streetscape Trading account report.

10. Streetscape Update

ENV/42/2425 Resolved to receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

- Action Send email to all councillors regarding CEC R Kemp's response to Swap and Skip day
- Action Compare bulky item collection services from other councils compared to CEC pricing
- Action Weed Spraying proposal and pricing to go to full council on 1st May

11. Carbon Footprint Summary

ENV/43/2425 Resolved to receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

12. Wildflower Planting Site

ENV/44/2425 Resolved To receive a report on the continuous planting of many wildflower sites across Congleton green spaces and verges.

13. Electric Vehicles update

ENV/45/2425 Resolved to receive updates and comments regarding the Streetscape Vehicles and current status on electric vehicles.

14. Cemetery Capacity Congleton

ENV/46/2425 Resolved to receive a verbal update from Cllr Firkin on Cheshire East Borough Council proposal for the Cemetery Capacity within Congleton.

16. Cheshire East Report

No report received for the committee

Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair)

COMMITTEE:	Environment						
MEETING DATE	3 rd July 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall				
AND TIME	7.00 pm						
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)						
AGENDA ITEM	7.1	7.1					
REPORT TITLE	Floral/In Bloom Manage	ement Accounts					
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 30 th April 2025, month 1, see Appendix 1.						
Updates	and expenditure for In Bl and Policy Committee. Ir are noted, but not as a fu These accounts in the ap	loom have been presented a Bloom is a fully established all breakdown. Spendix show information	mmittee. Previously, accounts d as a summary to the Finance ed working group where budgets for month 1 of 2025-2026, which				
	Information is limited du	equates to 8.3% of the budget. The figures below are based on full annual budgets. Information is limited due to the reporting for month 1 only. Please refer to the summary for notes/comments.					
	Further information:						
	Income The budgeted income is for the supply of Hanging Baskets to local shops and businesses. The fees are (plus VAT): • Baskets - £17.50 • Baskets Watered - £35.00 • Sponsorship - £10.00 There are opportunities for local businesses to sponsor the roundabouts in town, if selected, a banner is placed on the roundabout of choice. Expenditure Business Rates are payable for the 5 Roundabouts that have the In Bloom signs on them.						
	extra costs for the extra In Bloom is £14,000. This Hanging basket p In Bloom displays Sundries for local Travel expenses t bus hire).	competition, Britain In Blo s covers: lants and consumables. s. projects. to the Competition Award	s is to accommodate possible form. The annual expenditure for ceremonies (Train or local minies				
	 Travel expenses t bus hire). 	• •					

	To date, additional committed costs (which will appear in future accounts) are: • Plants/Moss: £9,080 • Compost; £1470 • Replacement baskets: £440
Decision Requested	To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Account to 30 th April 2025.

Congleton Town Council Management Accounts 2025-26 Floral/in Bloom Apr-25

Month 1 Percentage 8.6%

Floral Income

1180 Donations Received

1195 Sponsorship Income

1199 Misc Income: Hanging Baskets Total

Expenditure

4011 Rates

4162 General Expenditure

Total

Net Expenditure over income



ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M1	ACTUAL SPEND TO M1	£ VARIANCE OF M1 BUDGETS	% SPENT AGAINST M1 BUDGETS	% SPENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M1 EXPECTED
	_					
0	0	42	-42	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
0	0	2500	-2,500	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
4,000	333	3673	-3,340	1101.90%	91.8%	83.23%
4,000	333	6215	-5,882	1864.50%	155.4%	146.78%
172	162	162	0	100.00%	94.2%	85.59%
16,000	1,333	469	864	35.18%	2.9%	-5.67%
16,172	1,495	631	864	42.20%	3.9%	-4.70%
12,172	1,162	-5,584	6,746			

NOTES

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

Paid in Full for the year

COMMITTEE:	Environment						
MEETING DATE	3 rd July 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall				
AND TIME	7.00 pm		3				
REPORT FROM	· ·	Responsible Financial Off	icer (RFO)				
AGENDA ITEM	8						
REPORT TITLE	Environment (including	Streetscape Services) Mar	nagement Accounts				
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 30 th April 2025, month 1, see Appendix 1.						
Updates	8.3% of the budget. The Information is limited du for notes. Further information: Income CEC Income: First External Income	e to the reporting for mor quarter paid. Private Works), invoicing	2025-2026, which equates to n full annual budgets. The sheets of the sheet of t				
	 Vehicle rental charges: at slightly higher than budget, further to the budgeted vehicles, there is a lease for a mower to replace one of our own ride-on mowers, which has been out of action since late Autumn 2025, it is in for investigations, and this will be reflected in the budgets. Horticultural Supplies: Committed spends to date, which will show from months 2 and 3 onwards, is approximately £11,000 for Park displays, roundabouts and winter bedding preparation. 						
Decision Requested	To receive the Streetscap	oe Management Accounts	to 30 th April 2025.				

Congleton Town Council Management Accounts 2024-25 STREETSCAPE

Apr-25

Month

Percentage 8.6%

STREETSCAF

APE	
4000	Staff Costs
4004	Temp/Casual Staff
4008	Training
4009	Protective Clothing\H & Safety
4013	Office rent
4016	Cleaning Materials
4021	Telephone
4025	Insurance
4041	Property maintenance
4043	Horticultural etc Supplies
4047	Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc
4048	Vehicle fuel and oil
	Vehicle rental charges
4050	Street Cleansing
	Propogation Unit
	General expenditure
	Other Expenditure
	Tfr from EMR
6000	Central Overheads Reallocated
	Streetscape Expenditure
3030	Purchases for recharging
1165	CEC - Income
	External work income
1199	Miscellaneous
	Streetscape Income
	Net Expenditure over Income

OK Monitor Overspent

ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M1	ACTUAL SPEND TO M1	£ VARIANCE OF M1 BUDGETS	% SPENT AGAINST M1 BUDGETS	% SPENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M1 EXPECTED
629,524	52,460	45,189	7,271	86.1%	7.2%	-1.42%
029,324	32,400	45,169	7,2/1	50.1%	7.2/0	-1.42/
3,200	267	0	267	0.0%	0.0%	-8.60%
5,900	492	934	-442	190.0%	15.8%	7.23%
2,000	167	167	-0	100.0%	8.4%	-0.25%
8,000	667	132	535	19.8%	1.7%	-6.95%
1,175	98	46	52	47.0%	3.9%	-4.69%
10,369	864	4,130	-3,266	478.0%	39.8%	31.23%
1,500	125	0	125	0.0%	0.0%	-8.60%
14,000	1,167	187	980	16.0%	1.3%	-7.26%
12,800	1,067	109	958	10.2%	0.9%	-7.75%
16,285	1,357	860	497	63.4%	5.3%	-3.32%
81,000	6,750	7,087	-337	105.0%	8.7%	0.15%
8,000	667	51	616	7.7%	0.6%	-7.96%
2,500	208	0	208	0.0%	0.0%	-8.60%
5,300	442	661	-219	149.7%	12.5%	3.87%
0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0.0%	-8.60%
		0				
50,596	4,216	0	4,216	0.0%	0.0%	-8.60%
852,149	71,012	59,553	11,459	83.9%	7.0%	-1.61%
0	0	11	-11		0.0%	0.00%
	0					
-427,199	-35,600	-109,534	73,934	307.7%	25.6%	316.28%
-17,500	-1,458	-303	-1,155	20.8%	1.7%	29.38%
-900	-75	0	-75	0.0%	0.0%	8.60%
-445,599	-37,133	-109,837	72,704	295.8%	24.6%	304.39%
406,550	33,879	-50,273	84,152	-148.4%	-12.4%	156.99%

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

Replenishment required

3 months Zurich, Critical Illness in full

Start of year annual fees paid (Parking permits for operational vans)

Income Variance 100% Green, 75% to 99% Amber, 0%-75% Red

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee				
MEETING DATE	6 th February 2025 LOCATION Town Hall				
AND TIME	7.00 pm				
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer				
AGENDA ITEM	9				
REPORT TITLE	Streetscape Services				
	Fly Tipping				
Update	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 year (2024), in comparison to previous years:				

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	4	4	4	16	30	20	17
Feb	10	2	10	11	25	7	5
Mar	4	0	32	24	14	8	7
Apr	10	12	19	10	19	24	29
May	5	40	22	11	11	24	7
June	4	22	2	8	26	20	21
July	8	21	0	13	9	19	
Aug	5	18	10	26	19	18	
Sept	6	6	14	23	13	9	
Oct	5	3	10	8	21	17	
Nov	4	4	17	25	4	6	
Dec	5	4	10	30	15	22	
Total	70	136	150	205	206	194	86
Total Cost	£2324.16	£5380.52	£2481.45	£12,300.87	£ 15,360.76	£ 13,077.18	£7037.00

See Appendix A for percentage graphs for each parish area.

Staffing

1. Streetscape Development Manager Position

Interviews of 4 applicants took place on the 25th June 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.

2. Streetscape of the Streetscape team in work

All staff are currently fit and well.

Private Works

As a general principle, we are in the process of reviewing contracts for private works to ensure that they are financially beneficial to the council and following the basic principle that additional private works are undertaken during October through to March, wherever possible and the quotes have been approved through our finance office, these include:

- Rhead's Meadow,
- Astbury Mere Country Park review currently in progress
- Plumley Toft and Bexton Parish Council
- Prestbury Parish Council
- Cranage
- Holmes Chapel
- Chelford
- Church Lawton
- Goostry
- Prestbury

Weed spraying update – CEC Highways / CTC trial

As you are aware, Cheshire East Council Highways is responsible for weed control on roads, footways and paved areas on all <u>adopted roads in Cheshire East.</u>

Discussions were in progress for a trial of having an attachment fitted to our mini sweeper, which will be actioned as soon as possible.

Treatment of weeds

Due to cost and effectiveness, they are not routinely spraying weeds on the highway. they review requests for treatment of weeds in channels, at the top of kerbs, in footways/alleyways (bordering a wall or fence), footpaths and link paths.

Where appropriate and where resources are available, we will remove them by mechanical means.

Weed spraying by CEC Highways is done once a year, due to the reduction of weed control, CTC has been looking at how we can help and carry out further weed treatment; however, there will be a cost (labour, material, and chemicals).

<u>Love Your Street – Campaign</u>

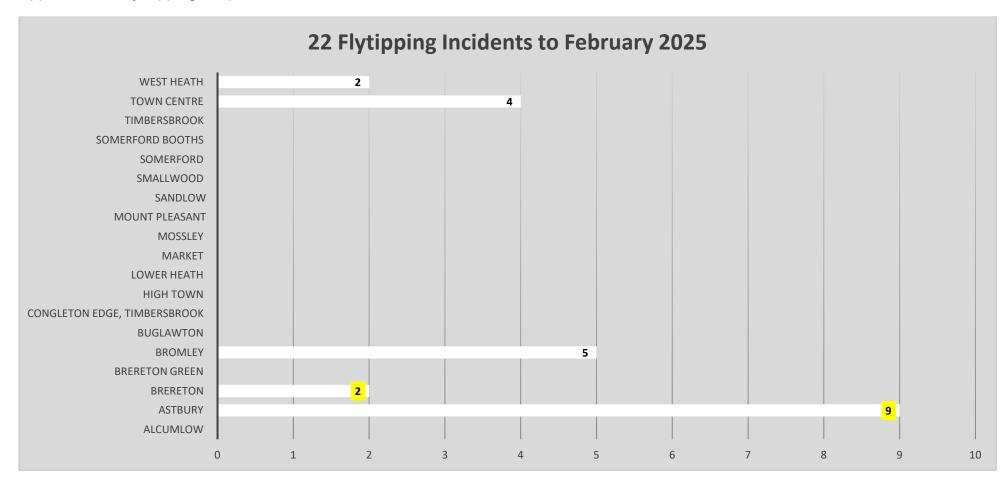
In your street where you live as a councillor, we would like you, where possible, to leaflet drop your own road/ street to help start with the campaign and get a group together – all equipment will be provided where necessary.

Financial Considerations

Concerns over the financial impact of fly-tipping, as well as an increase in highway weed control on the streetscape budget lines. Ensuring that external contracts are cost-beneficial to the council.

Environmental	Consideration over areas to be weed-sprayed and the specific type of chemicals used.
Considerations	
Equality	Love Your Street campaign will be an opportunity to engage all sectors of the
Considerations	community, and we will look to ensure full inclusivity.
Decision	To receive the report.
Requested	

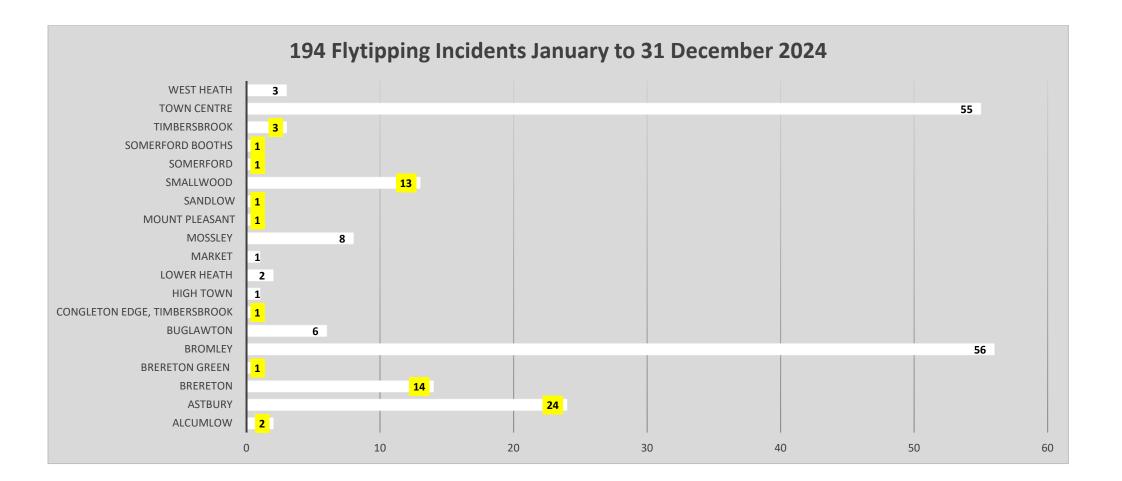
Appendix A – Fly Tipping Graphs



Key

Areas in **YELLOW** are outside of the Congleton LAP

This equates to 11 incidents (50%)



Key

Areas in YELLOW are outside of the Congleton LAP

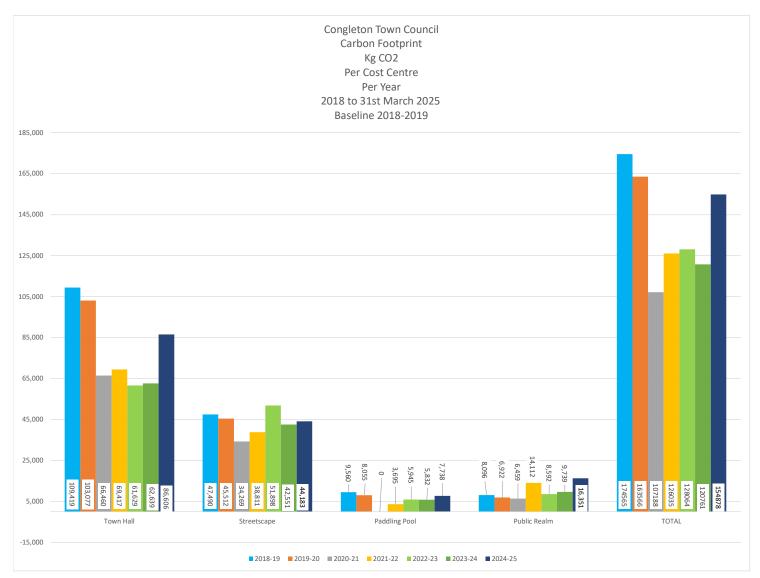
This equates to 62 incidents (32%)

MEETING DATE AND TIME REPORT FROM AGENDA ITEM	3 rd July 2025 7.00 pm Serena Van So 10		OCATION			Conglo	ton Town					
REPORT FROM AGENDA ITEM	Serena Van So		OCATION					3 rd July 2025 LOCATION Congleton Town Hall				
AGENDA ITEM		handaal	7.00 pm					пан				
	10	nepuaei	Serena Van Schepdael (RFO)									
DEDODT TITLE												
REPORT TITLE	Carbon Footp	rint Upda	ite									
Update		Jp-to-date graphs and figures on the Town Council's Carbon Footprint, our data is livided under the following areas of operations:										
	• Town I			·								
	• Streets											
		ng Pool										
	Public	_										
						_						
	The latest figuthe financial y		_		oendix A. T	hese figure	es are to th	e end of				
	PLEASE NOTE: electricity.	Updated	figures in t	he below s	ummary sh	ow net en	nissions for					
	Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25				
	Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,606				
	Streetscap											
	е	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183				
	Paddling											
	Pool	9,560	8,055	0	3,695	5,945	5,832	7,738				
	Public											
	Realm	8,096		6,459	14,112	8,592	9,739	16,351				
	TOTAL	174,565	163,566	107,188	126,035	128,064	120,761	154,878				
	<u>Utilities</u>											
	See Appendix	В										
	Our carbon en total Emission tariff; for infor highlight our s Green Tariff, h 2025.	s. We red rmation p savings. F	luce our abs urposes, ab or the finan	solute emis solute emi cial year 2	ssions by or ssions are i 024-2025,	oting into t included ir we were n	the Green I the summ ot opted ir	Energy nary to nto the				
Methodology	Fuel: Calculate Petrol and 2.6		•	equation i	s based on	2.4kg of C	O2 per litre	e for				
	Utilities: Gas & Electric data taken directly from the Energy Supplier based on usage. Water per 0.298 of CO2 per M ³											
	Plants/Compo £, for Plants, v Passport.	-			_							

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

Summary

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,606
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183
Paddling Pool	9,560	8,055	0	3,695	5,945	5,832	7,738
Public Realm	8,096	6,922	6,459	14,112	8,592	9,739	16,351
TOTAL	174565	163566	107188	126035	128064	120761	154878



ELECTRICITY

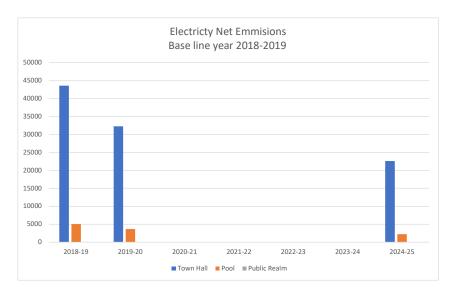
Net Carboon Emissions

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Town Hall	43607	32263	0	0	0	0	22613
Pool	5064	3655	0	0	0	0	2208
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26

ELECTRICITY

Absolute Carboon Emissions for infromation

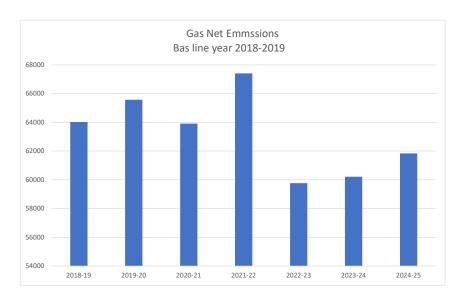
Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Town Hall	43607	32263	26409	19755	21559	22179	22613
Pool	5064	3655	14	1125	1697	2251	2208
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26



GAS

Net Carboon Emissions

Area 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 2024-25 64023 65568 63911 67400 59764 60209 61841



COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee						
MEETING DATE	3 rd July 2025 LOCATION Town Hall						
AND TIME REPORT FROM	7.00 pm						
AGENDA ITEM	Cathy Dean – Communities and Admin Officer 11						
REPORT TITLE	Green Fayre 27 th September 2025						
Update	Green Fayre – Helping Congleton to live more sustainably						
	Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership host an annual Green Fayre and Climate Festival. The 6 th annual Green Fayre is due to be held on the 27 th September 2025. The Green Fayre is a chance to explore green issues and local solutions.						
		Applications - Around 30 stallholders participate on the day, comprising a good mixture of local businesses, groups, and organisations. To apply visit:					
	https://form.jotform	.com/251663712157356					
	There is no charge for a stall, but ask for commitment on the day to have volunteers at the stall from 10 am -4 pm. 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.						
	Inside the Town Hall, there will be a bumper edition of Congleton's Repair Café and Cheshire Kids Clothes Swap. (Big Clothes Movement). Plus a Book Swap.						
	<u>Latest Update</u>						
	Sponsorship enquiry from Congleton Lions (TBC).						
	New Stall Suggestions — Organic Farm Modern Milkman / Beartown Dairies Florist Wildflower seed/turf Composting Demo Wild Foraging / Cooking						
	Nationally, Fairtrade Fortnight is from the 22nd Sept until the 5 th Oct, the Cooperative Group and Central Co-op are celebrating their relationship with the Fairtrade Foundation and have requested a stall to celebrate their relationship with the Fairtrade Foundation, which makes every effort to support farmers through climate change.						
	Entertainment – The Hedgeman and My Art Space Junk modelling						
	Small talks and demonstrations inside Town Hall or Gazebo on the high street – on the following subjects: • Solar						
	Air Source He	at Pumps					

	Saving energy
	Electric Bike/Cars Large space in between Makers Market and Green Fayre to be filled with electric bikes and cars.
	Children's Competition:
	Flower pot men project out of recycled plant pots and other materials, organised by Congleton Climate Action Group, who will also provide prizes.
Environmental	The Green Fayre is a key opportunity for the Council to engage with residents on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable living. The event will prioritise reuse and recycling, and encourage travel by foot, bike, or public transport.
Equality	Climate change is expected to impact the most vulnerable in society. The Fayre aims to offer accessible, inclusive advice for all, ensuring support reaches those who need it most.
Financial	The Green Fayre is jointly funded by the Congleton Partnership and the Town Council, with additional support from grants, sponsorships, and donations. This funding helps keep stalls free for community groups.
Decision Requested	To receive updated Green Fayre information within Congleton.