

**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 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean, Communities and Admin Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>7 Updates Paper</b>		
<b>Background</b>	This paper has been written to update members on the 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>Congleton Sustainable Travel – Biddulph Valley Way</b></p> <p>Congleton Sustainable Travel, Congleton Climate Action Group, is pleased to give an update regarding barriers to people with disabilities on the Biddulph Valley Way.</p> <p>We are told that Cheshire East Council's Green Infrastructure Team has been successful in obtaining money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the redesign and its implementation at the Bromley Rd access point for the Biddulph Valley Way. The funds must be spent by March 2026 so the project has already begun by commissioning a design from Sustrans. Subject to approval, this will be implemented by CE Highways. We have requested notification of the start date of work.</p> <p>Additionally, CE's draft Active Travel Strategy, with much input from the late Cllr Hilliard, CE's walking and cycling champion, is currently out for consultation (<a href="https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s125316/">https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s125316/</a>)</p> <p>Appendix A (pages 16-18) details an updated policy on access control barriers. This recognises the problem of barriers to legitimate users, and undertakes to cease installing discriminatory designs. It also undertakes to 'endeavour' to remove existing problematic barriers. The policy implies that requests will be acted upon. Once the final document is approved, we will find out who to send requests to.</p> <p>We appreciate the help of councillors and officers for all their support in working towards this outcome that you voted on in June 2023.</p> <p><b>(CO/04/2324 resolved to contact Cheshire East about restricted access to the Biddulph Valley, and to contact Cheshire East Council to review barriers used across Congleton.)</b></p> <p><b>White Ribbon Campaign</b></p> <p>Congleton High School students and staff continue to support the White Ribbon campaign. They decided to name one of their annual awards the Congleton White Ribbon Allyship Award, and this was presented to a student by a White Ribbon Ambassador at the awards evening on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Eaton Bank School had a White</p>		

Ribbon presentation to the 6<sup>th</sup> form in May, and several of the students were keen to help promote the campaign.

### **Civic Awards**

The first Town Mayors' Civic Awards were presented at the Town Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Most of the finalists and their families attended, and it was a joyful and celebratory occasion, with great feedback from the finalists, award recipients and the public. Many thanks to the judging panel and all who attended. The team are considering how to build on this for next year's awards.

### **High St Awards**

These awards celebrating businesses' long service to Congleton have been very well-received. The first recipients were Davenport's Menswear, Jantex Furnishings and the Congleton Chronicle, and we have now received public nominations for more businesses. Councillors and members of the public are welcome to nominate any business with a 'shop front' that has been trading in Congleton for at least 5 years. [There is a page and a nominations form on the Town Council Website.](#)

### **Town Centre Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct was shared at the Annual Town Meeting with no objections raised. It will now be presented for adoption at the next Full Council meeting. If/Once approved, the Council will publish, promote, and explain its key points through the website, press, and social media.

### **Wellbeing Hub at Plus Dane**

The launch event took place on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, and was attended by the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team from Plus Dane, along with other team members. An initial workshop was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, providing delivery partners with the opportunity to explore the space and begin shaping a shared vision for its use. This collaborative session focused on how partners could work together to maximise the space's potential.

Plus Dane has confirmed that the intercom system and door card readers on the second floor are now installed. They are currently finalising the User Agreements with the initial three partners (Talking Therapies, Visyon, CGL) before scheduling their building inductions. They aim to onboard the first partner, Talking Therapies, during the week of July 14, followed by the others.

A Steering Group will be established to provide strategic oversight for the project.

### **Town Centre Play Days**

4 summer play days (in conjunction with Community Projects) will take place in the Town Centre on the following Tuesdays:

	<p>29<sup>th</sup> July – <b>NATURE</b> - Artspace junk modelling, chalk pavement, book swap, colouring competition for disability pride month.</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> August – <b>SPORTS</b> - Artspace junk modelling, circus skills, chalk pavement.</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> August – <b>MUSIC &amp; ARTS</b> - Drum roots, Everybody Leisure, book swap, giant games, music crafts, library, storytelling, soldier bear from the town hall into the town centre for VJ day.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> August - <b>BIG PLAY DAY</b> - general play day, Everybody Leisure, library, creative arts, dance workshop, book swap, giant games, circus skills.</p> <p>Volunteering roles are available on the day.</p> <p><b>Victory in Japan Day – 15<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <p>To mark VJ Day, a flower trail has been designed to coincide with Congleton In Bloom. The recently painted 'Len Bear' will be located in Town Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> August play day. ('Len' is named after Leonard Cheetham, Congleton Mayor 1989-90, as a young man Len served in the Royal Medical Corps and was a Japanese prisoner of war.)</p> <p>TBC – Short Town Centre parade with military groups, cenotaph service and classic car display.</p> <p><b>Congleton Pride 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b></p> <p>The Congleton Pride event takes place on Saturday, and all councillors are invited to support and enjoy the day.</p>
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	To Note this Report