

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	17th July 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
FROM	Cllr Kay Wesley and Barney Mitcheson (Mayor's Cadet 2024-25)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 Youth Council		
BACKGROUND	<p>Congleton Town Council used to have a Youth Council Committee, but this stopped functioning about 5 years ago. It had an ongoing problem of the young people involved leaving Congleton and difficulty with succession planning.</p> <p>Young people in the town have shown an interest in the workings of the Council and have participated in Town Hall Tours, where their enthusiasm to learn more and participate in our democracy has been evident.</p>		
CURRENT SITUATION	<p>Congleton High School held a discussion of staff and students selected from years 7 to 12, together with Cllr Wesley and Angela Murney, of the Youth Support Service at Cheshire East Council. This age range was chosen deliberately, in order to mitigate the risk of more senior students being instrumental in the set-up and then leaving Congleton for university.</p> <p>The students had a lot of ideas they'd like to implement to improve life for young people in Congleton, and felt that a Youth Council with a communications channel to the Town Council would be a good way to achieve this.</p> <p>In order to be as inclusive as possible, Cllr Wesley and Barney have engaged with Eaton Bank Academy Deputy Director of 6th form and the leaders of the Rangers and the Scouts. All are very interested in their students/members being part of this initiative.</p>		
PROPOSAL	<p>We propose to move this forward with an Initial workshop in the Town Hall, in the Autumn term, for interested young people (we expect 20-50 attendees).</p> <p>Likely topics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and terms of reference for a Youth Council, including membership and age range (we suggest from 11 to 18) • Ideas for areas to focus on – what do young people want? Also, ideas for gathering more input (maybe a survey) • Frequency and format of meetings – e.g. the Youth Council could meet one month before main Council, then the Chair can attend Council with any outputs/asks • Election of Officers for the Youth Council – especially Chair and Vice-Chair, but also any specific roles if required • How to promote and engage the young people of Congleton. 		
Financial Implications	Use of the Great Hall or Bridestones Suite.		

Environmental Implications	Engaging young people could help support our initiatives to combat climate change
Equality and Diversity Impact	It will help the Council to be fully representative of our community if we listen to the voices of young people. The team commits to reaching out to as diverse a range of young people as possible, so that it is not just privileged youngsters who have a voice in the Youth Council.
DECISION REQUESTED	Support the continued work to set up a Youth Council, including Officer time to organise a workshop, and use of the Town Hall.