



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

11th September 2025

Dear Councillor,

Community Committee – Thursday 18th September 2025

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 18th September 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

Tel: 01260 270350

Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



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 17th July 2025](#) 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. Cheshire Police (Verbal update)

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

7. Committee Updates (Enclosed)

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

8. White Ribbon Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meeting held on the 15th July 2025 and receive a short update from the Chair.

9. Community Safety Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 4th September and receive a short update from the Chair.

10. Equal Access Advisory Group (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting on 11th September 2025.

11. 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 from 11th July to 10th September 2025.

12. CIL's Update (Enclosed)

To receive a report on the Community Infrastructure Levy survey.

13. Growing Up Wired Event (Enclosed)

To receive a report on the Growing Up Wired – parents' event in Congleton Town Hall 30th September 2025

14. Christmas Lights Switch On 2025 (Enclosed)

To receive a report from Rachel McCarthy (Town Centre & Events Manager) on plans for Christmas 2025.

To: Members of the Community Committee

Cllrs: Kay Wesley (Chair), Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)
David Brown, Mark Edwardson, Emma Hall, Amanda Martin, Susan Mead,
Shaun Radcliffe, Richard Walton, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Rob Brittain (Mayor), Cllr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)

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



Congleton Town Council

Title	Community Committee
Date of Meeting Time	17 th July 2025 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	<u>Agenda Papers for the Community Committee – 17th July</u>

Attendance

Committee Members	Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair) Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair) <i>left at 19.55 pm</i> Cllr Emma Hall Cllr Amanda Martin Cllr Susan Mead Cllr Shaun Radcliffe Cllr Richard Walton Cllr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor) Cllr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	Cllr Heather Seddon <i>left at 7.25 pm</i>
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer) Cathy Dean (Communities & Admin Manager)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	2

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dave Brown and Mark Edwardson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/01/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 17 April 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Sally Ann Holland and Emma Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public

5. Urgent Items

Cllr Richard Walton asked why Cheshire East took 264 days to approve a town event. Authorisation was received on 16th July for an event taking place on 19th July, causing unnecessary stress on event organisers who are largely volunteers.

Action – Chief Officer to contact Cheshire East for an explanation.

CO/02/2526 Resolved to move Item 14, Speed Indication Device at the request of Cllr Heather Seddon, to the next item to be discussed.

14. Speed Indication Device

CO/03/2526 resolved to recommend the purchase of a solar-powered Speed Indicator Device (SID) with data-logging capability, within a budget range of £4,000 to £6000, and submit 3 quotes to Full Council during business planning and budget setting for approval.

6. Cheshire Police Update

There was no representation from Cheshire Police; a written report to follow.

7. Committee Updates

CO/04/2526 resolved to note the report.

Action – Include the listening tent at the summer play days. Councillors will need to confirm availability.

8. Youth Council Proposal

CO/05/2526 resolved to support the continued work to set up a Youth Council, including Officer time to organise a workshop, and use of the Town Hall.

9. Community Safety Working Group

CO/06/2526 resolved to receive notes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 3rd July and receive a short update from the Chair.

Action – Chief Officer to confirm status of Town Centre Code of Conduct, and confirm next steps to implement.

10. Equal Access Group

CO/07/2526 resolved to receive the minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting on 17th June 2025.

10.1 Disability Pride Month

CO/08/2526 to note the report on Disability Pride Month and an update on Disability Welcome Scheme.

Action – Revisit shops with disability welcome scheme leaflets.

11. Communications Update

CO/09/2526 resolved to note the report.

12. Food and Drink Festival Report

CO/10/2526 resolved to accept the report and propose a vote of thanks for Rachel McCarthy and the rest of the CTC team on the successful delivery of the festival.

13. Cheshire East Council Domestic Abuse Consultation

CO/11/2526 resolved to encourage councillors and interested parties to submit their feedback to strengthen the strategy.

Meeting ended 8:30 pm

Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18th September 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Updates Paper		
Background	This paper has been written to update members on the progress of 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.		
Updates	<p>CO/18/2425 - High St Awards</p> <p>These awards, celebrating businesses' long service to Congleton, have been very well-received. 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.</p> <p>Congratulations to a further 9 businesses that have received the award and a visit from the Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Brittain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crema Deli • Moody Terrace Dental Practice • Hightown Post Office • Bear Grills Café • Isabel's Fashion House • Serenity Designs • Bare Health • RJ&J Moore <p>CO/10/2425 – Disability Welcome Awards</p> <p>CTC has recognised two more businesses for their efforts to be more accessible as part of its Disability Welcome Scheme.</p> <p>Holland & Barrett and Max Spielmann, both on Bridge Street, were both recognised for having step-free access, plenty of space, a quiet, calm environment, and other features that mean shoppers with access needs find them easy to do business with.</p> <p>Businesses can apply for the awards via www.bit.ly/disabilitywelcome</p> <p>CO/03/2526 - Speed Indication Device</p> <p>Officers have contacted 5 companies, as of 8th September, 3 companies have supplied written quotes:</p> <p>Company 1 - Total excl. VAT: £ 3052.74 – includes a 24-month 4G contract for data connectivity (£266.97)</p>		

	<p>Company 2 – Total excl. VAT - £3383.00 (data contract would be extra)</p> <p>Company 3 – Total excl. VAT - £3580.00 (data contract would be extra)</p> <p>Cllr Seddon met with Cheshire East's Road Safety Team and has confirmed:</p> <p>Cllr Seddon's ward budget may be used to fund a SID, which CTC would purchase directly before reimbursement from CEC. The SID would remain CTC property, with CTC responsible for software updates and relocation. Two posts are planned on Newcastle Road, one on each side, allowing the SID to be moved between them.</p> <p>A paper will be prepared for the council meeting on 23rd October 2025.</p> <p>CO/05/2526 Youth Council Proposal</p> <p>A survey has been created to capture ideas from Congleton's young people and promote the idea of a youth council. View the survey on this link:</p> <p>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTCYouthSurvey</p> <p>A reel created to promote the survey has over 15,000 views, and 38 responses have been submitted as of 11.09.25.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16uvhqdpGm/</p> <p>A profile on TikTok has been created for Congleton Town Council to target a younger demographic.</p> <p>https://www.tiktok.com/@congleton</p> <p>21st October is the date reserved to hold a workshop in the Town Hall to set up the Youth Council.</p>
PROPOSALS	To Note this Report

White Ribbon Group

Minutes 15/07/25

- **Attendance:** Kay Wesley, Mike Wesley, Rachel McCarthy, David McGifford, Peter Munroe, Jonathan Dakin, Sam (Visyon), Andy Cornall – Cheshire Police (via Zoom)
- **Apologies:** Mark Edwardson
- **Adolescence** – This raised concerns about communication between adults and children in everyday life. Looking at various workshops for adults, held at the town hall, with booking for numerous rooms, so that smaller workshops could be held.

Julie Bolton from Congleton High School really wants to be involved, and Abbie Wilkinson from Eaton Bank Academy is also very interested.

Ideally, we should target primary school children, as there have been more cases of younger children with anxiety and suicidal thoughts. We need to explore a catchy title for the meeting, along the lines of 'Parenting Social Media Cultures'. Content for the presentation could very much escalate, we could possibly share information and data from other areas and the world in general, role models would be a very good idea.

Ideally, a 2-hour event, different rooms for workshops after the presentation, like small breakout rooms with information so that parents can explore options at a later date, and it is private for them.

Andy's school participation is currently a presentation only; he is going to share this with Kay.

Visyon could deliver 30 minutes, we can signpost where to receive help and also ask parents what they would find beneficial and what they would like to hear more about for future events.

Three dates have been pencilled in at the town hall for the workshops, the evenings of:

23rd September - (Bridestones Suite/Spencer Suite and Campbell Suite)

30th September – (Bridestones and Spencer only)

7th October – (Bridestones/Spencer and Campbell)

- **AOB:**
- **Date of Next Meeting: 16th September**

Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 4th September 2025 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Glen Williams, Rachel McCarthy,

Sgt Karl Tatlock, Linda Webber, Laura Woodrow-Hirst, Cllr Susan Mead

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain, Jim Adams, Cathy Dean, Julia Pestell-Hassall,

2. **Notes of the meeting** of 3rd July 2025 were accepted as correct.

3. **Action Log**

- **ANPR Update**

Cheshire East are not signed up for this service, so this is very hard to enforce in Congleton. We believe that CE are using Derby City Council for their ANPR enforcement, in Knutsford and possibly Macclesfield are having trials, we will ask Richard Christopherson, also we really need an update on the last meeting from RC along with minutes from that meeting and an update generally from him, RMc has already emailed this week for an update regarding the last meeting, still waiting for an reply. Follow up on cameras and gate **ACTION RMc**

- Invite Dane Housing to the next meeting **ACTION RMc**
- Ask Stuart for a report for the next meeting regarding CCTV **ACTION RMc**

4. **Police update on Crime (Sgt Karl Tatlock)**

Report to follow, attached to minutes (January to August crime is down from 1,392 to 1,220)
Operation Sidelines – a national strategy drive to police on foot in town centres which has come from central government, staff can be drafted from other areas and allocated anywhere in Cheshire, or even the traffic police can be drafted in. Originally larger towns, it's now drafted to smaller towns and mainly on Saturdays (8 am – 5 pm or 2 pm – 10 pm).
Already had successful lockups from this, including a prison recall.
Article in Bear Necessities **ACTION DC/RMc**

5. **Police Priorities for Congleton Beat Team**

Operation Yellow Baptism – bypass car racing.

Dale Crescent has been a huge focus recently for the police, with all offenders known, with many residing on this road.

Hopefully, another 'Design Out Crime Day' focusing on Barn Road and West Heath.

E-bikes, arrest made, bike seized (Suron Bike) and Plev E Scooter are illegal, private land only.

6. **CEC ASB Team –**

Nothing specific is going on that they know about. We have concerns for the bowling green in the park as our hot spot, but reports haven't been seen. Reports will be seen if passed from the police to the ASB team; it's very tricky for the police to pass over to ASB without names and addresses for them. James Rowley to pass on suspects to the ASB team **ACTION KT**

7. Street Pastors Update

Report shared with RMc to attach to these minutes. **Community Resilience Pilot** – pastors called in nationally for major incidents, three Congleton street pastors have already done this training.

8. Shopwatch

Very quiet which is good, we need to launch the 'Design out Crime' scheme in West Heath and Barn Road, also check in the town centre who is using the scheme to its full advantage. Police have already visited Tesco and M&S. **ACTION RMc/KT**

9. AOB –

Rota for CCTV visits with Stuart – Linda, Glen, Susie, Kay, Shaun, **ACTION CD**

Community Safety Charter is on our website, online learning and how to be an active bystander, link below.

[Community Safety Charter - Congleton Town Council](#)

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 6th November, 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Congleton Street Pastor Update

Congleton Town Council Community Safety Working Group

Thursday 4 September 2025 3 pm – 4.30 pm

July to date

Helped or observed to safety 8

Helped sober up, water, wipes 4

Bottles and cans binned 21

Glasses returned to establishments 10

Broken glass swept up 8

Defused situations - Assisted with a group of 20 near Wetherspoons

- Assisted the nightclub door staff with a difficult female

Emotional support 6

Directions 7

Foil blanket 1

During a patrol on 26 July, a young woman collapsed suddenly after getting out of a taxi with friends and an ambulance was at the scene. They had been out in Manchester and not knowing the cause team members chatted with her concerned friends and also showed an ambulance crew member our sample Rapid Cup drug test pot available in our establishments. He was not aware of these and later I spoke to a Procurement Officer at the North West Ambulance Service who was grateful to be sent further information and the Stamp Out Spiking link.

There are still concerns regarding Ebikes being ridden at speed through the pedestrian area weaving in and out of pedestrians and dangerously on the road too. Sometimes with two people on board. Several cars and not just taxis, are also passing through the pedestrian area in both directions.

Although the team were not directly involved, a policeman came and thanked them for their presence the night he needed to press his emergency button for the first time.

Some minor ASB, such as a lad breaking off a long strand from a hanging basket to swing round his head. Thankfully, his friends were not amused.

Street Pastor September to November

Our current rota covers 10 Saturday patrols from 9 pm to 1 am on Sundays.

Community Resilience Pilot

Three of our Street Pastors have already completed additional training to be Response Pastors and I have therefore responded to an invitation to receive additional information regarding this pilot. Response Pastors are listed under Cheshire Resilience Forum CRF Major Incident Response Principles under Voluntary Sector Organisations and Capabilities.

Linda Webber
Co-ordinator

Equal Access Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes – In-person and Virtual 11th September 25

Attendees – Dr Deborah Lawson (Chair), Cllr Kay Wesley , Cathy Dean, Tom Stephans, Denis Murphy, Theresa Graystone

Apologies – Alec Scaresbrook, Diane Ritherdon

1. **Welcome from the chair – Deborah welcomed everyone to the meeting**
2. **Notes** of the meeting of 17th June 2025 were accepted as a true record.
3. **Actions from previous minutes**

Dropped Krebs Agenda Item

- **Action** - Kay and Theresa to check out routes from Able World to Readsmore Surgery – **carry forward**
- **Action** – Dropped kerbs – Denis is continuing to review dropped kerbs around the town centre. Footpath Morrisons no dropped kerb - Kay added to the action plan. Deborah to look at the route from an area where there is a high population of disabled residents into town/Tesco when the weather improves. **(Ongoing)**
- **Action** – Cathy/Debbie design a social media campaign on improving attitudes to disabilities, and highlight it before big events. “Be Kind” or “Accessibility Benefits Everyone” campaign. **(Completed Update in Agenda)**
- **Action** – ask Celeste to design business posters (use disability welcome logo) be kind/accessibility welcome. Deborah to send over a document, which includes good visuals for shops to use. **(Completed)**
- **Action** – Cathy to research the best e-learnings and disability-positive training for staff and councillors. **(Assigned to Tom to research.)**
 - **Completed – update below in agenda item**
- **Action** – Contact CAB to see if they will come to Congleton so people can have face-to-face contact. – **Kay Contacted and passed to the Chief Officer, will follow up.**
- **Action** - Cathy to follow up with Mark (Town Hall Manager) regarding the ramp, accessible toilet sign and mirror in the accessible toilet (button also temperamental) – Permanent Ramp not possible, investigate a removable ramp and bell at the back door:
Update - Temporary ramp also not possible because of the gradient. Due to the distance from the back door to the Information Centre you can't use a standard

model. CIC isn't open at the same times as the building. The button on the disabled toilet is temperamental but costs around 7K to replace.

- **Action** – Distribute the event guidance document to local event organisers.
- **Action** – Kay to follow up with businesses that have applied for the disability welcome scheme. Provide information on the website about the award criteria.
Completed – agenda item
- **Action** – Arrange a meeting with the Cheshire East Officer - Sam Burnard - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer.
Completed – Sam Burnard (Equality & Inclusion Officer, Cheshire East) has agreed to come to the next meeting on 11th November to present and talk to the group.
- **Action** – Discuss with Events Manager & Chief Officer regarding promotion of the book. The book is being developed as a social purpose project, with a significant portion of profits being used to donate free copies to schools, hospitals, and other charitable causes.
Completed – Details of the book were shared at the play day and on social media.

4. Review of Disability Pride Month Campaign

During July CTC ran a social media campaign on Disability Pride month. The top post received 18 comments, 14,684 views and 123 interactions.

Attached in Appendix 1 are further SATS.

One member of the public thanked the EAG as they now finally feel seen.

We will continue to share relevant information across our CTC officials, press releases, disability corner articles etc

5. Disability Welcome Scheme Update

Tom's research into training for best e-learning and disability-positive training for staff and councillors resulted in either being very expensive or too technical.

Equality and Human Rights Commission had a useful guide titled 'Retailers' legal responsibility to disabled customers'

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/retailers-legal-responsibility-disabled-customers>

SCOPE Business has some free courses.

Develop a programme of training for staff, councillors and local businesses.

Experience sessions – wheelchairs/neurodiverse etc

Action – Add resources to the disability page on the website. Ask for a training budget for CTC in the budget setting.

The Disability Welcome Scheme leaflet is to be reorganised into new sections: Legal Requirements, Silver, and Gold. This is in response to businesses asking what makes gold vs silver, and businesses must meet legal requirements.

Service Dogs and Guide dogs are not mentioned on the leaflet.

We could do some social media posts around the differences between assist dogs.

Action - redesign leaflet – Cathy/Kay

6. Colouring Competition Entries

Thanks to all the children who entered the colouring competition during the play day on 29th July 25 for disability pride month and the launch of Deborah's book 'Damsons Friendship Wish', now a bestseller!

<https://deborah-lawson.co.uk/damsons-friendship-wish/>

From the entries, a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were selected by the group.

Action - Cathy to contact the winners and arrange a photo call.

7. Dropped Kerbs

Surveying the towns' dropped kerbs has been an action point for a number of meetings, it's not in the remit of CTC to install dropped kerbs but can we at least lobby Cheshire East to install them?

Group members to send to Cathy via WhatsApp (07977 065 647) or email (cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk) any problem areas.

Action – Invite Cheshire East Highways Officer to Equal Access meeting.

8. Community Toilet Scheme

A Community Toilet Scheme allows the public to use toilet facilities in participating local businesses and organisations during their normal opening hours. Similar schemes have already been introduced by councils in other parts of the country.









There is a long-standing issue with the limited number of public toilets in the town centre, which CTC is actively addressing. This scheme is not intended to replace the proposed CTC toilets, but rather to supplement them by increasing provision and helping people easily find available facilities.

Action – Cathy to contact other councils to see what other councils have done, contact businesses to access support for the scheme.

9. AOB

- Jazz and Blues Event

Thanks to the team at Jazz and Blues for making the event as accessible as possible through improved guidance in the booklet, large print and accessibility information.

Preview ↑↓			Views ⓘ ↓	Reach ⓘ ↑↓	Interactions ⓘ ↑↓	Net follows ⓘ ↑↓	Impressions ⓘ ↑↓	Comments ⓘ ↑↓
	1 in 7 people in the UK lives wi... Published • 5 Jul at 14:35	...	14,681	9,647	123	0	10,646	18
	The energy required to raise a... Published • 23 Jul at 16:51	...	4,021	2,444	16	0	2,676	8
	The Disability Pride Flag was d... Published • 3 Jul at 10:00	...	4,015	2,304	42	0	2,479	1
	A story that recently made nati... Published • 15 Jul at 17:42	...	3,207	1,972	25	0	2,102	0
	Disability Welcome Congleton ... Published • 18 Jul at 18:32	...	2,446	1,584	16	0	1,619	0
	Disabled people are active me... Published • 20 Jul at 09:44	...	2,217	1,258	15	0	1,415	0
	Did you know? 1 in 5 peopl... Published • 7 Jul at 17:39	...	2,209	1,412	12	0	1,472	3
	Dr Deborah Lawson, Chair of t... Published • 11 Jul at 15:09	...	2,161	1,159	48	0	1,268	4

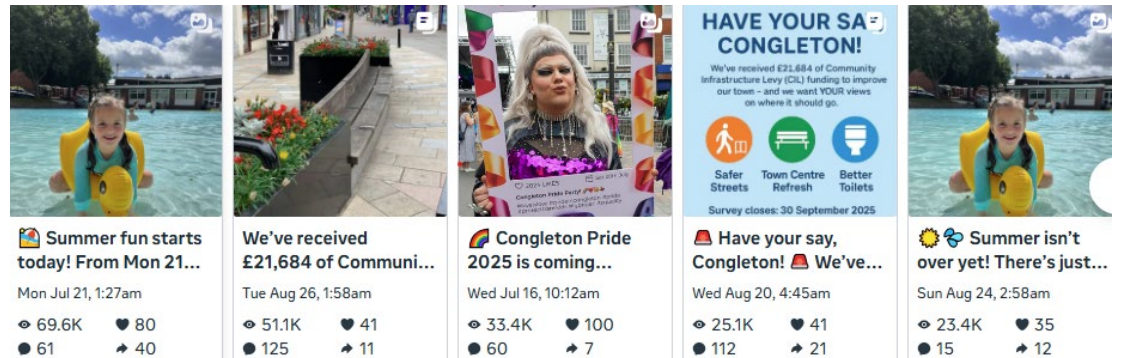
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18 September 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall												
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Manager														
AGENDA ITEM	11														
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.														
Details	Social Media Overview Facebook Followers: 6.4K Instagram Followers: 1.3K Twitter: 3.5K														
	Facebook Performance Overview														
	<table><tr><th>Views</th><th>Visits</th><th>Reach</th><th>Interactions</th><th>Follows</th><th>Clicks</th></tr><tr><td>1M</td><td>13.7K</td><td>140.1K</td><td>5.6K</td><td>322</td><td>2.4K</td></tr></table>			Views	Visits	Reach	Interactions	Follows	Clicks	1M	13.7K	140.1K	5.6K	322	2.4K
	Views	Visits	Reach	Interactions	Follows	Clicks									
	1M	13.7K	140.1K	5.6K	322	2.4K									
	<div><div><div><div>Views ⓘ</div><div>1,011,185 ↑ 32%</div><div><div>Views</div></div></div><div><div>Visits ⓘ</div><div>13,667 ↑ 48%</div><div><div>Facebook visits</div></div></div></div></div>														
	<div><div><div><div>Reach ⓘ</div><div>140,088 ↓ 21.7%</div><div><div>Reach</div></div></div><div><div>Content interactions ⓘ</div><div>5,597 ↑ 37.3%</div><div><div>Content interactions</div></div></div></div></div>														



Social media posts issued: 220 (excluding shared posts). 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:

Statistics unavailable for this reporting period, due to a system error.

Noticeboards

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

Key CTC Events

July - Disability Pride Month

24.7 & 7.8: In Bloom Judging

24.7-7.8: In Bloom Flower Trail

25.7-3.8: Love Parks Week, Scavenger Hunt, Congleton Park

15.8: VJ Day Service, Cenotaph

Summer Play Days – 29 July & 5,12,19 Aug

	<p>Stakeholder Events Supported</p> <p>19.7 Congleton Pride</p> <p>20.7 Congleton Lions Duck Race</p> <p>23-24.8 Jazz and Blues</p> <p>New publications</p> <p>Bear Necessities Summer Edition</p> <p>‘Discover Congleton From Your Door’ (walking leaflet)</p> <p>Press Releases: 20</p> <p>Radio Interviews: 2</p> <p>Other Editorial: Effective Directories, July-Aug (circl. 51,700k) Beartown Voice (circl. 12k), Green Fayre feature</p>
Proposal	For Councillors to note the report and for the officer team to take on board suggestions and recommendations from Councillors.
Financial Implications	Work is delivered within the annual budgets set by the Town Council
Environmental Implications	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.
Inclusivity Diversity Impact	The team uses different channels and communication tools to meet different audiences.
Decision Required	That Councillors note this report.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community												
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18 th September 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall										
FROM	Cathy Dean – Communities Manager												
ITEM NUMBER TITLE	12 CIL’s (Community Infrastructure Levy) Survey Update												
BACKGROUND	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (the ‘levy’) is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. Town and Parish Councils receiving CIL money will be able to decide how to spend their percentage of the money collected. The current balance of CIL funds is £21684.47</p> <p>Please note that CIL revenue must be spent on infrastructure proposals.</p>												
RESPONSE	<p>3 proposals were presented at the annual town meeting on 15th May 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install three gates on Bridge Street and Little Street to safeguard pedestrians and cyclists between 10 am and 4 pm.• Public Realm – maintaining bins, benches, signage etc. (They were originally installed by Cheshire East Council but Cheshire East has now advised us they will not be maintaining them in the future.)• Town Centre Public Toilets <p>A survey was launched at the beginning of Aug 25, and will close on 30th September.</p> <p>As of 09.09.25, we have received 513 responses, with 213 comments.</p> <p>Please choose your favourite option below as these were initially proposed at the Annual Town Meeting.</p> <p>Answered: 513 Skipped: 0</p> <div><table><caption>Survey Results Data</caption><thead><tr><th>Option</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>None of the above</td><td>8.38%</td></tr><tr><td>Install three gates on Bridge Street and Little Street</td><td>14.81%</td></tr><tr><td>Public Realm - maintaining bins, benches, signage etc.</td><td>31.2%</td></tr><tr><td>Improve town centre public toilets</td><td>55.6%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>Responses</p> <p>None of the above - 8.38%</p> <p>Install three gates on Bridge Street and Little Street - 14.81%</p>			Option	Percentage	None of the above	8.38%	Install three gates on Bridge Street and Little Street	14.81%	Public Realm - maintaining bins, benches, signage etc.	31.2%	Improve town centre public toilets	55.6%
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	<p>Public Realm - 31.38%</p> <p>Improve town centre public toilets - 55.95%</p> <p>The results of the survey to date give a good indication of the expected final results.</p> <p>At the annual town meeting, the Chief Officer provided an update on public toilet facilities, noting that access to the Capitol Walk toilets near the bus station was lost due to legal issues with the lease. The Council is working with Cheshire East to finalise a new agreement and has allocated reserves to invest in improved public toilet provision, which remains a priority.</p>
Financial Implications	CIL Funds must be spent within 5 years of receipt. Cheshire East may require repayment of some or all funds if not spent within the 5-year limit or if it is spent on initiatives that do not support the development of the area.
Environmental Implications	None in terms of this report, environmental impact will be considered for each of the proposals.
Equality and Diversity Impact	By consulting widely, with over 500 survey responses and more than 200 comments, the Council has ensured that all residents have the opportunity to shape priorities. In allocating CIL funds, the Council will continue to give full consideration to the diverse needs of the community, with particular focus on projects that improve accessibility, reduce inequalities, and promote inclusive use of shared public spaces.
DECISION REQUESTED	For information only - note the report.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18th September 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
FROM	White Ribbon Working Group		
ITEM NUMBER TITLE	13 Growing Up Wired – parents’ event in Congleton Town Hall 30th September		
SITUATION	<p>A time of great concern for many parents is the transition to high school, when young people are exposed to situations, both in real life and on social media, that may be challenging. As the drama ‘Adolescence’ and the website ‘Everyone’s Invited’ has shown, and as our Cheshire crime data shows, problems of bullying, harassment, misogyny and sexual violence are real for young people.</p> <p>In response, the White Ribbon Working Group has asked a number of specialists to help Congleton parents navigate the complex world their children face, and provide tools and strategies to support their young people.</p>		
RESPONSE	<p>We are running an event on 30th September 2025 (6-8 pm) in the Bridestones Suite called:</p> <p>Growing Up Wired – supporting your child through adolescence in a complex world.</p> <p>This event brings together professionals, experts, and young people themselves to help parents better understand the digital and emotional challenges facing today's 10-16-year-olds, and how to support them.</p> <p>The evening will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from Cheshire Police on online safety, providing practical advice on how to protect your child in the digital world. • Visyon, the young people’s mental health service, will host a workshop on supporting emotional wellbeing. • A White Ribbon Ambassador will share insights into the prevalence of gender-based abuse and crime, and how we can all encourage respectful attitudes and safe relationships. • Young people will share their own lived experiences — including how they’ve navigated issues such as online bullying, misogyny, incel culture, and peer pressure. <p>The event is free for parents and caregivers, and so far more than 50 have signed up.</p>		
Financial Implications	None		
Environmental Implications	None		

Equality and Diversity Impact	The event aims to support young people and build resilience in order to challenge and prevent bullying, harassment and sexual violence.
DECISION REQUESTED	For information only - note the report.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18th September 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Christmas Lights Switch On Event 2025		
Background	This paper has been written to update members about the details of the Christmas Lights Switch On, which is taking place on Friday, 28 th November.		
Information	<p>Friday 28th November 4 pm – 8 pm</p> <p>Event Locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Stage: Near Moody Street • Community Stage: Top of Swan Bank (acts TBC) • Santa's Grotto & Info Point: Town Hall (in the CIC) • Craft and Food Stalls: Pedestrian area, High Street, and Swan Bank • Fairground (TBC): Bottom of Mill Street • Children's Zone: Mark Bailey arranging Town Hall <p>Entertainment & Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Booked music acts ○ Comedy elves ○ Inclusivity live stream for accessibility to Town Hall screen • Walkabout Entertainment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stilt walkers ○ Giant Elf on the Shelf ○ Stormtroopers • Community Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performances from schools and local dance groups (TBC, schools contacted) • Parade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lantern procession with Congleton Rugby Club pulling the sleigh ○ No reindeer this year due to Blue Tongue livestock travel restrictions • Santa's Grotto: Town Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional Santa (volunteer, collects for charity – no cost to CTC) in the Town Hall • Children's Zone: Town Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face painting ○ Additional children's activities arranged by Mark Bailey 		

	<p>Street food and Craft Stalls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Food Vendors • Craft Stalls • Set up along pedestrian areas (High Street and Swan Bank) <p>33 stalls booked to date.</p> <p>Communications & Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Point: In the CIC at the Town Hall — includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Event maps ○ Timetables (in multiple formats) ○ Lost child protocol ○ Accessibility info ○ Emergency contacts ○ Radio communication ○ Volunteer check-in and rotas
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise community stage acts • Confirm fairground attendance and layout • Share event map & accessibility features with the public • Risk assessments (weather, crowd control, safeguarding) • Emergency contact & lost child policy review • Volunteer/steward briefing (including equality & environmental responsibilities) • Organise quiet zone. <p>Volunteers will be required to help steward the event. Councillors, please contact Rachel if you can help.</p>
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	<p>CTC budget for Christmas is £6000</p> <p>Sponsorship letters sent out, target of another 6 sponsors required @ £500 to bring in more income for this event. Sponsorship secured to date is £1800.00</p>
EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS	<p>This event is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all members of the community. We are committed to promoting diversity by involving participants and performers from a wide range of cultural, ethnic, age, disability, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds. The event will ensure physical and sensory accessibility, provide information in accessible formats, and take account of transport, safety, and family-friendly timings. We will uphold a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination and ensure free access so that everyone can take part, feel welcome, and be represented.</p>
Environmental Consideration	<p>We will aim to minimise waste by:</p> <p>Avoid Single-Use Plastics: Ban or reduce the use of single-use plastics in food packaging, decorations, and giveaways.</p> <p>Recyclable/Compostable Materials: Use compostable or recyclable materials for</p>

	<p>food containers, cutlery, and promotional materials.</p> <p>Encourage Reusables: Encourage attendees to bring reusable cups, water bottles, and bags.</p> <p>Transport and Travel impact:</p> <p>Promote Public Transport: Provide clear information about buses, trains, car share</p> <p>Encourage Walking & Cycling: Offer bike racks and pedestrian-friendly access.</p> <p>Minimise Car Use: Discourage unnecessary car use.</p>
Decision Required	Councillors note the report.