

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 May 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	16.		
REPORT TITLE	Support for Ukrainian Guests and their Hosts		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council continues to take an active role in the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network. This group is based in Congleton and the surrounding villages and is a group of volunteers who want to make the lives of displaced Ukrainian Families a little better each day.</p> <p>It is a non-political, non-religious, self-organised group, matching, rematching and supporting Ukrainian and UK people, primarily in Congleton and the surrounding area, involved in the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme.</p> <p>It seeks to promote joined up efforts by existing charities, local authorities, communities, and those in the scheme, and to develop a social network for sponsors and their guests so that all involved in the scheme can thrive.</p> <p>The aims of the group are to support guests and sponsors in the Congleton area, involved in the UK Government’s “Homes for Ukraine” visa scheme. This starts with helping to match families to Hosts and then providing support in all areas to ensure the guests can feel safe and welcome, making a difference to their lives everyday.</p> <p>As the group grows, it is recognised that a more formal structure is needed, and this is currently being worked on. Such a formal and properly constituted structure is considered highly important for effective working with statutory bodies and their approved partners.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council’s role continues to be around welcoming Ukrainian guests to our town, supporting hosts and making connections to help the group in its aims. The Town Council hosted a meeting in the Town Hall on 29th April to help connect hosts and potential hosts.</p> <p>This paper is intended to provide an update to the Community and Environment Committee.</p>		

<p>Latest Information</p>	<p>This is still a fast-moving area. The Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN) is currently connected to 76 potential hosts in the area. 80 Ukrainian guests have been matched with local hosts and approximately 50 Ukrainian guests are already in the greater area (which now includes Alsager, Holmes Chapel and Macclesfield groups) staying with 38 hosts.</p> <p>Currently there is potential to home a further 50-80 Ukrainian guests and the group is very conscious that not all people who have signed with the Government website to be potential hosts or have offered properties they own for Ukrainians to use, have made contact with the CAUSN group.</p> <p>Cheshire East remains the responsible organisation that is managing the legalities around the Ukrainian guests – school places, social services, rehousing if hosting doesn't work out, the £350 per month funds to host families, £200 payment to Ukrainian guests on arrival, DBS checks and house visits. CAUSN is working hard to make the hosting as positive as possible for both the Ukrainian guests and the hosts. The group is helping to provide essential support such as providing communication links, clothing, language lessons, helping connect to jobs and hobbies, fund raising and informing hosts on lessons learnt.</p> <p>You can see more about the group at www.causn.com</p> <p>The Town Council has set aside up to £5k to help with activities to support the Ukrainian guests in our area to settle into our community.</p>
	<p>Potential role for the Town Council includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving space for Ukrainian guests to meet for formal or informal language lessons. • Space for meetings of hosts and potential hosts. • Hire of minibus to help with transportation to meetings. • Space for the pop-up Boutique. • Being alert to the needs of local hosts and signposting. • Meetings to help identify more potential hosts – currently around 10 million displaced Ukrainians.
<p>Financial Considerations</p>	<p>Funding has been made available – so far spent £343 has been spent on publicity, welcome banners, hall hire and refreshments.</p>
<p>Environmental Considerations</p>	<p>In line with normal Council considerations for purchasing</p>
<p>Equality and Inclusivity considerations</p>	<p>Any programme will be designed to help make these new guests into our community feel part of the community.</p>
<p>PROPOSALS</p>	<p>To note the report and continue to be open to ideas from both Cheshire East Council Communities team and Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network.</p>