



# Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Councillor,

## **Community & Environment Committee – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Community & Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 at 7.00pm.**

- **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.

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 [minutes of the Community and Environment Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#) 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. Outstanding Actions**

These are dealt with in Agenda item 8.

### **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. Cheshire Police (Verbal Update)**

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

### **8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee (Enclosed)**

To receive updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group** (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022](#)

**10. Community Safety Charter Pledge** (Enclosed)

To discuss an action from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group recommending that Congleton Town Council take the pledge and signs up to the Community Safety Charter.

**11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group** (Verbal Update)

To receive an update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group on this year's National competition and details about result days.

**12. Congleton Green Working Group** (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022](#) and to receive a short report from the Chair.

**13. Congleton Green Fayre and Big Green Week Activities** (Enclosed)

To receive a report from the Congleton Partnership Officer about the Green Fayre and Activities planned for the Big Green Week.

**14. 750 Year Celebration Working Group** (Enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.](#)

**15. Cost of Living Crisis** (Enclosed)

To discuss the role that Congleton Town Council can take in helping the town during the Cost of Living Crisis and to receive the initial response to a Cost of Living Impact Survey.

**16. Support for Ukrainian Hosts in Congleton** (Enclosed)

To consider a request for Congleton Town Hall to host a meeting and workshop for local hosts who are supporting Ukrainian guests staying in Congleton.

**17. Support for Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton** (Enclosed)

To consider a request for Congleton Town Council to work with the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN), to host a Ukrainian Christmas event in January.

**18. Christmas in Congleton 2022 (Enclosed)**

To receive a report from the Town Centre and Events Officer on the activities planned for Christmas 2022.

**To:** Members of the Community & Environment Committee

**Cllrs:** Kay Wesley (Chair), Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)

Dawn Allen, Paul Duffy, Suzy Firkin, Robert Hemsley, Amanda Martin, Denis Murphy, Jean Parry and Mark Rogan

**Ex Officio:** Cllr Margaret Gartside (Town Mayor), Cllr Rob Moreton (Deputy Mayor)

**Ccs:** Appointed Members - Mr G Baxendale (Honorary Burgess)  
Mr E Clarke (Honorary Burgess)

Other members of the Council for Information, Police, Honorary Burgess (1), Press (3), Congleton Library, Congleton Information Centre.

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee**

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#)

#### **PRESENT:**

Committee members:

**Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)**

Cllr Suzy Firkin

Cllr Sally Ann Holland

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Denis Murphy

Cllr Jean Parry

Ex Officio members: Cllr Rob Moreton (Deputy Mayor)

Non-Committee Members: Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith and David Brown

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford - Chief Officer
- Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer

22 members of the public – One for question time and two to make presentations.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Members: Cllrs Robert Hemsley and Dawn Allen

Ex-Officio member: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Town Mayor)

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**CE/12/2223 Resolved to** approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as a correct record](#).

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors David Brown, Robert Moreton, Sally Ann Holland and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters relating to Cheshire East Council. Cllr Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 (which became item 8 Food and Friendship) as a member of Congleton Rotary.

#### 4. Outstanding Actions

See Agenda item 10 for any outstanding actions for the Community and Environment Committee.

#### 5. Questions from Members of the Public

There was one [question raised by Mr Dalglish referring to the Town Centre](#).

#### 6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

#### Change to Agenda

**CE/13/2223** Resolved to take item 16 (Skate Park) as item 7, followed by agenda 9 on Food and Friendship as agenda item 8. Both items had a guest speaker.

#### 7. Congleton Skate Park

Following a presentation by Xander Greenwood and a discussion on the needs of the skating community

##### **CE/14/2223 Resolved that:**

1. The Town Council should support and help progress a fully revamped and redesigned skate park, rather than a refurbishment of the existing facilities.
2. A project team should include Everybody, ANSA, Cheshire East Council (CEC) and the Town Council to work together to deliver this project.
3. Officers should spend time looking for and helping put funding bids together.
4. Engagement must take place with the skating community in the development of a new skate park.
5. Subject to positive feasibility discussions with Cheshire East Council officers due to take place w/c 1<sup>st</sup> August, a funding request should be submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee for £5k towards this work.

#### 8. Food and Friendship at Congleton Town Hall

**CE/15/2223 Resolved to** receive the presentation from Mark Bailey on a community scheme that Mark's Events will be trialling in Bluey's space in Congleton Town Hall and potentially in the Grand Hall depending on numbers. The committee supported the initiative to provide food and friendship and thought the Town Council should look to positively support this venture.

## **9. Cheshire Police**

Cheshire Police gave apologies for this meeting and provided some information which the Deputy Chief Officer read out. Details with Appendix 1.

## **10. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee**

The Committee received an updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Noted the action on Chatty Benches is still outstanding.

## **11. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group**

**CE/16/2223 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#). In a short update the group chair mentioned that the Front Desk at Congleton Police Station would be closing in the autumn despite the Town Council's protests. The public meeting with the Police on speeding on the link road and in town was well attended.

## **12. White Ribbon Working Group**

**CE/17/2223 Resolved to** receive a copy of the [White Ribbon Working Group minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022](#). The committee was updated on a successful visit to Alsager High School, work with Alsager Town Council, the White Ribbon floral tribute at the fire station and a reminder of the White Ribbon Cheshire East event on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **13. 'Reset' Pilot Project Launched in Congleton**

**CE/18/2223 Resolved to** note the report highlighting the Reset Project which is being piloted in Congleton to teach young people about healthy relationships.

## **14. Congleton in Bloom Working Group**

**CE/19/2223 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Congleton In Bloom Working Group from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022](#). There was also a meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and these notes will go to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee. North West in Bloom judging took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Congleton in Bloom would like to formally thank the Town Council, Streetscape Services and everyone who helped make the regionals a success. The National judging will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

## **15. Congleton Green Working Group**

**CE/20/2223 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022](#). Noted the next meeting would be on the 4<sup>th</sup> August not the 27<sup>th</sup> of July as stated on the agenda. The group is working on the Biodiversity Action Plan, reducing the carbon footprint of the Town Hall and the Green Fayre.

#### 16. “No Mow May”

**CE/21/2223 Resolved to** continue to support “No Mow May” in 2023, but to increase the publicity and public education around the project to reduce the amount of time spent dealing with complaints. This vote was approved 4-3 with the Chair using their casting vote.

**Action:** When equipment is up for renewal would it be possible to look at machines that collect up grass?.

**Action:** Can we work more closely with Dane Housing and Astbury Mere for a more consistent approach to No Mow May?.

#### 17. Update on Chapel House – Known Locally as Moody Hall

**CE/22/2223 Resolved to** receive the update report on Moody Hall, Moody Street.

**Action:** Requested that the Chief Officer, on behalf of the Town Council, writes to the developer and requests a meeting with themselves and the potential buyer.

#### 18. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

**CE/23/2223 Resolved to** receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.](#)

#### 19. Update on 750 Year Celebration Activities

**CE/24/2223 Resolved to** receive the update report on the 750 Year Celebration activities organised by Congleton Town Council.

**Action:** That a formal letter is written to Jenny and John Unsworth to thank them for sponsoring and making the 1272 Diorama of Congleton.

#### 20. Support for Ukraine

Received a verbal update from the Chair of the Community and Environment Committee on activity in support of Ukraine. This included an update on local hosting numbers and continued support of the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network [CAUSN](#)

**Cllr Kay Wesley  
(Chair)**



## **APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7**

As the Police were unable to attend this meeting, Jackie MacArthur, Deputy Chief Officer, gave an overview of Congleton crime-related figures from 1/4/2022 – 30/06/2022. This was based on the figures given by the Police and covers Congleton East and West Wards

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – 79 Incidents - same time for 2021 –131 incidents

**Domestic Violence** 96 Incidents, 38 Arrests - same time for 2021 – 101 incidents, 38 arrests

**Sexual Offences** – 28\* incidents – same time last year 10 incidents

\*Note of these 28, 10 were historical. 11 were youth/school related reflecting the work being done in this area.

**Drug Related Incidents** 28 incidents same time for 2021 -26 incidents

The recreation of the Congleton Policing Unit is having a positive effect on the local area with more positive action being taken along with a problem-solving approach to reducing demand and tackling Anti-Social behaviour.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22 September 2022 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>8 Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>This paper gives members an update on actions from reports discussed at the previous Community and Environment Committee. These items do not need a full paper and are either ongoing issues or confirmation of completion or resolution.</p> <p>The paper is for noting and is an opportunity to feedback on issues from this committee.</p>		
<b>Updates</b>	<p><b>Actions from the meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b></p> <p><b>CE/14/2223 – Congleton Skate Park.</b></p> <p>Since the presentation by Xander Greenwood, Congleton Town Council has attended a meeting with Cheshire East Council regarding the Skate Park. Cheshire East Council will refurbish the existing Skate Park and Congleton Town Council and Cheshire East Council are working together to find funding for a higher spec park, which would need to be in an alternative location.</p> <p><b>CE/15/2223 - Food and Friendship in the Town Hall</b></p> <p>Since the previous Community and Environment Committee, an article about the Food and Friendship offer in the Town Hall was published in the summer edition of Bear Necessities. This led to a number of volunteers coming forward offering to help. Mark's Events is currently training the volunteers with the aim of launching an offer in October.</p> <p><b>CE/19/2223 – Congleton in Bloom</b></p> <p>The Community and Environment Committee minutes stated that the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> June would come to this meeting. There were no published notes of the meeting from the 9<sup>th</sup> June or the July or August meetings, as these were either operational meetings sorting tasks for the judging or the team debrief on the judging days.</p> <p><b>CE/22/2223 - Update on Chapel House – Known Locally as Moody Hall</b></p> <p>Requested that the Chief Officer, on behalf of the Town Council, writes to the developer and requests a meeting with themselves and the potential buyer. The Chief Officer has written to the developer and tried to make contact in other ways and is still waiting for a response.</p>		

	<p><b>CE/24/2223 - Update on 750 Year Celebration Activities</b></p> <p>That a formal letter is written to Jenny and John Unsworth to thank them for sponsoring and making the 1272 Diorama of Congleton.</p> <p>Flowers and a card were sent. The Diorama is currently on display in Congleton Library until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. A permanent place to display or store the exhibition piece has not been found.</p>
<p><b>PROPOSALS</b></p>	<p>To note the update report.</p>

## Minutes Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

### Virtual Meeting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, Stg John Roberts, Jackie MacArthur (CTC), Stuart Hobson (CCTV) Jim Sharp (CCTV)



**1. Apologies:** Ruth Burgess (CTC), Cllr Rob Moreton, Paul Bestwick (CEC), Cllr Dawn Allen, Julia Pelsall Hassell (CEC), Cllr Denis Murphy,

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of 7/7/22</b>	accepted by group		
2b	<b>Action Log</b> a) Ongoing but not on the agenda	Article for Bear Necessities on drug and alcohol abuse _ Jackie – autumn Publicising actions that can be taken against ASB offenders Done Re-establish a youth event at Bamboogie – with Rob Moreton Jackie and Kay to arrange a visit to the CCTV HQ – Done Police Week of Action – successful – feedback received Parking outside of Morrisons – not been an issue when Police have checked will ask wardens to check too	Jackie n/a Cllr Rob Moreton n/a  n/a With Wardens	September Closed Nov Closed  Closed Nov
<b>3.</b>	<b>CCTV Update</b>	Stuart and Jim from the CEC CCTV HQ attended the meeting and talked the team through the Q1 stats. Noted Congleton has one of the most active night-time economies in Cheshire East, and for the size of the town and the amount of people out the stats in the Q1 are what is to be expected. In the first 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter there were 60 requests for observations, 25 violent incidents, 21 requests for a review of an incident and 19 cases of ASB recorded. The peak times for incidents was 4am on a Friday and Saturday and early morning and evening .		Ongoing

	Agenda Item	Issue/Action	By Whom	When
		<p>A new permanent camera for West Street is in the procurement plan for CEC and this should be delivered by the end of the year.</p> <p>Following a site visit by CCTV it was suggested that that main CCTV Camera in Lawton Street is redeployed to a location outside of Purple Pakora – this will then have good views of the Community Garden and the Community Garden redeployable camera could be located in the market area.</p>	<p>CEC CCTV team</p> <p>CEC CCTV team</p>	<p>Dec</p> <p>Dec</p>
4.	<b>Community Safety Charter</b>	<p>Cllr Kay Wesley talked the team through a presentation on the Community Safety Charter. This is administered via Neighbourhood Watch and has a wealth of free resource materials. Its all about making people feel safer in their communities and taking a zero tolerance approach to ASB and helping to equip local champions. There is no fee to pledge and people can pledge as individuals. The Working Group thought it would be good for the Town Council to pledge. A paper will go to the next CE committee recommending that the Council makes the pledge</p>	JMacA and KW	Sept
5.	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p><b>Drug and Alcohol Abuse</b></p>	<p>The figures for total number of crimes reported compare June to August 2022 with June to August 2021. A copy of the Police Report can be found on the ASB working group page. Number of reports increased from 1189 to 1272.</p> <p>Continue to work with PubWatch Drug intel on several addresses in Congleton.</p>		
6.	<b>Anti-Social Behaviour and Young Offenders</b>	<p>ASB decreased from 94 incidents June – august 2021 to 83 in 2022. Astbury Mere, Market Area and George Avenue were the locations with the most calls.</p> <p>Important that people continue to report. ASB incidents graded 1-4 In past three months there have been 13 Grade 1 calls, 33 grade 2, 17 grade 3 and 41 grade 4. ASB calls. Grade 1 is dealt with immediately, Grade 2 within an hour, grade 3 in 24 hours and grade 4 is not actioned.</p>	<p>CEC/Police</p> <p>Jackie</p>	Ongoing

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Issue/Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>When</b>
		Discussion on reporting crimes – and observation in the room that in many cases an incident number is not given – Stg John Roberts to take this back	John Roberts	November
<b>7.</b>	<b>Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences</b>	<p>25 reports compared to 15 last year. Believe there is greater confidence in reporting which is a positive.</p> <p>Domestic Violence down from 133 to 117, whilst arrests are up from 16 to 37.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Clinics are continuing at the Old Saw Mill on a Thursday afternoon.</p> <p>Noted there were 100 stop and searches carried out in Congleton from June to August resulting in 42 arrests.</p>		
	<b>Residents Voice</b>	Police were pleased to see that in the Congleton area 202 people responded – compared to 27 in Chester and 55 in Crewe. Main issues coming out of the Resident Voice for our area was concerns around Parking, Drugs and Anti Social Behaviour.		
<b>8.</b>	<b>Speeding and Traffic</b>	Concerns raised about speeding on Canal Road and West Heath Parking around the Crescent	John to send a link.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	Issue with electric scooters and off road bikes – encourage people to report it – if feeling harassed, alarmed or threatened by people driving in an unsafe manner. Police can confiscate bikes if person and vehicle can be clearly identifiable.		
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022 3.30pm – 5pm via zoom	Jackie book	

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22 September 2022 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>10 Community Safety Charter Pledge</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Congleton’s Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group discussed the Community Safety Charter and is recommending that Congleton Town Council take the pledge and sign up to the Charter.</p> <div data-bbox="341 725 879 1028">  <p><b>Community Safety Charter</b></p> <p>Introducing the Charter</p> </div> <div data-bbox="900 734 1043 770"> <p><b>What is it?</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="900 792 1474 1061"> <p>A charter that organisations and individuals can sign up to, in order to make their community safer and more resilient, and help eradicate anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility towards others. It is run by the National Neighbourhood Watch group.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="341 1088 1315 1603">  <p><b>Aims of the charter</b></p> <p>To increase community resilience, improve feelings of safety and reduce incidents of crimes such as street harassment, antisocial behaviour, and hate crime in our community,</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Pledges</b></p> <p><b>Delivery</b></p> <p>Help spread the word... I support the Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter #BETHECHANGE www.nwuk.org.uk/charter</p> </div> <p>The Community Safety Charter would give Congleton Town Council and its Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Working Group an opportunity to take a more proactive and preventative approach to ASB and related crimes of harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others.</p> <p>It gives tools to send clear messages to victims that we want to create a safer town, and to perpetrators, that their behaviour is not acceptable and will be held to account.</p>		

## Objectives of the Charter

1. Create an environment in which these crimes and incidents are not tolerated by the wider community.
2. Provide visibility for public intolerance for these crimes with posters and pledges to take an active stance to prevent and report them.
3. Equip a wider range of community members with heightened awareness about what constitutes these crimes and give options about what to do should they witness them.
4. Increase the number and range of volunteers, community members and organisations involved in taking an active stance in keeping their public spaces safe. We have been told that Congleton already has 74 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.
5. Better equip community members to recognise and prevent crime going forward.
6. Increase the support offered to victims by community members and referrals to support agencies.
7. Increase reporting of crimes which occur in public spaces.

## The pledges

Each individual, organisation, group, club, business, police force etc will commit to:

1. **Promote a culture that does not tolerate anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others.**
2. **Enable others to identify and take an active stance against antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility.**
3. **Actively encourage and support those who experience or witness antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility to report it to the relevant authorities.**
4. **Support those affected by anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them.**

## Delivery



**Topics covered**

Everyone signed up to the charter will receive an information pack every two months for them to go through and share in their network.

- **Harassment**
- **Hate crime**
- **Antisocial behaviour**
- **Becoming an active bystander**
- **Dealing with confrontation**
- **Leading the change in your community**

Easy sign-up process through

[www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter)

You receive



- Welcome letter
- Individual pledge sheets
- Support and education pack

Topics covered by packs:

For example, the 'Harassment Pack' - This is a PDF training document to read with quizzes.



Hate crime training module is a Prezi presentation that is interactive:

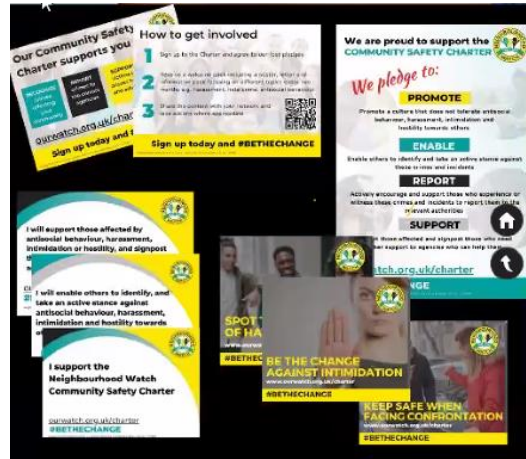


The ask from the Community Safety Team:

Sign up your organisation, then

- Promote the Charter in your community
- Encourage others to sign up
- Display the CSC poster
- Share on social media
- Share the training content with friends, family, staff members and everyone!

Materials are provided such as social media banners etc:



**Why is Neighbourhood Watch leading this?**

They want people to feel safer walking through their neighbourhood.

Perpetrators should be educated that certain behaviours are unacceptable e.g., low-level harassment of women, homophobic comments etc.

#BETHECHANGE

**How it works**

When you sign up the first pack will be the Harassment one. 2 months later, the Hate Crime one. Then the third one will be on ASB.

Training video link for supporting victims: <https://www.standup-international.com>

<b>Financial Implications</b>	This will involve some officer time to help launch the campaign and some funding to host some sessions with the town’s Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. This can be managed within current budgets.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	This campaign is all about making your local environment safer. There will be some carbon footprint from printing display materials, but most of the training is online.
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	The campaign has equality and diversity at its core, seeking an end to hate crime, and discrimination and equipping members of the community to call out behaviour that creates victims.
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	<p>Recommend that Congleton Town Council signs up to the Community Charter Pledge and delegate responsibility to the Anti-Social Behaviour Group to take actions to fulfil the pledge: The Pledge is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Promote a culture that does not tolerate antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others</b></li> <li>2. <b>Enable others to identify and take an active stance against antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility</b></li> <li>3. <b>Actively encourage and support those who experience or witness antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility to report it to the relevant authorities.</b></li> </ol>

	<p><b>4. Support those affected by antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them.</b></p>
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## Virtual Congleton Green Working Group Meeting –

### NOTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Location: Zoom

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Margaret Gartside (Chair) Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Amanda Martin, Heather Seddon, Barry Speed, Jackie MacArthur

Item	What was discussed / description	Actions	By whom	By when
1	<b>Apologies</b>	Adam Linnet (CWT), Cllr Martin Amies, Peter Aston		
2	<b>Notes of meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>	Accepted as a true record		
3.	<b>Outstanding and Complete actions not on agenda</b>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> <i>Developing Carbon Footprint for 2021/22</i> – Serena was inputting data based on financial information – agreed that Jackie needs to sort a meeting with Serena and Barry to get these figures over the line.</p> <p><b>On Hold – Green Assembly</b> - not a clear way forward and is still on hold</p> <p><b>Ongoing - Air Quality</b> – CTC took a paper to CE. Keen to work with CEC as a partner on any projects involving air quality monitoring. Need more robust monitoring in Congleton. -</p>	<p>JMacA, BS and Serena</p> <p>JMacA</p>	<p>Asap</p> <p>Share comms</p>
5.	Update on Site Specific Biodiversity Plan	Cllr Suzy Firkin reported back. Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin and Streetscape Development Manager Ruth Burgess are impressed with the work carried out by Ruth Benson on the 30 specific sites. Need Adan at CWT to have sight of the plans – Cllr SF will contact Adam. 7 sites have been chosen on to work on first – These are Quinta Park, Back Lane area, Stirling Close, Hillfields, Windsor Place, Blackshaw Close and Redfern Avenue. Will be looking to work with a nature conservation team for each area. Starting the process of applying for funds.	<p>Biodiversity subgroup Continue to work on.</p> <p>SF to contact AL</p>	September
6.	Update on Town Hall Decarbonising	The report from the consultants has just been received. A meeting has been planned for the 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> August to consider the report and recommendations. Cllr SF will circulate the plan to group members. From first reading looks like a good thorough piece of work with options itemised and costed against returns on reducing carbon footprint. Ranges from sm	Cllr SF to update keep as an agenda item.	

7.	Green Marketing and messaging	<p>Although a lot of messages going out on social media and via local press, the group does not believe that the messages are not making a great impact and not many unknown people are commenting on posts.</p> <p>Meeting planned with TMC to look into the E-learning and the google analytics associated with the course.</p> <p>Marketing Team will consider other ways to communicate. Noted that CSG seem a bit quieter during the past few months. Need to make a greater impact and get more of a green focus.</p> <p>Creating more Green pages for the website – these will be split across Your Council, Business and Discover Congleton with a Green focus in each. Need support from all members on sourcing green resources.</p> <p>Comment that Congleton in Bloom could become even more green – growing from scratch, more sustainable planting. Green Group could write suggestions for the In Bloom group to consider.</p>	Green marketing team	
8.	Update on the Green Fayre	<p><i>Green Fayre</i> - booked for 24<sup>th</sup> September – road closures booked. Space for 32 stalls – many from last year wish to return. Town Hall is part of the fayre this year and will house Repair Workshop and looking to get a clothes swap style event. Peter Aston looking to help with some electric cars and bikes for people to talk with the owners. Looking to build events around the fayre as part of a big green week with a series of talks and walks. Shared between CTC and Congleton Partnership.</p>	JMacA Rachel Cathy Peter and anyone who wants to help	Event 24 Sept.
9	Fast Fashions	Heather prepared a presentation. Unfortunately ran out of time but this will be sent to all group members as self-explanatory. Recognised as a big problem and creates a huge amount of waste/ use of resources to create.		
10	Update on Town Council Climate Emergency Targets	This needs to be a priority – need to create a visible and clear dashboard, and need the data to feed this dashboard. Kay offered to help Jackie.		
9.	AOB: Climate Change Booklet	Heather wanted a copy - Jackie to leave in the CIC .	JM	August
10.	Date of Next Meeting -	TBA for September – actions needed first		

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 - 7pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean – Congleton Partnership Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>13 Congleton Green Fayre and Big Green Week Activities</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>In October 2019, shortly after Congleton Town Council signed a Climate Emergency, Congleton Town Council with Congleton Partnership held a Green Fayre in the Town Hall. In 2020 it was not possible for to host a Green Fayre due to COVID-19. In 2021 the Town Council and Cheshire East Council jointly hosted a Climate Festival from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October with a Green Fayre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October in the closed High Street.</p> <p>This year, once again, Congleton Town Council with Congleton Partnership are holding a Green Fayre on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept and Festival week from 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September with various events planned. These coincide with the national campaign <a href="#">‘The Great Big Green Week’</a>.</p>		
<b>Updates</b>	<p>Throughout the Climate Festival Week there were 12 different activities including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three open days at Vale Allotments</li> <li>• Climate and Nature Display at Congleton Library</li> <li>• Tours of the Hydro site which people can book at the Green Fayre</li> <li>• Bath House and Physic Garden Open Morning</li> <li>• People and Wildlife Walk and Talk with a CEC Countryside Ranger</li> <li>• Future for Land Use Walk and Talk with a CEC Countryside Ranger</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle Talk at the Old Saw Mill</li> <li>• Decarbonisation – How the UK is REALLY doing - Talk at The Old Saw Mill</li> <li>• Misinformation on Climate Change - ! Talk at The Old Saw Mill</li> <li>• Heating Your Home – How to reduce costs - ! Talk at The Old Saw Mill</li> <li>• Climate Films at the New Life Church</li> <li>• Climate Action Talks (TBC)</li> </ul> <p>Many of the events required people to book places to manage numbers. We were able to utilise the omnify booking system that the Town Council installed for Paddling Pool bookings for these events. Full details of the events programme can be seen on the <a href="#">Congleton Partnership Webpage</a>.</p> <p>On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September a <a href="#">Green Fayre</a> will held in the closed High Street. This has attracted 24 stalls, with 28 groups, organisations and businesses taking the opportunity to showcase their work and ideas to local people.</p> <p>There is a bumper Repair Café taking place inside the Town Hall and a children’s clothes swap.</p>		

	<p>There was also a selection of electric cars for people to view and discuss with their owners and adapted bikes to find out about.</p> <p>The main organising team – Cathy Dean (Congleton Partnership Officer), Peter Aston, Jackie MacArthur (Congleton Town Council) and Rachel McCarthy (Congleton Town Council,) will be considering the detail and options for next year and will report back to both Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council.</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>This year’s event is estimated to cost £2000, which includes hall hire, road closures, equipment hire and set up and marketing. The costs are being shared between the Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council with the Town Council share being met from the Green Marketing budget.</p>
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	<p>The Green Fayre and Climate Week were designed to create greater awareness of local ‘green’ activities. It meets the Town Council’s strategic objectives SO7 (Engaging with the Public) and SO6 (Climate Emergency).</p> <p>It also co-insides with <a href="#">“The Big Green Week”</a> which is a national awareness week running from 24<sup>th</sup> Sept until 2<sup>nd</sup> October.</p>
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	<p>There are no financial barriers to entry to any of the activities – although some of the walks are not accessible to all due to the nature of the ground.</p> <p>It was decided to have a digital landing page rather than a booklet this year, so we will monitor the feedback to see if this was effective.</p>
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	<p>That the Town Council supports the Green Fayre becoming an annual event and recommends to the Finance and Policy Committee that a Green Activities budget headline is included for 2023/2024</p>

## CTC 750 Working Group

Thursday 4 August 2022 - 11am-12.30pm In person & Zoom

Attendees: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Jenny Unsworth, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy, Debbie Coxon

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Suzie Akers-Smith, Cllr Rob Moreton, Jo Money
2. **Notes of the 14 July meeting:** Approved
3. Update & issues on below CTC events:

### **a.) Medieval Festival**

RMC ran through the printed event programme.

Rotary volunteers on board with road closures and manning park entrances. Card payment terminals will be provided by Rotary for entry points. RMC has put a call out for a few more volunteers via email.

**ACTION:** Contact the Harriers to see if they can provide volunteers to assist with the Town Mayor's collection & other jobs on the day. RMC contact Doug Parker to confirm he's available for Catchpole duties.

The group agreed a percentage of the takings from the collection should be given to Rotary to cover their costs. A figure of 10-25% was suggested (tbc).

JU showed a sample flag which will decorate the bandstand, fences & lamp posts. JU is assembling the flags Mon-Fri prior to them being mounted on Sat 13<sup>th</sup>. Call for volunteers to support JU with the time-consuming job. JU to send timeslots to available helpers.

Flags can be mounted on the bowling club if brackets are attached.

**ACTION:** JMAC to arrange for Streetscape install the brackets.

2371 tickets have been registered from the 3K online ticket allocation.

### **b.) Medieval Banquet at the Town Hall**

120 tickets available. X15 allocated to volunteers FOC. Interest registered for x45.

Increase promotion of the event after Medieval via social media and printed posters.

### **c.) Ale Trail**

4K leaflets are due from the printers on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Launch date planned for mid August before the Medieval Festival.

The T-shirts are available for participating pubs to purchase at £15 each (£12.50 plus VAT)

**ACTION:** Produce a window poster for pubs indicating that they are part of the trail.

### **d.) Beer Festival**

Joe Manning and Mark Bailey have offered their help with beer and gins accordingly.

CAMRA are on board. Bollington Beer Festival was a successful event, it would be useful to arrange a meeting with the organisers to assist with our business model and planning.



SF requested to be involved. Matt, Little Street Cellar Bar could be a useful to contact to approach.

**ACTION:** Book the Town Hall prior to the 29th for set-up (allowing time for the beers to settle).

**e.) Medieval council meeting, 10 Nov**

**ACTIONS:** Make sure the 750 characters and key people are available to attend. Book Prickly Peach. Contact Congleton Players to see if they can assist with a script. The Players are performing extracts of their forthcoming Black Adder show at Medieval.

**4. AOB:**

- a.)** Congleton Library have agreed to house the diorama. The model display will be protected with a roped barrier and 'do not touch' signs.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 September 2022 at 11am, Spencer Suite, Town Hall.**

## CTC 750 Working Group

Thursday 1 September 2022 -11am-12.30pm In person & Zoom

Attendees: Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Kay Wesley, Jenny Unsworth, Jackie MacArthur, Debbie Coxon

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Gartside, Jo Money, Rachel McCarthy
2. **Notes of the 4 August meeting:** Approved
3. Update & issues on below CTC events:

### **a.) Medieval Banquet**

Ticket sales to date x68 allocated. Breakdown: x32 sold, x4 reserved, x10 reserved (Cllr SAS), x7 reserved (Cllr SF), x15 FOC. Need to sell x75-80 to make the event viable. Promotional activity continues via social media, local press, 750 leaflet, posters.

Promote to local businesses likely to take a table, plus the Chamber and community groups e.g. Rotary, Lions, U3A, History Society, Congleton Players.

**ACTION: DC** to draft an invitation email for councillors to forward to contacts. L.Minshull to circulate to Mayors & civic guests.

**DC** create a dedicated web page from the news post.

JU lending Mark Bailey items for the banquet. **Separate meeting required with MB.**

### **b.) Ale Trail**

Launched on 22 Aug at Beartown Brewery. Good press coverage and interview on BBC Radio Stoke. Promo packs have been distributed to participating pubs. Three pubs appreciated a visit from Benedict with SF, JMAC & D.Seddon (CAMRA) on 31 August. Plans for a 'Spot the Ale Taster' on 3 Sept in town centre pubs and future dates to keep momentum running. KW happy to join the promotional group.

**ACTION:** set tour dates and circulate to the group.

14 Ale Trail T-Shirts sold. Discussion centred on finding a mechanism to encourage pubs to buy and sell the T-Shirts from council stock. T-shirts are expected to sell well in the build up to the Beer Festival.

**ACTION:** cherry pick the pubs more likely to take stock. Send an email including the BACS details.

The Heritage and Antiques Festival starts with a launch event on 10 Sept on the outdoor area behind the Town Hall. The group discussed ways in which it could offer support on the day and opportunities for promoting 750 events e.g. banquet ticket sales, ale trail/merch.

### **ACTIONS:**

**JU:** contact Nino to identify his requirements and any gaps. JU suggested the provision of costumes, games & flags/bunting.

**SF:** contact Benedict and P.Duffy to check availability. D.Parker is on standby for Town Crier duties if PD is unavailable. Update Ian to ensure the museum is briefed & have adequate staffing for a possible increase in visitor numbers on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**JMAC:** contact the fire station to see if we can borrow the stocks. Follow up on funds raised at Medieval.

### **c.) Beer Festival**

RMC will pick up on return from annual leave.

**d.) Medieval council meeting**

**ACTION:** DC contact 750 characters and key people to confirm availability and input.  
KW & SF offered to help with the script.

**4. AOB:**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 6 October or Thursday 13 October (tbc) at 11am, Spencer Suite,  
Town Hall.**

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur – Deputy Chief Officer - Communities and Environment</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>15 Cost of Living Crisis</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>Over the past few weeks, the soaring price of both food and energy costs has created concern for many residents and businesses. As we head into the autumn and winter months the consequences of these increased costs are likely to have a greater impact.</p> <p>Recognising that these rising costs are likely to have a big impact on the quality of life within our community, the various groups which worked together during the COVID-19 crisis (Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Plus Dane, Congleton Partnership, Church Groups, Community Groups, Doctors Surgeries, Congleton Community Projects and Charities) have reformed as <i>Congleton Cares - Cost of Living</i>.</p> <p>The first virtual meeting was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September and the next is planned for the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Verbal reports from these meetings will be given to the Community and Environment Committee.</p>		
<b>Groups Remit</b>	<p>National solutions are going to be needed to tackle the financial crisis. The group will not be able to pay anyone's bills. However, by working together and pulling resources and knowledge, the group hopes to help alleviate some of the concerns and be better placed to advise and guide residents on the help that is available. The group is considering five main areas:</p> <p><b>FOOD</b> – including the social supermarket, Congleton Food Bank, Big Heart Meal delivery, luncheon clubs and the Food and Friendship sessions at the Town Hall.</p> <p><b>HEATING</b> – pulling together community spaces and places where people can go for a warm welcome as well as physical warmth.</p> <p><b>MENTAL HEALTH</b> – financial worries can be a big contributor to poor mental health.</p> <p><b>FUNDING</b> – by working together can we unlock any grant money or other benefits to help our residents.</p> <p><b>COMMUNICATIONS and ADVICE</b> – getting the messages out – ways to communicate and help residents.</p>		

	<p>A Cost of Living Impact survey was written and issued on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. The ability to promote this survey during the National Period of Mourning has been limited. Responses received by the 21<sup>st</sup> September will be summarised and reported at the Community and Environment Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Cost of Living Impact Survey was geared at residents. However, the rising cost of energy, products, transport and wages coupled with many residents having less money to spend on any non-essential items is a huge concern for many businesses in town. Especially following a couple of difficult years trading through COVID-19.</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	It is not clear at this stage what financial support the Town Council may need to make available. The luncheon clubs, Social Supermarket and Food Bank are likely to come under additional pressure, especially if regular donators feel that they are less able to donate. Costs of marketing materials to communicate messages can be met from the Community Development Marketing budget.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	The Environmental Impact of any project will need to be measured against the benefits of the project.
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	The people with least in our community are most likely to be impacted by this Cost of Living Crisis.
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	That this report is noted and that Councillors and Officers support actions developed by Congleton Cares to benefit residents in need. Where funding is needed, it will be subject to the usual Financial Regulations.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur – Deputy Chief Officer - Communities and Environment</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>16 Support for Ukrainian Hosts in Congleton</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, people in Congleton were quick to offer to help. There are now around 90 host families in the Congleton and the surrounding area hosting 154 Ukrainians. More guests from the war-torn country are still arriving.</p> <p>A local support group that started in Marton went on to form the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN), and the Town Council has helped this group by funding some of the English classes.</p> <p>We have received a suggestion from some of the hosts that they would appreciate the opportunity to get together with other hosts to share the issues and joys of hosting.</p> <p>A facilitator with experience in working with host families of refugees has been identified. This paper is to seek agreement from the Town Council to commit officers and up to £800 from the Ukraine support budget to organise a Ukrainian host event.</p>		
<b>Reasoning</b>	<p>The hosts have welcomed strangers either into their home, or into accommodation that belongs to them. Some of the guests have good English, some very little. Many of the guests are traumatised by the journey, by leaving husbands, sons, dads and other family and friends in danger in Ukraine and adjusting to life in another person’s home in an unfamiliar culture. It can be stressful for both parties. The host evening is intended to allow hosts to spend time with other hosts, explore mutual solutions to common issues, share joys, pick up some hints about how to help their guests to learn English and learn some basic Ukrainian too! It is important that the hosts are supported to help them to continue to support the Ukrainian guests.</p>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>The Town Council has an Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) of £5,000 to support initiatives to support Ukrainians in the Congleton area. So far only £700 has been spent and a further £500 is committed. It is anticipated that £800 would be needed for this event.</p>		
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	<p>Minimal - usual Town Council working practices around reducing paper and using local products will apply.</p>		
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	<p>This is geared at helping hosts to make some of the newest members of our community feel included and supported in Congleton.</p>		

**PROPOSALS**

That the officers are given delegated powers to work with the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network (CAUSN) to arrange a Ukrainian host evening in the Town Hall using up to £800 from the EMR Ukrainian budget.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur – Deputy Chief Officer - Communities and Environment</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>17</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Support for Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>There are currently around 154 Ukrainian people living in Congleton and the surrounding area. Ukrainian people traditionally celebrate Christmas on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>There has been a proposal that it would be a great gesture if Congleton Town Council could work with the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network (CAUSN), to allow the local Ukrainian hosts to come together to celebrate a traditional Ukrainian Christmas.</p> <p>The Town Hall is currently available on both Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>The idea would be to work with the Ukrainian Voice – a group of the Ukrainian mums – for them to take the lead organising a family-friendly Ukrainian Christmas event using the space in the Town hall.</p>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The Town Council has an Ear Marked Reserve of £5,000 to support initiatives to support Ukrainians in the Congleton area. So far only £700 has been spent and a further £500 is committed. It is anticipated that up to £1000 may be required for this event with additional funds, if needed, raised through fund-raising or grants.		
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	Minimal – it would be some type of event in the Town Hall.		
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	This is geared at helping some of the newest members of our community feel included and supported in Congleton.		
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	That the officers are given delegated powers to work with the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network (CAUSN) and in particular members of the Ukrainian Voice to enable the 154 Ukrainians in our area to come together and celebrate their Christmas in January.		



**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Bridestones Suite</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Christmas in Congleton 2022</b>		
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>Congleton Town Council takes responsibility for the installation of the Christmas lights and takes a lead on the Christmas Lights Switch-On event with the support of Congleton Community Projects.</p> <p>This paper is to update Councillors on the plans for Christmas in Congleton for 2022.</p>		
<b>UPDATES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Christmas Lights:</b> We are in year 2 of a 3-year contract with PME to store, check, repair, install and remove the Town’s Christmas lights. This was agreed at Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. In 2020 the Town Council purchased new lights for the pedestrian area and Victoria Street, changed the lamp post Christmas motifs in Market Street and extended Christmas lights further along West Street. In 2021 we replaced five of the lamp post lights on the High Street which were beyond economic repair. This year we are in a similar position with Lawton Street, where the eight lamp post motifs are now beyond economic repair and looking poor compared to the other lights (they have been used for 9 years). This will be discussed with the Christmas Working Group and a recommendation sent to the Committee.</li> <li>2. <b>Christmas Lights Switch-On:</b> switch on this year will be Friday evening, 25<sup>th</sup> November from 4pm-8pm. This year we are hoping for a return to normal and the switch on will also include activities in the closed High Street and in the Town Hall. Lantern making workshops will be confirmed by Congleton Community Projects. There will also be a number of charity stalls in the pedestrian area and local hospitality businesses are being encouraged to join in with stalls outside their premises.</li> <li>3. <b>Small Christmas Trees above Shops:</b> A letter has been drafted ready for the Christmas trees above the shops. The cost this year will be £17.50 (inc vat), per tree with an additional £12.00 to install and remove each tree, total of £29.50. The trees will be installed w/c 14<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>4. <b>Classic Car show:</b> Andy Barratt has been contacted regarding his classic car show on 10<sup>th</sup> December, this will be confirmed this week.</li> </ol>		

	<p>5. <b>Rotary Tree of Light:</b> The Town Council will support the Rotary Tree of Light campaign again this year. The Rotary club will sell stars for £5 which people can write to remember a loved one who is not with them at Christmas. The Tree of Light Switch on will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the Community Garden, from 4.30pm.</p> <p>6. <b>Christmas Makers Market:</b> There will be a Makers Market in Town on Saturday 26<sup>h</sup> November and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>7. <b>Christmas Windows Competition</b> – the Town Council will run a Christmas Windows competition for businesses in Congleton. Judging will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – with prizes for First, Second and Third places and certificates for Highly Commended and Commended.</p> <p>8. <b>Free Parking in Congleton:</b> On Saturday’s 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> December, there will be free parking after 10am on Princess Street, Back Park Street and the Fairground Car Park. Time restrictions on the short stay car parks still apply.</p> <p>9. <b>The Civic Christmas Carol Service</b> will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St Peter’s Church.</p> <p>10. <b>Congleton Santa</b> – The charity Congleton Santa has asked Congleton Town Council if it would like to take one of the collection days when Santa’s sleigh tours around the residential areas of Congleton in December. A team from the Town Council and friends collected on one of the evenings in 2021 and raised funds for the Social Supermarket.</p> <p>11. <b>A full programme of Christmas events and activities in Congleton</b> will be published on the Town Council website as more information becomes available.</p>
<b>Financial considerations</b>	All within the Christmas budgets, also seeking sponsorship for the main town centre tree.
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	All event planning will be mindful of accessibility issues for all residents and visitors and try to reduce all barriers to involvement.
<b>Environmental Considerations</b>	As far as possible all Christmas decorations are re-used every year.
<b>Proposal</b>	To note the report.