



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

20 June 2024

Dear Councillor,

Community Committee – Thursday 27th June 2024

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 27th June 2024 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

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 27 February 2024 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.

- John Whitelock - Operation Park Safe

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)

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

7. Updates from Previous Community Committee (enclosed)

To receive updates from the Community Committee held on the 27 February and note of outstanding items.

8. 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 for March – June.

9. CEC Bus Consultation (enclosed)

To consider and agree on a response to the Cheshire East Bus Services Council Consultation response – closing date 3 July 2024.

10. Christmas 2024 (enclosed)

To consider and approve plans being prepared for Christmas 2024 in Congleton.

11. Christmas Lights Contract (enclosed)

To discuss and approve plans for the Christmas Lights storage, installation and removal for the years 2024 – 2027.

12. Summer Play Days 2024 (enclosed)

To consider and approve plans for the additional summer holiday play day activities in 2024.

13. Community Safety Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the notes from the Community Safety Working Group held on 14 May 2024 and receive a short update from the Chair.

14. Health and Wellbeing Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meetings held on 24 April 2024 and receive a short report from the Chair.

To: Members of the Community Committee

Clrs: Richard Walton (Chair), Glen Williams (Vice Chair)

Dawn Allen, David Brown, Mark Edwardson, Suzy Firkin, Sally Holland, Susan Mead, Shaun Radcliffe,

Ex Officio: Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor), Cllr Rob Brittain (Deputy Mayor)

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
29 February 2024**

**Please Note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of
this Committee**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 29 February 2024](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members

- **Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)**
- **Cllr Emma Hall (Vice Chair)** (arrived 7.20 item 7)
- Cllr Mark Edwardson
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Sally Holland
- Cllr Susan Mead
- Cllr Shaun Radcliffe
- Cllr Glen Williams

Non-Committee Members: Cllr Richard Walton

Officers: David McGifford, Chief Officer, Jackie MacArthur DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager and Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Officer.

Also in attendance: 2 members of the Public, 0 members of the press, 2 guest presenters

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor David Brown, Councillor Arabella Holland and Ex-Officio, Cllr Rob Moreton, Mayor

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/32/2324 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 4 January 2024 as a correct record – with a correction to item 2 apologies which should note that due to the late change of the committee date, apologies would not be marked as absences on the Councillor monitoring forms.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Emma Hall and Sally Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest as Cheshire East Councillors. (Cllr Emma Hall declared her interest on arrival at 7.20)

4. Questions from Members of the Public

A question was raised by John Whitelock questioning the scale of the community response to the Police Crime Commissioner's Operation Park Safe initiative, how well it had been publicised and the Police's ability to deal with reports submitted. The Chair responded that the Town Council was aware of Operation Park Safe following an article in the Congleton Chronicle on 8 February. The operation was discussed at the Community Safety Working Group – and our understanding is that the roll-out is underway across the Cheshire Force and but still early days for Congleton. Congleton Town Council will investigate further and feedback to Mr Whitelock.

Action to promote the scheme when rolled out in Congleton.

Since the meeting the local Beat Inspector has sent CTC the link for [Operation Park Safe](#) which explains more about the project.

5. Urgent Items

No items were raised.

6. Cheshire Police

PC Andy Cornell delivered the report written by Sergeant John Roberts, who has now left the Congleton Beat Team. For the report see [the agenda item](#).

Action: To encourage all shops and businesses to report crime

Action: Asked if there is a specific campaign in operation can the Town Council receive feedback on the effectiveness with the Police report.

7. 100th Anniversary of Congleton War Memorial Hospital

Councillors received a presentation from Rachel Wallace, Head of Community Engagement and Communications for the Cheshire East NHS Trust about plans to celebrate 100 years of the War Memorial Hospital in Congleton.

Suggested that the War Memorial Hospital may want to become an RHS It's Your Neighbourhood for 2025.

Suggested that the Trust should make it very clear where funds raised by the trust will be spent (Garden for the War Memorial Hospital)

Thanked Rachel Wallace for her presenting to the committee.

8. Updates from Previous Community Committee

The updates were received from the previous Community Committee. It was agreed to remove the dog agility from the updates and place on hold in the Action Log subject to CEC funding.

9. Communications Update

Councillors received and noted a Communications Update from the Community and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon.

Action: To check Nub News's new way of publishing news

10. Service Level Agreement with Congleton Community Projects

CO/33/2324 resolved to approve the Service Level Agreement between Congleton Community Projects and Congleton Town Council and to authorise officers to carry out actions within the SLA.

Action: Suggest that the Councillor approved at the Annual Town Council Meeting to be CTC representative on CCP should be a trustee – in the same way that our representative on Astbury Mere Trust, Congleton Museum etc are trustees.

11. Approve the Notes of the Community Safety Working Group

CO/34/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [Community Safety Working Group](#) held on 13 February 2024. The Committee received a brief update from the chair of the working group, Cllr Kay Wesley.

Action: Add an article about Spiking in the next edition of Bear Necessities.

12. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

CO/35/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [Health and Wellbeing Working Group](#) held on 13 February 2024 and received a short report from the Chair of the group, Cllr Suzy Firkin.

13. CEC Crossing Strategy

CO/36/2324 resolved to approve the Deputy Chief Officer writing a response to the Cheshire East Council Consultation on Crossing Points using the points raised in the paper before 10 March 2024.

Action: Note that Mossley School spoke at CEC Meeting about the need for a crossing on Leek Road and asked that this is added to the list of crossings needed for Congleton.

14. White Ribbon Working Group

CO/37/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [White Ribbon Working Group](#) held on 18 January 2024 and received a short report from the Chair of the Working Group Cllr Richard Walton, in which he highlighted that the group is presenting to Astbury St Mary Primary School Years 5 and 6 in March.

The meeting finished 8.29pm

Cllr Kay Wesley
Chair of Community Committee

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall, Bridestones
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager & DCO		
AGENDA ITEM	7		
REPORT TITLE	Updates Paper		
Background	This paper has been written to update members on progress on actions from items discussed at the previous Community Committee. These items do not need a full paper and are either ongoing issues or confirmation of completion or resolution.		
Updates	<p>C004/2324 – A Frames and Barriers –still working with Cheshire East on this area. This work is being led by the Sustainable Transport part of the Climate Action Group. The group has had several successes with barriers removed.</p> <p>C005/2324 –. A date is still to be set for the physical impairment training. ONGOING</p> <p>C020/2324 – Disability Positive Congleton. This is an ongoing project. The advisory group is working through the suggestions covering events, transport, town centre, education and publicity. The results of the survey can be seen here. www.surveymonkey.com/r/CongAccess. The chair of the group will be invited to a future committee meeting.</p> <p>C023/2324 – Totally Locally – the ongoing campaign is building momentum. 30 businesses have joined the Congleton Totally Locally campaign, the ambition is for 50 businesses to be an active part of the campaign by the end of the year.</p> <p>C033/2324 – Service Level Agreement with Congleton Community Projects. The agreement has been signed and Cllr Richard Walton has been appointed as the Council representative to attend the Congleton Community Project board meetings.</p> <p>CO/36/2324 A response was sent to Cheshire East Council Consultation on Crossing Points using the points raised in the paper discussed at Committee.</p>		
PROPOSALS	To Note this Report		

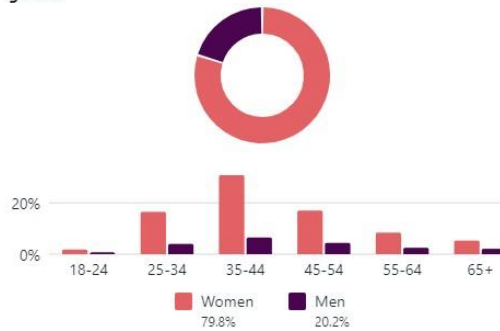
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	8		
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 (15 March – 12 June)		
Details	<p>Social Media Overview</p> <p>Facebook Followers: 5,173K Instagram Followers: 1.1K Twitter: 3.5K</p> <p>The 5K followers milestone was hit and exceeded! There were 530 new followers in the last 90 days with numbers steadily rising.</p> <p>Reach & Visits: Up significantly on FB & Instagram. Over 154% on FB.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Reach</p> <p>Facebook reach 209.1K ↑ 154.3%</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Instagram reach 1.1K ↑ 25.8%</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Visits</p> <p>Facebook visits 12.2K ↑ 80.3%</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Instagram profile visits 166 ↓ 16.6%</p> </div> </div>		

Facebook followers ⓘ

5,173

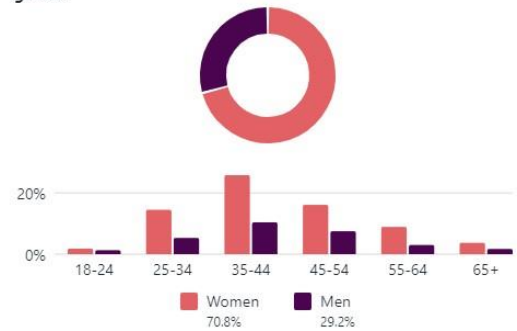
Age & gender ⓘ



Instagram followers ⓘ

1,085

Age & gender ⓘ



Women aged between 35-44 years are the highest followers. The majority of followers are from Congleton 49% (FB) & 58% (Insta). Followed by S-O-T, Macc, Biddulph, Crewe.

Social media posts issued (excluding shared posts): **336**. Average of 4 per day on FB.

Top 5 Posts - The top post broke all records & all 5 posts achieved Higher than Typical Performance:

1. Sat 25 May – Today’s the Day! Congleton Paddling Pool Opens

Reach: 121.1K, Likes: 451, Comments: 271, Shares: 113

2. Fri 17 May – Dive into Summer at the Paddling Pool

Reach: 58K, Likes: 493, Comments: 256, Shares: 134

3. Fri 10 May – CTFC open top bus

Reach: 31.3K, Likes: 92, Comments: 24, Shares: 54

4. Sat 11 May - Prince of Wales decorated for CTFC

Reach: 25.3K, Likes: 95, Comments: 0, Shares: 1

5. Thur 6 June - It’s Congleton’s Food & Drink Festival

Reach: 18.3K, Likes: 34, Comments: 0, Shares: 10

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

After a tender process and interviews, local company Thrive was appointed to deliver v5 of the CTC website. This will be a major project over the next 3-4 months

Key Statistics for the website:

- Total number of visits: 19,587

- The paddling pool has once again taken its top spot (2025) of site visits with the next closest page the Homepage slightly down (1826) and then there is a sizeable drop to the What's On and Meet the Councillor pages (802) & (564)
- 85% of visits are generated organically (via search engines such as google/bing etc), 11% direct (via the URL) and 2% through social links
- Average engagement times of 68 seconds

Top 10 pages (largest numbers of visits)

Page	%	#
Congleton Paddling Pool	10.3	2025
Welcome to Congleton	9.3	1826
What's On	4.1	802
Meet the Councillors	2.9	564
Committee Meetings	2.8	551
Shopping in Congleton	2.2	430
Contact Us	1.6	322
Town Mayor	1.6	309
Elections 2023-2027	1.4	277
Council Meetings	1.4	270
Total		7376

The Paddling Pool, Homepage and What's On pages are the most common landing pages however, only the Homepage has a significant increase in engagement time at 89s, followed by the Paddling Pool at 26s. Whilst the What's On page has just significantly fewer acquisitional visits (roughly a third of the Paddling Pool) it has significantly more engagement than the Paddling Pool at 45s.

Site visit time is reasonably consistent but slightly lower than the previous 90 days across all acquisition methods. For searched and direct landings at 58s and 91s compared to 65s and 98s previously. Social links are as before lower than direct and search times at 34s compared to 47s.

Devices used

Devices	%	#
Mobile	70.20	5121
Desktop	25.76	1879
Tablet	4.04	295

	<p style="text-align: center;">100.00 7295</p> <p>Noticeboards</p> <p>The six town noticeboards and the CIC What’s on Window are updated weekly to promote town council events and activities organised by local organisations and community groups.</p> <p>Key Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 March: Health & Wellbeing Fayre • 1-15 April: Easter Trail & Scavenger Hunt in the Park • 26 April: Town Mayor’s Charity Ball • 9 May: Annual Town Meeting • 16 May: Mayor Making • 27 May: War Memorial 100th Anniversary, Congleton Park • 2 June: Town Mayor’s Parade & Civic Service • 6 June: D-Day Commemoration Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Treats Day planned for the 9 April was cancelled due to poor weather <p>New publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events & Attractions Booklet (March) • Bear Necessities (Spring 2024) <p>Press Releases – 24</p> <p>Editorial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Directories, March-June (circl. 11k) • Beartown Voice, March & April (circl. 12k) • U3A Newsletter, June
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 Committee																																		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall																																
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer																																		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 CEC Bus Strategy Consultation																																		
Summary	<p>Cheshire East Council is reviewing its supported bus services (click the link to go to the consultation on Cheshire East Council website). The closing date for the consultation is 3 July. This paper sets out the comments that the Integrated Transport Working Group has previously made on bus use in Congleton, including the results of a survey carried out in April 2023. If accepted, the draft response in appendix A, along with any additional comments approved by the committee, will form the committee's response to the consultation.</p> <p>This Committee is asked to consider the response under the Terms of Reference 4.3 Work with the local authority and service providers to lobby for improved public transport (bus and train) provision.</p>																																		
Background Detail	<p>The Cheshire East bus network consists of 37 bus services, of which 21 services are fully supported by the council (57%), and a further 8 are partially supported by the council (22%), such as evening journeys. 8 services (22%) operate on a fully commercial basis. Cheshire East Council currently spends £2.5m supporting bus services which are not commercially viable but are deemed important and socially necessary.</p> <p>The buses operating in Congleton are shown below along with CEC performance ranking between 1 – 26 (1 is the best performing, 26 worst):</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>• 38</td><td>Crewe – Macclesfield</td><td><u>D & G Bus</u></td><td>13/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 42</td><td>Crewe – Congleton</td><td><u>D & G Bus</u></td><td>6/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 90</td><td>Congleton - Bromley Estate (Circular)</td><td><u>Hollinshead Coaches</u></td><td>16/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 91</td><td>Congleton - Mossley (Circular)</td><td><u>Hollinshead Coaches</u></td><td>17/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 92</td><td>Congleton - Buglawton Estate (Circular)</td><td><u>Hollinshead Coaches</u></td><td>14/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 94</td><td>Newcastle – Congleton</td><td><u>D & G Bus</u></td><td>20/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 94A</td><td>Newcastle – Congleton</td><td><u>D & G Bus</u></td><td>20/26</td></tr><tr><td>• 318</td><td>Alsager – Congleton</td><td><u>D & G Bus</u></td><td>12/26</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>The CEC review looks for opportunities to encourage more bus use and get more services operating commercially, tweak services to improve performance and passenger uptake and ensure best value out of the council's spending on buses.</p> <p>Cheshire East has been awarded an additional £3.455m in 2024/25 for bus services (on top of its established budget). Options or improvements being considered in the review include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased frequency of buses• Alterations/extensions to existing services• Additional evening services• Additional weekend service• Changes to the Flexi Link service to extend and enhance the offer.			• 38	Crewe – Macclesfield	<u>D & G Bus</u>	13/26	• 42	Crewe – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	6/26	• 90	Congleton - Bromley Estate (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	16/26	• 91	Congleton - Mossley (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	17/26	• 92	Congleton - Buglawton Estate (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	14/26	• 94	Newcastle – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	20/26	• 94A	Newcastle – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	20/26	• 318	Alsager – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	12/26
• 38	Crewe – Macclesfield	<u>D & G Bus</u>	13/26																																
• 42	Crewe – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	6/26																																
• 90	Congleton - Bromley Estate (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	16/26																																
• 91	Congleton - Mossley (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	17/26																																
• 92	Congleton - Buglawton Estate (Circular)	<u>Hollinshead Coaches</u>	14/26																																
• 94	Newcastle – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	20/26																																
• 94A	Newcastle – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	20/26																																
• 318	Alsager – Congleton	<u>D & G Bus</u>	12/26																																

	<p>Appendix A contains a draft response to the Cheshire East Council consultation on behalf of the Committee. This can be approved, amended or rejected by the Committee.</p> <p>Appendix B – CTC’s previous response to bus improvements for Congleton.</p> <p>Summary of the responses to the Bus Survey - this link takes you to the results of a bus survey monkey carried out by the Congleton Integrated Transport Working Group.</p> <p>Summary of the Bus Consultation (Appendix A)</p> <p>Most of the questions in the online consultation do not apply to us as a group as they are about individual experience of bus travel.</p> <p>Cheshire East is particularly interested in three areas. The first two we are not commenting on. The first is about bus changes in the rural Nantwich area, the second is about bus changes proposed for Macclesfield, Poynton and Stockport. The third question is about changes to Flexi Link. Congleton Town Council has previously responded to a consultation on this and so the response to this latest consultation reflects the comments given in the Flexi Link Consultation held in October 2023.</p> <p>The consultation allows for wider comments on improvements to bus services. For this part of the consultation, I have drawn on the comments that Congleton Town Council has submitted over the past three years when asked about bus improvements. I will also send a summary of CTC’s findings from a survey monkey into buses held in April 2023.</p> <p>The survey closes on the 3 July.</p> <p>CEC received more than 1,000 responses by 14 June. The link to the consultation can be seen at https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/BusServiceReview2024/ Comments can also be emailed to BusServiceReview@cheshireeast.gov.uk.</p>
Proposal	The committee approves the draft Bus Services Review response, along with any amendments, to submit to Cheshire East Council by 3 July.
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications for the town council budget unless the town council were to wish to enter into a partnership to support additional buses.
Environmental Implications	A shift to public transport use is a major opportunity in combatting climate change. Well used, regular buses would have a positive impact on the environment. Bus services should be good enough to provide an incentive for people to use the bus in preference to private cars and taxis, reducing both traffic and pollution.
Equality and Diversity	Congleton has an ageing population and around 25% of households have at least one person with a disability. For families without access to a car, public transport and the flexi-link are essential for accessing services. Better bus services make life better for everyone, but especially those who for many reasons do not have access to a car.
Decision Requested	For the committee to consider the paper and appendix and approve a response to the Cheshire East Council’s Review of Bus Services.

9 A– Community Committee

Cheshire East Bus Review - Draft Response from Congleton Town Council

Congleton Town Council welcomes the opportunity to get feedback on public buses in its area as part of the Cheshire East Consultation on Supported Bus Services Review. The evidence for our response comes from previously submitted responses to Cheshire East about improving bus services in Congleton and a survey of bus use that the town council carried out in Congleton in April 2023

The Town Council congratulates Cheshire East on securing an additional £3.455m to improve bus services across the borough and for the improvements already made on the 38 route; introducing a Sunday Service and later evening services between Crewe, Sandbach, Congleton and Macclesfield.

Consultation Response

PROPOSAL ONE: Nantwich Rural Services) Congleton Town Council has not commented on this proposal as this is outside of our area and we have no detailed knowledge of the routes.

PROPOSAL TWO (Macclesfield – Poynton – Stockport Servies) Congleton Town Council has not commented on this proposal for the same reason as above.

PROPOSAL THREE Changes to Flexible Transport Congleton Town Council welcomes the proposals for the FlexiLink/ Go Too merger and increasing the offer of these services by extending the hours to include the evenings and Saturdays and making the service available to all age groups where there is no alternative or suitable service.

Key points raised by Congleton Town Council in the Flexi-Link Consultation in September 2023 are still relevant:

- a) What is the definition of no alternative or suitable service - there are many areas in Congleton where bus routes do not cover or are too far for the person to walk to the stop – do these areas qualify for Flexi-Link? The definition needs to be made clear.
- b) The Flexi-Link bus is rarely seen in Congleton. We believe residents are not comfortable booking a bus to come to their home, however, if they knew the Flexi-Link service was focused in Congleton on certain days or times, they may well choose to book it or arrange appointments at the hospital on that day/time – increasing the usage of the bus.
- c) According to Cheshire East Council Committee report in 2022/23 there were 26,658 passenger trips using the 10 Flexi-Link vehicles. Only 279 of these were paying customers, listing the total amount taken for the year as £837. Increasing the prices to £2 for concessions and £4 for full fare-payers may be too much too quickly and it would be better to offer reduced fares (half this price) to establishing the service.
- d) It would be useful if group organisers who arrange sessions for people who struggle with transport – eg a mobility class at the Leisure Centre or a luncheon club for people with isolation could book the transport for members of the class. This may enable more people to attend health and wellbeing events designed to aid movement or cut isolation.

- e) The service needs greater promotion. The Town Council is happy to help promote in our area.
- f) The service users should be kept under review. Although we understand the reasons for wanting to open the service to all users who may not have access to buses, people aged over 80, people with a disability or people without alternative means of transport were no-longer able to book because demand for the service outstrips supply.

GENERAL COMMENTS – Improvements to buses in Congleton.

While Cheshire East is reviewing buses, the Town Council would like to bring the following to the attention of Cheshire East

- a) The growth of Congleton Town and the surrounding parishes means many areas of Congleton are not within a 10-minute walk of a bus stop. We would like to see extensions and changes to the local bus services
- b) Extend and improve the round-town services (90,91,92...):
- c) Review routes so they go further into estates (like Henshall Hall and Bath Vale) so no house is more than 500m away
- d) Add a West Heath circular route (which has been lost)
- e) Add new round-town services for new housing estates e.g. off Manchester Road and Back Lane
- f) Add services to industrial estates like Radnor Park and Viking Way to facilitate local employment travel
- g) Add a bus service between the shopping centres in Congleton (Town Centre, Barn Road, West Heath)
- h) Offer more mini-buses aligned with needs e.g. lunch clubs, blood clinics, and on-demand services
- i) Implement connecting services from every part of town to the station without changing buses, to fit with key commuter trains from 7-9am and 5-7pm
- j) Align buses at Macclesfield and Holmes Chapel train stations to link with the last trains back from Manchester
- k) Create day/week/monthly passes that can be used for bus travel, regardless of the company
- l) Invest in tap-in, tap-out technology for travel
- m) Have clear information at the bus stops about the buses servicing that stop
- n) Have clear information about bus timing, ideally real-time information at the stop, but if not well-advertised bus apps with the real-time information.

In a recent survey carried out to better understand bus use in Congleton (completed by 257 people), 81.5% said they would consider using a bus if there was a frequent service within 5 minutes walk of their house. 56% said that a more frequent service would have the biggest impact on them using the bus. 52% said running into the evenings would make them use the bus (this is likely to increase if charging in the car parks is extended to 10pm) The top three reasons for not using the bus was that the bus doesn't go to where they want to go, the buses don't run at the time that they wish to travel or more convenient to use the car.

PLUS ANYTHING ELSE TO BE ADDED VIA THE COMMITTEE



Buses in Congleton

Status and Required Improvements

Congleton Town Council Integrated Transport Working Group

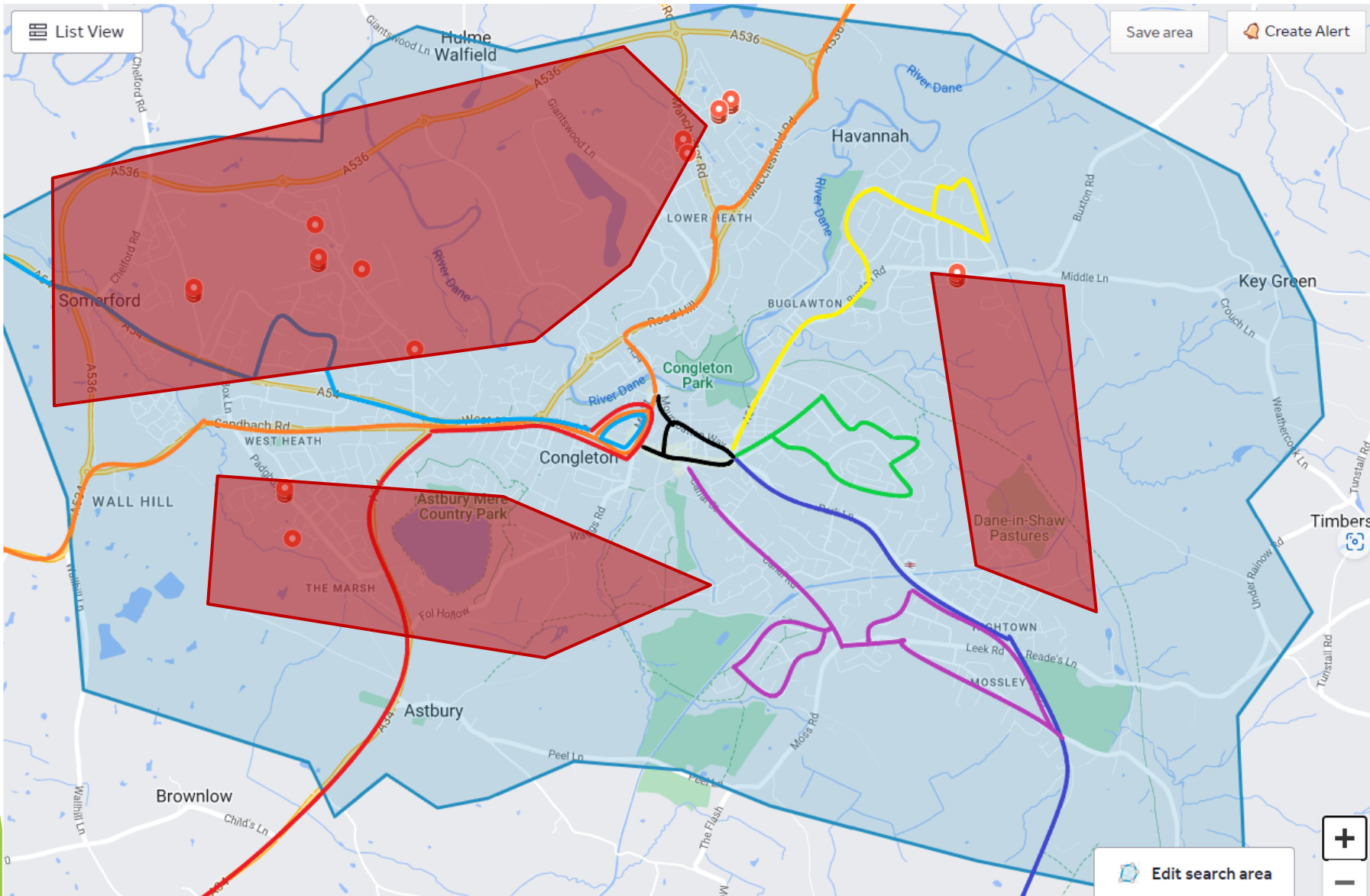
Original - April 2020

Version 2.0 - March 2021

Version 3.0 - October 2023

Most new (and old) housing areas of Congleton have no regular bus service within a 10-minute walk

No regular local bus service



- 38 Crewe-Macc
Mo-Sa Hourly.
- 92 Buglawton
Mo-Sa 30mins
- 91 Mossley
Mo-Sa 30mins
- 90 Bromley
Estate Mo-Sa
30mins
- 42 Middwich
Crewe Mo-Sa
90-120 mins
- 318 Astbury-
Alsager
Mo-Fr 120
mins
- 94 Bidulph -
Newcastle
Mo-Sa Hourly

NONE of Congleton meets the any of the 'Transport for New Homes' Bus Service Standards

All services operate 7 days a week and evenings?	NO
At least one frequent public transport service? (12 minute intervals)	NO
Provision is certain, including in the long term?	NO
All areas of development within easy walking distance (300m) of stops?	NO
Street layout provides unhindered movement of buses?	NO
Stops prominently and conveniently located?	NO
Priority over other traffic provided (including off-site)?	NO
Direct services available to key destinations from the development?	NO
Services well-advertised and/or branded, with easy ticketing?	NO
Services affordable and with discounts? (e.g. for youth, unwaged)	NO

WHY have developers not been compelled to provide good bus infrastructure and is Cheshire East not funding new services to meet these standards in our new housing estates?

Issues with bus services in Congleton

- ▶ Very expensive - e.g. £3 per person return from Mossley to Congleton (much cheaper to drive and park, especially if a couple/family)
- ▶ No evening services (except the number 38)
- ▶ No Sunday services (38 introduced Sunday Service from 9/6/24)
- ▶ No integrated timetables or 'bus app', no digital displays - if you get to a bus-stop you have no way of knowing if a bus is coming
- ▶ No connectivity with commuter trains at Congleton Station (or other stations) from anywhere in town by bus, rail users have to walk or drive
- ▶ No cross-town services e.g. Buglawton to West Heath, without changing buses
- ▶ No services for the new housing estates, or some of the older estates
- ▶ Many bus shelters are broken and dilapidated
- ▶ No connectivity between shopping centres

Congleton - Bus Service Improvements

- ▶ Encourage bus use
 - ▶ Make local buses complimentary for 6 months, then introduce low fares to encourage bus use - e.g. 50p for 'around town' fare
 - ▶ Run a campaign to change behaviour and get people out of their cars and on to buses
 - ▶ All tickets should be cross-company
 - ▶ Have multi-bus 'town hopper' tickets for a day/week/month - low-cost
- ▶ Improve frequency
 - ▶ Between-towns should be at least every 30 minutes
 - ▶ Round-town should be every 15 minutes
 - ▶ All services to run in the evenings and on Sundays
- ▶ Extend and improve the round-town services (90,91,92...):
 - ▶ Review routes so they go further into estates (like Henshall Hall and Bath Vale) so no house is more than 500m away
 - ▶ Add a West Heath circular route (which has been lost)
 - ▶ Add new round-town services for new housing estates e.g. off Manchester Road and Back Lane
 - ▶ Add services to industrial estates like Radnor Park and Viking Way to facilitate local employment travel
 - ▶ Add a bus service between the shopping centres in Congleton (Town Centre, Barn Road, West Heath)
 - ▶ Offer more mini-buses aligned with needs e.g. lunch clubs, blood clinics, and on-demand services
- ▶ Train links
 - ▶ Implement connecting services from every part of town to the station without changing buses, to fit with key commuter trains from 7-9am and 5-7pm
 - ▶ Bus link back from Macclesfield, Holmes Chapel stations to link with last trains back from Manchester
 - ▶ Free bus use with rail ticket
- ▶ Improve customer experience of bus use
 - ▶ Replace broken bus-stops
 - ▶ Add digital displays
 - ▶ Add bike racks/bike storage on buses
 - ▶ Have a local 'bus app' giving all timetables across companies and real-time information

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer and Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer.		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Christmas 2024		
Summary	<p>This paper has been written to give members an insight into the plans being developed for Christmas 2024 in Congleton and the improvements we are planning to this year's switch-on following feedback from last year.</p> <p>Since 2013 the town council has taken responsibility for the Christmas lights and decorations, the health and safety of the event, most of the entertainment and infrastructure bookings and the publicity. The Town Council is also the main sponsor of the switch-on and takes the lead on pulling together publicity about all the various Christmas-related activities occurring in Congleton.</p> <p>The Town Council invests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £10k into the Christmas Lights budget, which covers everything to do with the installation, repair, maintenance, storage, testing and removal of the lights and large main tree. The Town Council also invests• £6k in the Christmas activities – the switch on, promotion and marketing• £4k on the projections for Christmas and Remembrance.• The Switch-on budget is usually doubled through sponsorship, fees for stalls, installation of small trees and donations <p>The Christmas Lights falls under this Committee under item 5.4 of the terms of reference:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deliver specific events in Congleton such as the Christmas lights switch-on, Play Days, Health & Wellbeing Fayre, Remembrance Day and White Ribbon Day.</p> <p>The Town Council works closely with Congleton Community Projects on the event planning and CCP organises the lantern procession, running lantern-making workshops in the lead-up to the switch-on.</p>		
Project Plans for 2024	<p>1. Decorating the Town with Christmas Lights: <i>(See Committee item 11 re the Contract for the Christmas lights)</i></p> <p>The Town Council invested in a significant number of new lights in 2024. The only lights that are now substandard are the lamp post lights in Mill Street and West Street. These lights failed last year and are not worth installing this year. New lights in West Street and Mill Street will cost around £4,000 to £5,000.</p> <p>There was a problem with some of the new lights on Lawton Street. We have been advised that these lights are in good working order and need to check the electricity supply to the lamp posts.</p>		

2. **Main Tree:** A traditional Christmas tree will be installed and decorated in the usual spot in the pedestrian area near Higher Ground. We will seek sponsorship to cover the cost of this tree.
3. **Projections on the Town Hall:** This has been very popular for the past four years and a separate budget of £4k has been created for Town Hall projections (Remembrance and Christmas). This budget allows for 14 days of projection at Christmas.
4. **Small Christmas Trees:** Local shops will be given the option to purchase 5-6 foot trees which are installed above the shop. This is managed in a similar way to the hanging baskets. The shops cover the cost of the tree, provide the lights and the electricity and pay £12.50 for CTC to install and remove the trees. There are usually around 100 small trees above shops and the installation money goes towards the cost of the switch-on.
5. **Switch-on Event:** In 2024 the switch-on will take place on Friday 29 November from 4 pm – 8 pm with the lights being turned on at 6pm. This will give 4 shopping weekends with the Christmas lights on. Improvements/ lessons from last year:
 - Road closures will include Mill Street and Swan Bank the same as in 2023 – the additional space is needed for the activities and amount of people in attendance
 - The Santa's Grotto will be hosted by the Cygnet Club
 - The Community Stage will be moved from the centre of the pedestrian area to Swan Bank near Rumba
 - We are investigating a large screen for Mill Street near where the parade gathers to create a large safe space where families can see what is happening on the main stage
 - We have booked a slightly smaller Main Stage to give more room in the High Street
 - We have booked smaller, one-sided stalls so that there is more room in the pedestrian area and all traders can face out – with a clear free-flowing pavement behind them
 - More barriers will be used around the stage to protect the area
 - Discussions are underway with the Congleton Market Quarter to make the most of the space cross-market the Christmas offer
 - A discussion has been held with the Equal Access Advisory group on improvements
 - Quiet areas are being explored
 - The aim is to include as many local businesses as possible
 - Work is underway on securing entertainment and sponsorship
6. **Window Dressing Competition:** We are hoping to attract at least 24 shops into a window competition where we can highlight a window a day and create an advent trail.

	<p>7. Tree of Light: We will once again support Congleton Rotary with the Tree of Light Appeal – where they sell stars to go on a real tree planted in the Community Garden. The switch-on for this tree will be on Saturday 30 November.</p> <p>8. Totally Locally Christmas: We will be working with the Totally Locally Team to boost independent shops at Christmas.</p> <p>9. Toy Appeal: Congleton Town Council will work with Plus Dane, Congleton Chronicle, NSPCC and Boots Barn Road on a toy appeal for local families – this will run through until the week before Christmas. This has grown year on year and Plus Dane has good links to the schools and uncovering Congleton people most in need.</p> <p>10. Christmas Town Centre Saturday: There will be a Markers Market on the 30 November and 21 December. We are looking for other activities to give a Christmas buzz in the town centre on the 7 and 14 December.</p> <p>11. Christmas Guide: We will produce a Guide to Christmas in Congleton to include public events and activities, but also tips for making your Christmas Greener and support over Christmas.</p> <p>12. East Cheshire Hospice Christmas Tree Recycling: We will be working with the hospice to help promote its Christmas Tree recycling system which raises funds for the hospice.</p> <p>13. Cheshire East Free Parking Days: Cheshire East Council is no longer offering Town Councils with fee-paying car parks free parking after 10 on a proportion of the car parks. A price has been requested in case CTC wish to purchase this option.</p> <p>The Christmas activities are being led by the Town Council’s Communities and Marketing Team with support from Congleton Community Projects, Congleton Rotary and other volunteers. The town council is the major sponsor and will be seeking more sponsorship and volunteers to help with the events.</p>
Proposal	For the Committee to consider the paper and add any actions or comments
Financial Implications	<p>The Town Council is the main sponsor of the Christmas lights and switch-on, but a£6K - £8k of additional revenue needs to be secured to host an event of a similar size to 2023 but also include additional accessibility improvements.</p> <p>If Christmas lights are to be installed on West Street/ Mill Street the Town Council will need to invest around £5k of capital on new lights.</p>
Environmental Implications	The team will follow event guidance to reduce the environmental impact of Christmas activities and events.
Equality and Diversity	Full consideration is being given to making the event as accessible as possible to all members of our society and considering how their needs can be met at this major event.
Decision Requested	For councillors to consider this report into Christmas 2024. Add any comments or actions and approve the paper for officers to action.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Christmas Lights Contract		
Summary	<p>Congleton Town Council has a three-year contract for the Christmas Lights. The contract includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation, removal and storage of our Christmas Lights• Checking the lights in advance and making simple repairs• Setting the timers for the switch-on and then re-setting for daily use• Testing of the anchor points• Supplying, installing, decorating and removing the large town tree• Support on the evening of the switch-on <p>The current contract is up for renewal. The intention was to go out to tender for another 3-year contract for 2024, 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>The office staff believe it would be beneficial if the Town Council could remain with the current supplier for Christmas 2024, and put the contract out to tender in August/September 2024 for Christmas 2025, 2026 and 2027. If there was a change in the cost, this could be built into the budget setting for next year.</p> <p>If, following the tender process, there was a change in the supplier, the new company would take responsibility for the storage of the lights following their removal in January 2025. This would be more straightforward than potentially moving the lights ahead of the installation for 2024.</p> <p>If the committee is agreeable, the current supplier will extend the contract for a year with a price increase of 5%. This keeps us within the allocated budget for the Christmas Lights and main tree and with some budget remaining for repairs that are beyond those within the contract.</p> <p>Within the Financial regulations, we have the power to extend a contract for a year.</p> <p>In the Terms of Reference for this committee, the committee is tasked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.4 Deliver specific events in Congleton such as the Christmas lights switch-on, Play Days, Health & Wellbeing Fayre, Remembrance Day and White Ribbon Day.7.6 Provide Christmas lights for the town centre		
Financial Implications	The proposed extension for the 2024/25 is within the budget for the Christmas Lights. The quotes for the next three years will be known ahead of the budget planning for 2025/26.		

Environmental Implications	The intention is to keep Congleton’s Christmas lights in good order so that they can continue to be used for many years. Environmental implications will be built into the contract.
Equality and Diversity	This will be a consideration in the contract.
Decision Requested	To approve the extension of the current contract for the Christmas Lights with PME for one additional year and authorise the contract to go out to tender in August/September to cover Christmas 2025, 2026 and 2027.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 June 2024 7pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 Summer Play Days		
Summary	<p>This paper is to inform councillors about the work that has been taking place to organise and host weekly play days in Congleton Town Centre during the 2024 Summer School Holidays.</p> <p>This is a new project for the Town Council if successful councillors may wish to include the project in the business planning as something that the Council would wish to fund in the future.</p>		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council has worked with Congleton Community Projects over a number of years to put on a Play Day in the summer holidays. This is usually early in August and recognises National Play Day.</p> <p>The Play Day has been well received by traders in town, with many stating that it made the day feel like a Saturday for footfall and sales. Last year there was a request to increase the frequency of the play days to encourage more people into the town centre.</p> <p>In the application that Congleton Town Council submitted for E8 Communities and Place funding from Cheshire East Council – encouraging people to visit and explore the local area, one of the initiatives submitted for funding was 6 play days – one a week throughout the summer holidays. £4,200 from the UKSPF has been set aside for this project, which the Town Centre and Events Officer has taken a lead on organising.</p> <p>Rachel McCarthy is organising six play days, one on each Tuesday in the school summer holiday from 10.30 am – 2.30 pm in the pedestrian area. Each has a different theme and will include activities and music. This could be subject to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 23 July – Drumming and Music Day• Tuesday 30 July – Junk Modelling Day• Tuesday 6 August - Olympic Games Day• Tuesday 13 August – Traditional Play Day (with Community Projects)• Tuesday 20 August – Photo Snappy Day• Tuesday 27 August – Comic Art and Flyaway Day <p>Promotion is starting to go out about the days. Note. Activities could be subject to change.</p>		

	More volunteers are required to help make the days even more fun. The activities will take place in the pedestrian area. We welcome other groups joining in if they can enhance the theme.
Financial Implications	In 2024 the financial costs are being met through the UKSPF fund and time to the project given by the Town Council Marketing and Events Team. If successful and the Town Council wanted to run a regular programme of summer fun days, then a budget would need to be found for future years.
Environmental Implications	The environmental impact of each day will be kept to a minimum with support from local groups and organisations and activities encouraging children to reuse and recycle where possible.
Equality and Diversity	Every effort will be made to make sure that activities are suitable or can be made suitable for all who wish to take part. Advice will be sought from the Equal Access Advisory Group.
Decision Requested	To note this report and add any comments, observations or actions.

**_Draft Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Tuesday 14 May 2024 3.30pm – 5pm**

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Susan Mead (via zoom), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Robert Brittain, Linda Webber (Street Pastors) Sergeant James Bell, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Richard Walton and Julia Pestell- Hassell (CEC)
2. **Draft Agenda approved**
3. **Notes of the meeting** of 13 February 2024 were accepted as correct
4. **Action Log** - extra updates
 - a) Rachel to share the email re spiking with the new sergeant
 - b) Organising a joint design out crime event with the police
 - c) Find more of the perpetrator posters re spiking
5. **Police update on Crime (Sgt James Bell)**

The group were pleased to meet and welcome the new Neighbourhood Beat Sergeant, James Bell, who replaced John Roberts in March. The Chair explained about the group and its aspirations. James reported that overall the amount of reported crime in Congleton had increased in the past in the three months February – end of April when compared to the same period last year. 2023 figure 482. 2024 figure 622.

Suggested that the increase reflected more people, more reporting and more incidents.

Noted Congleton Neighbourhood Beat Team is currently under-staffed due to sickness and vacancies. Currently just one PCSO and one PC working in Congleton. The Sergeant is hoping this will change soon.

Action: Jackie to prepare a letter to the new Police and Crime Commissioner seeking urgent action to increase numbers in the Congleton Neighbourhood policing unit. Also to make sure the new PCC is aware of the size of the Congleton wards and the need for more policing in Congleton. Group believe this is in line with CTC policies.

5a Shoplifting has increased in town. Working Group members are concerned about the amount of reports it receives about shoplifting. The shops are concerned about the lack of police support, the fact that shop CCTV is not collected and general lack of action. Police are concerned that many shops do not share evidence with them.

ACTION – agreed a joint letter from the Police and Town Council and a Design Out Crime day should be organised for early in June. The letter will reference and give instructions for a system

that the police use where shops can directly load CCTV footage onto the system. A training session/sessions will be organised.

5b Drug and Alcohol - the group shared intelligence with the police about local hot spots. In the 3 months Feb – April 12 reported incidents of drug crime were reported. 50% low level procession. Concern about under-reporting raised.

5c Antisocial Behaviour – 58 reported cases Feb – April 24 compared with 48 last year. Lots of ASB isn't 'crimed'. Reported incidents at the back of Belgrave, Congleton Market, Astbury Mere, Bromley Community area.

5d Domestic Violence - 122 incidents in the 3 months compared with 107 in 2023. Last year 5 people charged. This year 10 people charged. Police have plans in place for dealing with 12 Serial Domestic Abuse Perpetrators.

5e Sexual Offences has seen a spike from 23 to 51. 16 of these cases are historic abuse reported following the arrest of a wanted sexual abuser who returned to the UK after decades out of the country.

5f Hate Crime – another spike from 8 to 24. Once a reported case is more than 31 days ago it is classed as historic. Majority are online and inappropriate.

5g Speeding – Concern raised about the racing meets on the Link Road. Reassured that the police are well aware of the recent meets and have tactics to discourage.

Operation Park Safe - asked for CTC help in promoting this more. Parking around schools always a problem and really need to educate parents. Parents behave when police attend, but not police measures to help regularly.

6. **Police Priorities** – this is around getting more police on the beat team
7. **CEC ASB Team** – not able to attend
8. **CCTV Updates** - No updates from CEC. Jackie needs to organise site visits.
9. **Community Safety Charter** – regular checks and updates on the website
10. **ShopWatch** – Rachel covered with Shoplifting in the first section
11. **AOB:** - Caravan on Dale Crescent. Not a matter for the Police. Appears no-one has powers to do anything. **Jackie to write to Cheshire East departments and Plus Dane to see if we can get a plan to help resolve.** One caravan is not an encampment so traveller laws do not apply.

Add Street Pastors as an agenda item to the next meeting

12. **Date of Next Meeting Thursday 11th July 3.30 – 5pm (TBC)**

Finished 5.27pm

Health and Wellbeing Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 13 February 2024 TEAMS Meeting (Virtual) 3.30pm – 5pm

Present CTC: Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair), Cllr Emma Hall, Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Kay Wesley, Jackie MacArthur (CTC),

Guests: Rachel Wallace, Head of Communications and Engagement NHS Cheshire East Trust (for item 9) Usman Ashiq, Plus Dane Community Engagement Officer (part of item 3), Olivia Murray, NHS Future Health – new item

1. **Apologies** Cllr Liz Wardlaw, Cllr David Brown, Dr Paul Bishop
2. **Draft Agenda Approval** – approved with an addition that after the Help Hub item, we would be joined by Olivia Murray from Future Health Hub to discuss their plans/ proposals for Congleton.
3. **Update on Primary Care Network** – Dr Paul Bishop was not able to join us due to illness. He reported via email that work was ongoing around the technicalities of improvements to the Primary Care network and that a senior nurse practitioner had been employed and was working across the four surgeries.

4. Review of Action Log

Work outstanding:

1. Promotion around Primary Care Network (needs to be time appropriate)
2. Disability-positive objectives – long-term projects, but work started
3. Inclusive Living – blockage with CEC
4. Health and Wellbeing Fayre was a success – will be discussed at the senior forum. Numbers attending Fayre were up, but numbers attending the seminars were down.

Usman from Plus Dane gave an update on the Wellbeing Hub planned for the 2nd floor of Worrall Street. Work progressing on governance, logistics, health and safety, risks and barriers and suitable IT solutions. Waiting for a slot to take it to Plus Dane Executive. Main aim is to get a 12-month pilot approved.

Action: 4.1 Usman to keep the group updated on progress and support that is required via Jackie

5. Paper on a proposed Help Hub

A paper was submitted from a person attending the Health and Wellbeing Fayre requesting that Congleton Town Council consider setting up a help hub where several different agencies/organisations that offer support could be located under one roof at a specific time – eg once a month or whatever works. Some concerns were raised about whether another offer was needed, or if it would be better to piggyback onto existing events. Potential to link with a time for drop-in sessions with the Health and Wellbeing hub. Agreed we need to keep things as easy as possible for the public. Many people need multiple support levels and we believe many people are not accessing the full range of CE Services.

Action 5.1 – Better understanding of support level funded by CEC required. Cllr Suzy Firkin will write to Cllr Emma Hall to outline situation.

Extra Item

5a. Our Future Health - EMS Health Care. Olivia Murray.

Olivia explained that the company that she works for is running a project sponsored by the NHS and life science companies to conduct health tests to try and learn more about the development and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, heart conditions, cancer and dementia by getting data from healthy people, rather than people who are sent for tests having already expressed concerns to a doctor. The unit will take up around 25 spaces in a car park and is hoping to be in Congleton for a month in the summer. People will be sent invitations and also can call in as a walk-in. Questions were asked about the data collection and who has access to people's health records.

Information sent by Olivia post meeting with response links:

- How we control access to data: <https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/protecting-your-data/how-we-control-access-to-data/>
- How we protect your data: <https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/protecting-your-data/how-we-protect-your-data/>
- How we make data available for research: <https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/protecting-your-data/how-we-make-data-available-for-research/>
- Link for further information on the Project: <https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/>

ACTION: 5a Jackie to include in Bear Necessities

6. Update on Support Living Centres in Congleton

Cllr Suzy Firkin told the group we are still waiting for updates from Cheshire East on Bradshaw House, Mountview and Moody Hall. We can see work underway on Bradshaw House.

Action 6a – Cllr Suzy Firkin to enlist support from Cllr Liz Wardlaw to get a better picture of the various independent living schemes in Congleton.

7. Disability Positive – Cllr Kay Wesley updated the group

The Equal Access Group has met twice. Cllr Kay Wesley talked the group through the survey results (based on 148 responses). Group is due to meet on the 19th April to discuss events and how to make them more accessible. More information on the work of the group can be seen on the Equal Access section of the website.

[Copy of the survey results.](#)

8. Feedback from CEC Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Group.

Cllr Wardlaw was not able to make the meeting – add to agenda for June

Action 9.1 The Chair will seek an update from Cllr Wardlaw.

9. Update on the War Memorial 100 years celebrations – Rachel Wallace, NHS East Cheshire

Rachel updated the group on East Cheshire NHS Trust and plans to celebrate 100 years of Congleton War Memorial Hospital.

- a) Noted the charitable trust has been launched – aiming to raise £10,000 for a well-being garden for staff, patients and visitors, murals for the walls and create a relaxing area for staff.
- b) Creating a 'Giving Tree' to show donations
- c) Lily is working with the League of Friends - who have donated £4,000.
- d) The Ward party will be on the 22nd May - and staff attending the 100th anniversary party in the park on Monday 27th May.
- e) 9th July CE NHS Trust will hold its AGM in Congleton Town Hall - encourage people to attend.
- f) Will be having a stall at the Makers Market on the 27th April.

Actions:

9.1 Rachel W to write an article for Bear Necessities about the charitable trust

9.2 CTC to help promote the Trust's AGM

9.3 Jackie to add Jed Murphy to the list of speakers at the Park event.

10. Well-Being Campaigns 2024 - Jackie MacArthur

A copy of the Google Docs calendar was shared [Link to the Health and Wellbeing Calendar](#)

Noted that the new additions that the NHS Wellbeing Bus will be in the Town Centre on Saturdays the 18th May and 15th June.

Actions

10.1 – Marketing Team to continue to push out messages around key calendar dates.

- 11. **AOB** – The current Chair, Cllr Suzy Firkin would like to stand down from the role of Chair to put more energy into other projects. Working Group membership will be discussed at the Informal Meeting. Please consider being chair. It would be possible to change the time and or day of the meeting to suit those who choose to sit on the group.

12. Date of Next Meeting

SUGGESTED: Tuesday 11 June 3.30pm – 5pm