

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th July 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Item 12 Biodiversity update		
Background	<p>At the January 2023 Community and Environment Committee, the committee agreed to move forward with creating the Site-Specific Biodiversity Plans for 30 sites across Congleton.</p> <p>30 Biodiversity Sites: (view plans on CTC website)</p> <p>Our parks and open spaces are valued in Congleton and used by hundreds of residents and visitors. The current climate emergency presents the Council and the community with challenges that we cannot ignore. Our parks and open spaces are essential to helping us address the impact of global warming thus we need to take positive actions to tackle this head-on. Cheshire East and the Town Council need to make sure that our parks and open spaces are managed and maintained sustainably, and the Town Council intends to lead by example to influence positive change.</p> <p><i>Congleton Town Council have been working with Cheshire East to adopt more sustainable methods of managing our open spaces.</i></p>		
Next Steps	<p>We are hoping to hold another Site Launch at the end of August or Early September, to encourage more members of the community to get involved, ready for the dormant season, we would like to hold the next event within Mossley. We will be encourage other volunteers groups to join us on the day, so they can promote the work they do for Congelton as well as spread the word around being more sustainable and greener.</p> <p>We also have ordered many new signs for some of the 30 x site-specific sites, these new signs are child-friendly and allow both young and old to learn more about what is happening on the site they are visiting and also what types of wildlife can be seen both trees, plants and animals.</p> <p>See the image below of just some of the new signs we have now:</p>		





Proposal	For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape and volunteers with the ongoing site-specific plan and working with local businesses and land owners
Environmental	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council’s response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
Equality	Tackling environmental issues is to the benefit of everyone, and there will be opportunities for the community to get involved with planting and maintaining these sites, which is good for community cohesion and mental well-being. We will consult the Equal Access Congleton group to ensure the plans for the bio-diversity sites need to consider accessibility for all where practical.
Financial	Funding for the development of the sites is currently being covered via grants, streetscape labour and volunteer time.
Decision Requested	For the Environment Committee to note the 30 areas where site-specific Biodiversity Plans are being developed and support Streetscape and the volunteers in adopting the new approach and working with local businesses and land owners.