

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>Item 12</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Biodiversity update</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>WHAT WE'VE DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified potential tree planting locations across the town</li> <li>• Supported tree planting programme</li> <li>• Identified verges for wildflower planting</li> <li>• Identified and put in place schemes for reduced mowing regimes</li> <li>• Ceased the use of Glyphosate on defined sites</li> <li>• Install bug hotels and hog houses at appropriate sites</li> <li>• Install bat and bird boxes in our open spaces</li> <li>• Sow wildflower meadows on appropriate sites</li> <li>• Professional Wildlife and Bird Surveys carried out on Land maintained by CTC</li> <li>• Created a list of what more can be added to each specific site</li> </ul>		
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>WHAT WE COULD DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify open spaces where hedges can replace fencing</li> <li>• Starting writing to planning applicants to encourage tree planting/replacement planting</li> <li>• Organise an annual bulb planting programme</li> <li>• Launch a campaign to promote hedgehog holes and highways</li> <li>• Work with landowners to identify the potential for wildlife corridors</li> <li>• Identify ponds for planting improvement schemes</li> <li>• Encourage landowners to plant trees and hedges to connect wildlife corridors</li> <li>• Make more allotment space available.</li> </ul>		
<b>Current working projects</b>	<p>Working with the volunteer groups who have planted many trees across Congleton open spaces, these sites have now been passed back to Streetscape to maintain and further enhance the biodiversity. Currently, 12 sites have been passed back and after surveying the sites we have noticed a slight increase in wildlife, insects and fauna. With the opportunities for even more increase over the next few years and more opportunities for us all to learn what works well on each site.</p>		

	<p>The biodiversity site green event will be taking place in the October Half Term, the site chosen this time will be Mossley off Bridgewater Close, we will be inviting the local community groups who are connected to Sustainability, Biodiversity and Climate Change, we will also have on display the work we have achieved so far and the next steps. This will also be another opportunity to encourage more members of the community to get involved, ready for the dormant season.</p> <p>We also have ordered many new signs for some of the 30 x site-specific sites, some which are in place already. 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>
<b>Proposal</b>	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
<b>Environmental</b>	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
<b>Equality</b>	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.
<b>Financial</b>	Funding for the development of the sites is currently being covered via grants, streetscape labour and volunteer time.
<b>Decision Requested</b>	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.