

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

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> November 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 REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>14 Biodiversity Infrastructure</b>		
<b>Background</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>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> <p>OUR NEXT STEPS</p> <p>A sub-group of the Green Working Group has come up with a list of requirements/infrastructure that are needed on some of our biodiversity sites to enhance them further for both the Public and Wildlife. Appendix A has been created with the requirements and indicative costs to assist in budgeting, acquiring quotations and applying for grants.</p>		
<b>Proposal</b>	<p>For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape and the Green Working Group with the ongoing site-specific plan, working with local businesses and land owners, as well as seeking grant opportunities. Furthermore, to look at the costings to go forward in the next Budget and Business Plan.</p>		

<b>Environmental</b>	This paper focuses on the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency, initiatives to promote greater biodiversity in Congleton, and potential next steps that could be taken if budgets are available.
<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 looked at covered via grants, streetscape labour and volunteer time, however, the request is for a budget line to be agreed for the next Budget and Business Plan.
<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. With the request of a future budget line to be agreed and approved.

Specific Site	Planting	Skills	Infrastructure	Wildlife	Cost	Purchased from
1. Longdown Road Biodiversity Site Requirements for Funding or	Wildflowers	Pond building, Sponsorship Coppicing	Restore Pond	Bat Boxes, Hog Houses, Bird Boxes	£31  £38  £18	Greenwoods Ecohabitats  RSPB
2. Thirlmere Close				Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
3. Newcastle Road	Wildflowers					
4. Quinta Park				Hog Highways	£4	Hedgehog highways
5. Sycamore Ave	Wildflowers		Restore Pond	Bat and Bird Boxes	£31  £18	Greenwoods Ecohabitats RSPB
6. Padgbury Lane						
7. Bowness Court				Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
8. Newcastle Road/Solly Cres	Wildflowers, Bulbs			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
9. Back Lane/Hawthorne Close	Wildflowers, Bulbs			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
10. Hankinsons Field	Wildflowers, Bulbs		Info Board	Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes	£18  £31	RSPB Greenwoods Ecohabitats

Biodiversity Site Requirements for Funding or Sponsorship

11. Banky Fields	Wildflowers. Bulbs		Info Board	Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes	£18	RSPB
12. Thames Close		Crack Willow Mgmt	Restore Culvert	Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes	£18  £31	RSPB  Greenwoods Ecohabitats
13. Quayside/Goldfinch Road	Wildflowers			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
14. West Road (Danesford)	Wildflowers			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
15. Stirling Close		Hedge laying Dead Hedging	Info Board		£381.76	Barriers Direct
16. Hillfields	Wildflowers	Hedge laying	Info Board		£381.76	Barriers Direct
17. Lower Heath Play Area	Wildflowers		Fenced Wildlife refuge, pond, bug hotels etc.	Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
18. Hertford Close/River Dane		Dead Hedging	Stream and marsh mgmt			

Biodiversity Site Requirements for Funding or Sponsorship

19. Lady Warburton's Walk		Sycamore removal	Info Board		£381.76	Barriers Direct
20. Mardale Close	Wildflowers, Bulbs			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
21. Havannah Lane/St Johns Rd	Wildflowers, Bulbs			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
22. St Johns Playing Fields		Habitat Piles				
23. Redfern Ave/Buxton Rd			Broadwalk and Steps			
24. Bromley Farm Woods		Coppicing, Felling, Dead Hedging	Restore Pond(s)			
25. Bromley Farm Play Area		Coppicing, Hedge laying		Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
26. Windsor Place	Wildflowers			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
27. Derwent Drive	Wildflowers					
28. Isis Close/Tamar Close	Wildflowers			Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
29. Bridgewater Close	Wildflowers	Dead Hedging	Pond/Bog	Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB
30. Blackshaw Close				Bird Boxes	£18	RSPB

## Biodiversity Site Requirements for Funding or Sponsorship

### Shopping List for Sponsorship:

1. Bird Boxes for 19 Sites – assume an average of 2 per site = 40 boxes (perhaps estate agents might sponsor!) **total** £18.00 x 40 = **£720.00**
2. Bat Boxes for 5 sites – assume an average of 2 per site = 10 boxes **total** £31 x 10 = **£310.00**
3. Hedgehog Highways leafleting programme - Corporate Sponsorship
4. 17 sites requiring wildflower or bulb planting – Streetscape?
5. 4 – 6 new info boards for key sites **total** £381.76 x 6 = **£2290.56**
6. 5 Pond Projects – eco projects for a school or scout/guide group with professional support?
7. 3 Hedge Laying Projects – need to pay Conservation Volunteers for support
8. 5 Woodland Management Projects – Coppicing, felling etc – CEC wardens?
9. 1 Construction Project for a path and Broadwalk -corporate sponsorship or grant application

Total cost so far = **£3320.56** ( Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes and Notice Boards)

### Locations that lend themselves to ‘project day’ and community involvement:

- 10. Hankinson’s Field
- 17. Lower Heath Play Area
- 24. Bromley Farm Woods

### Links to Purchases

Fun Children’s notice board ( Butterfly, Owl and Bear)

<https://www.barriersdirect.co.uk/street-furniture-c1210/poster-cases-notice-boards-c1233/noticeboard-poster-cases-for-schools-imaginative-colourful-and-fun-waterproof-and-may-be-used-indoors-or-outdoors-p4661>

### Wildflowers

1KG bag costs £170.00 which would sow an area on average of 500m<sup>2</sup> at a rate of 2g p/m<sup>2</sup>

<https://meadowmania.co.uk/products/native-traditional-british-100-wildflower-seed-mix?variant=45446379569458>