



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CiLCA**

21st November 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 28th November 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 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.

Please note this committee meeting is as a Paperless Council unless otherwise requested.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David McGifford', with a flourish at the end.

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 Environment Committee held on 26th September 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. Outstanding Actions (Enclosed)

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

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. Congleton Waste Water Treatment (Speaker)

An update from United Utilities relating to local infrastructure and water quality.

8. Congleton In Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group, also a report on the final results for North West In Bloom and our In Your Neighbourhood Groups (IYN)

9. Green Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the notes of the Green Working Group held on 3rd October 2024

10. Streetscape Trading Account (Enclosed)

To receive the Streetscape Trading account report.

11. Allotments (Enclosed)

For the Environment Committee to note the Allotment situation within Congleton and the public requirements.

12. Streetscape Update (Enclosed)

To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

13. Carbon Footprint Summary (Enclosed)

To receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

14. Biodiversity Infrastructure (Enclosed)

The Environment Committee needs to note the costs of the site-specific biodiversity plan and the next steps.

15. Cheshire East Report (verbal update)

To receive a verbal update on items of interest from Cheshire East Environment and Communities Committee from the Ward Councillor.

| |
|---|
| To: Members of the Community Committee |
|---|

Cllrs: Suzy Firkin (Chair), Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)
Suzie Akers Smith, Charles Booth, Dave Brown, Sally Ann Holland, Amanda Martin, Susan Mead, Heather Seddon, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor) Robert Brittain (Deputy Mayor)
Other members of the Council for Information, Police, Honorary Burgess (5), Press (3), Congleton Library, Congleton Information Centre.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 26th September 2024

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

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the **Agenda & Papers – 26th September**

In attendance:

Committee members: **Cllrs**

Suzy Firkin (Chair)
Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)
Sally Ann Holland
Amanda Martin
Susan Mead
Heather Seddon
Glen Williams

Non-Committee Members: **Cllrs** Robert Douglas

Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford – Chief Officer
- Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager
- One member of public

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Dave Brown

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

ENV/08/2425 Resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 11th July 2024 as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Sally Ann Holland and Heather Seddon on matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council

4. Outstanding Actions

| Date of Meeting | Item Number | Details of Action | By who | Progress |
|-----------------|-------------|---|--------|-------------|
| 11.07.24 | Item 4 | In Bloom to actively promote in Bear Necessities and on social media, the reduction in costs and numbers of plants planted for Congleton in Bloom | RB/DM | Complete |
| 11.07.24 | Item 8 | Streetscape Accounts - As well as the colour code system, add Bold text for overspending to allow readers with visual impairments to follow the document correctly. | RB | Complete |
| 11.07.24 | Item 9 | Send a full breakdown % of the areas where fly-tipping occurs to all councillors. | RB | Complete |
| 11.07.24 | Item 12 | Biodiversity Update - Look into signage for the rivers and canals as well as our biodiversity signage on our open spaces, signage to have Congleton Town Council and logo on the signs. | RB | In Progress |

5. Questions from Members of the Public

We received six questions from the public – [View the questions and responses click here.](#)

Action

- From Question 5 – CEC replanting Scheme when trees are felled ?
- From Question 2 – Air Quality, CEC sequence of traffic lights at Mountbatten Way Turning right into Market Square?

6. Urgent Items

No urgent items where received

7. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

ENV/09/2425 resolved to receive the minutes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group from 10th September 2024

8. Green Working Group

ENV/10/2425 resolved To receive the notes of the Green Working Group held on 1st August 2024

9. Streetscape Trading Account

ENV/11/2425 resolved the Streetscape Trading account report.

10. Streetscape Update

ENV/12/2425 resolved the report relating to the Streetscape Services and approved Graph option C to be used for further meetings, splitting out the former Congleton LAP Area,.

further paper included within meeting on **Streetscape update – Love Where You Live** campaign - **resolved** To receive updates and comments on the new campaign.

Action

- Contact the local MP and PPC on further closure of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and the current affect this has with the increase of fly-tipping, letter to completed by CTC Officers and sent to Cllrs for comment.

11. Carbon Footprint Summary

ENV/13/2425 resolved To receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

Action

- Email all Cllrs the four headings under our Carbon Footprint Summary and what each area covers, (Town Hall, Streetscape, Paddling Pool and Public Realm)

12. Biodiversity Update

ENV/14/2425 resolved For the Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and next site launch event.

13. Carbon Neutral Update

ENV/15/2425 resolved update and review the Town Council Carbon Neutral set date under the approval of the following : *To hit Carbon Neutrality by 2030 at the latest, but strive to achieve at the earliest opportunity.* Resolved to agree and endorse by Council.

14. Solar Together and Green Fayre

ENV/16/2425 resolved to receive information on Green Events

15. Cheshire East Report (verbal update)

Verbal update on items of interest from Cheshire East Environment and Communities Committee from the Ward Councillor:

CEC [Environment and Communities Committee - Thursday, 26th September, 2024 10.00 am](#)

Report on [Household Waste Recycling Centres Review - Final Recommendations](#)

To consider a report on the final proposals for future permanent Household Waste Recycling Centre service provision following an update of previously collated review and feasibility study information, public consultation and the commencement of a procurement for a new operating contract provider.

Decision :

- A. The permanent household waste recycling centre service provision for the borough, namely four sites located at Knutsford, Macclesfield, Alsager and Crewe.*
- B. The permanent closure of the HWRC sites at Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton,*
- C. A mobile HWRC service serving rural and areas where the collected data indicates that incidents of fly tipping are at an increased level.*
- D. Retention of a booking system to be used as described in this report.*

Clr Suzy Firkin
(Chair)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| COMMITTEE: | Environment | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28 th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Congleton Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Ruth Burgess Streetscape Development Manager | | |
| AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE | 4 Outstanding Actions | | |

| Date of Meeting | Item Number | Details of Action | By who | Progress |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|--------|-------------|
| 11.07.24 | Item 4 | In Bloom to actively promote in Bear Necessities and on social media, the reduction in costs and numbers of plants planted for Congleton in Bloom | RB/DM | In Progress |
| 11.07.24 | Item 8 | Streetscape Accounts - As well as the colour code system, add Bold text for overspending to allow readers with visual impairments to follow the document correctly. | RB | In Progress |
| 11.07.24 | Item 9 | Send a full breakdown % of the areas where fly-tipping occurs to all councillors. | RB | In Progress |
| 11.07.24 | Item 12 | Biodiversity Update - Look into signage for the rivers and canals as well as our biodiversity signage on our open spaces, signage to have Congleton Town Council and logo on the signs. | RB | In Progress |
| 26.9.24 | Item 5 | Air Quality, CEC sequence of traffic lights at Mountbatten Way Turning right into Market Square | RB | Not Started |
| 26.9.24 | Item 5 | CEC replanting Scheme when trees are felled | RB | Not Started |
| 26.9.24 | ENV/12/242 5 | ENV/12/2425 resolved the report relating to the Streetscape Services and approved Graph option C to be used for further meetings, splitting out the former Congleton LAP Area,. | RB | Not Started |
| 26.9.24 | ENV/12/242 5 | Contact the local MP and PPC on further closure of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and the current affect this has with the increase of fly-tipping, letter to completed by CTC Officers and sent to Cllrs for comment. | | Not Started |

Decision: Review outstanding actions.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| COMMITTEE: | Environment | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28 th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Congleton Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Ruth Burgess Streetscape Development Manager | | |
| AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE | 8 Congleton In Bloom – Results | | |
| Updates | <p>North West In Bloom Results held at Bolton Football Ground on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st of October 2024.</p> <p>Bromley Bloomers – Level 4 Thriving Bromley Farm in Bloom – Level 5 Outstanding Buglawton In Bloom – Level 5 Outstanding Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden - Level 5 Outstanding Congleton Tennis Club – Level 4 Thriving Congleton War Memorial Hospital – level 5 Outstanding Friendly Faces Nursery – Level 5 Outstanding Friends of Congleton Park – Level 5 Outstanding Friends of Stirling Close – Level 5 Outstanding Friends of Congleton Community Garden – Level 5 Outstanding Hilary Avenue Allotment Association – Level 5 Outstanding Jubilee Club New Life Church – Level 5 Outstanding Vale Allotments Association – Level 5 Outstanding Astbury Mere Care Home - Level 5 Outstanding</p> <p>Congleton Park – Large Park Category – Gold The Alexandra Court Hotel – Small Accommodation Category – Gold North West In Bloom – Large Town Category – Gold Congleton In Bloom – Gold</p> <p>As well as the overall category winner for the whole of the North West - Best Large Town</p> <p>Discretionary Awards – Chosen by the Chair of North West In Bloom and Head Judge</p> <p>NWIP For Outstanding Contribution to NWIB – Chair of Congleton In Bloom Mr David Brown</p> <p>NWIB Pride of Cheshire East – Congleton In Bloom</p> <p>NWIB New Landscaping Project for 2024 – Congleton War Memorial Hospital</p> <p><u>Awards Evening</u> Held on Wednesday 20th November at the Town Hall, where we celebrate all our amazing achievements with our volunteers and Fabolous IYN Groups across Congleton. Plenty of new ideas shared ready for 2025</p> | | |
| Decision Requested | To receive the Congleton In Bloom update. | | |

Minutes – CONGLETON GREEN

3rd October 2024 @ 1 pm-2.30 pm

Attendees: Councillors: Chair Cllr Heather P, Cllr Heather S, Cllr Suzy F, Cllr K Wesley, Cllr G Williams

Volunteers: J Kay

Officers: Ruth Burgess

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence.

- Cllr A Martin and Volunteer M Gartside

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Heather Seddon, on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Approved minutes of the previous Green Working Group as a correct record (August 2024)

4. Action Log

See the Appendix of Action Log (attached below).

5. Recruiting volunteers for Trees 4 Congleton group and any Friends of

Discussion around promoting the work and dates of the different working parties, more needed on the website and organisations of the watts app group. Suggestion of email to go out each month the volunteers of forthcoming working party dates.

Update given to the group of the meeting held with Streetscape and the Trees 4 Congleton Group.

Action – HS to liaise with KW on supporting the Tree group on marketing and updating their website etc.

6. Meeting with James Baguley at CEC on Biodiversity

7. Biofuel for vehicles

Discussion around the possibilities of having biofuel for the Council vehicles.

Action RB to look into the closest stockist and the possibility of storage within Congleton.

8. **United Utilities have confirmed they will attend November Environment Committee –**

- what questions do we want to ask them? Action SF to sum up questions ready for 28.11.24 Environment Meeting

9. **Allotments**

Discussion around the shortage of allotments plots within the Congleton boundary for the residents of Congleton.

Action – RB to speak to DMcG regarding a letter to all local Parish Councils regarding the possibility of land within their parish to help support the shortage of allotments.

10. **Biodiversity – second Site Specific Open day launch – Mossley**

The next Biodiversity site launch – 31st October in Mossley, 10 am-1 pm focuses on Halloween activities as well as green initiatives. Groups to be invited :

- Hedgehog Group
- Bat Man
- Climate Action Group
- Wildlife Experts Mark and Jack
- Eco Crafts
- Congleton food 4 free VS
- Hillfields Groups
- Allotment Groups

Marketing the event to be done by DC – Posters, social media, notice boards chronicle, flyers to the schools, promotional material at the green fayre.

Action – RB to liaise with KW regarding the event

Next meeting dates:

6.12.24 @ 1 pm

7.2.25 @ 4.15 pm

3.4.25 @1pm

Appendix A

New and Current Actions from the Meeting

| Date of Meeting | Item Number | Details of Action | By who | By When? | Latest Update | Progress |
|-----------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------|--|-------------|
| 26.10.23 | 6.00 | Margaret Gartside has an action speak to all the local Parish Council how they can help and join in with tree planting and help bring more land opportunities for planting, (SF) would like to help contact the PC if needed | Cllr S Firkin & Margaret Gartside | | 1.2.24 Mg has already contact many Parish councils that attach to our boundary Cllr Firkin to have follow up at their next PC meetings | In Progress |
| 26.10.23 | 8.00 | Green Fayre 2024 - HP to look into the talks for next years | Cllr H Pearce | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 1.2.24 | 9.00 | Eco - Schools Ongoing action to be added, various liaison needed with the local primary and high schools by Cllr Firkin and Margaret Gartside. | Cllr S Firkin & Margaret Gartside | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 1.8.24 | 5.00 | Green Fayre2024 - speaker and presentations - Cllr HP to investigate who can be invited to talk | Heather P | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 1.8.24 | 6.00 | grant funding opportunities | Heather P | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 1.8.24 | 7.00 | invite guest speaker to one of our future green meeting CEC officer James Baguley | Suzy F | | update received at GWG meeting 4.10.24 from SF | In Progress |
| 1.8.24 | 9.00 | carbon offsetting - start looking into Financial costs as well as pros and cons of peatland patch project working with CWT | Suzy F | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 1.8.24 | 10.00 | contact groundwork re their training on water quality | Ruth B | | Great UK WaterBlitz in Spring 2025 submitted. | In Progress |
| 03.10.24 | 5.00 | HS to liaise with KW on supporting the Tree group on marketing and updating their website etc. to attract more volunteers and prmoting their work | Heather P and Kay W | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 03.10.24 | 8.00 | what questions do we want to ask UU Action SF to sum up questions ready for 28.11.24 Environment Meeting | Suzy F | 28.11.24 | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 03.10.24 | 7.00 | Bio fuel - RB to look into closest stockist and possibility of storage within Congleton . | Ruth B | | Date - Update Details | In Progress |
| 03.10.24 | 10.00 | Mossley Liodiversity launch event - RB to liaise with KW regarding the event | Ruth B | | Date - Update Details | Not Started |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|------|--|-----------|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| 03.10.24 | 9.00 | allotments - RB to speak to DMcG regarding a letter to all local Parish Councils regarding possibility of land within their parish to help support the shortage of allotments. | Ruth B | | Date - Update Details | Not Started |
| 03.10.24 | AOB | To look into dates for balsalm bashing within congleton and setting up a working party. Needs to be done before the seed drop. | Heather P | | Date - Update Details | Not Started |

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| COMMITTEE: | Environment | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28 th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Congleton Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) | | |
| AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE | 10 Streetscape Services Trading Account | | |
| Background | Variance analysis of the Trading Account for the year 2024-2025 for the month ending 30 th September 2024, see Appendix 9.1. | | |
| Updates | <p>This trading account is information for 6 months of 2024/25, which equates to 50% of the budget, the below figures are based on full annual budgets.</p> <p>Please refer to the summary for notes/comments.</p> <p>Income 49%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheshire East Council Income at 50% as 2 quarters have been paid.• External Income (Private Works) 50%.• Other Income (Miscellaneous, non-works income) 56%.• Other Income (Contract) 0% (See notes on appendix 2) <p>Expenditure 52% based on budgeted lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes £24,637 in other non-budgeted expenses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ £10,550 Roundabout works○ £14,087 Polytunnel repairs. (£11,387 covered by EMR)• Steet Cleansing includes £1,758 for Fly tipping costs.• Vehicle leasing will be overspent by the end of the financial year, due to replacing 2 vans due to staff requirements.• Horticultural Supplies will be overspent by the end of the financial year, this budget was reduced from previous years. | | |
| Decision Requested | To receive the Streetscape Trading Account for Month 6 to 30 th September 2024. | | |

Congleton Town Council
 Management Accounts 2024-25
 STREETScape
 Sep-24

OK
 Monitor
 Overspent

Month 6
 Percentage 50.0%

STREETScape

| ANNUAL BUDGET | BUDGET TO M6 | ACTUAL SPEND TO M6 | £ VARIANCE OF M6 BUDGETS | % SPENT AGAINST M6 BUDGETS | % SPENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET | % VARIANCE AGAINST M6 EXPECTED |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4000 Staff Costs | 577,073 | 288,537 | 280,477 | 8,060 | 97.2% | 48.6% |
| 4004 Temp/Casual Staff | 0 | 0 | 4,520 | -4,520 | | |
| 4008 Training | 3,200 | 1,600 | 0 | 1,600 | 0.0% | -50.00% |
| 4009 Protective Clothing/H & Safety | 5,900 | 2,950 | 2,894 | 56 | 98.1% | -0.95% |
| 4013 Office rent | 2,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 100.0% | 0.00% |
| 4016 Cleaning Materials | 8,000 | 4,000 | 2,449 | 1,551 | 61.2% | -19.39% |
| 4021 Telephone | 1,175 | 588 | 328 | 260 | 55.8% | -22.09% |
| 4025 Insurance | 9,150 | 4,575 | 9,846 | -5,271 | 215.2% | 57.61% |
| 4041 Property maintenance | 1,500 | 750 | 1,012 | -262 | 134.9% | 17.47% |
| 4043 Horticultural etc Supplies | 14,000 | 7,000 | 8,438 | -1,438 | 120.5% | 10.27% |
| 4047 Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc | 12,800 | 6,400 | 3,583 | 2,817 | 56.0% | -22.01% |
| 4048 Vehicle fuel and oil | 16,285 | 8,143 | 7,782 | 361 | 95.6% | -2.21% |
| 4049 Vehicle rental charges | 77,880 | 38,940 | 40,374 | -1,434 | 103.7% | 1.84% |
| 4050 Street Cleansing | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,076 | -76 | 101.9% | 0.95% |
| 4162 General expenditure | 5,300 | 2,650 | 2,350 | 300 | 88.7% | -5.66% |
| 4168 Other Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 24,637 | -24,637 | | -50.00% |
| 4951 Tf from EMR | | | 11,387 | | | |
| 6000 Central Overheads Reallocated | 44,832 | 22,416 | 27,200 | -4,784 | 121.3% | 10.67% |
| Streetscape Expenditure | 787,095 | 393,548 | 409,579 | -27,419 | 104.1% | 52.0% |
| 3030 Purchases for recharging | 0 | 0 | 4,385 | -4,385 | | 0.00% |
| 1165 CEC - Income | -419,256 | -209,628 | -209,628 | 0 | 100.0% | 150.00% |
| 1167 External work income | -15,000 | -7,500 | -7,486 | -14 | 99.8% | 149.81% |
| 1184 Other income | -12,000 | -6,000 | 0 | -6,000 | 0.0% | 50.00% |
| 1199 Miscellaneous | -900 | -450 | -507 | 57 | 112.7% | 162.67% |
| 1040 Recharges | 0 | 0 | -36 | 36 | | 50.00% |
| Streetscape Income | -447,156 | -223,578 | -217,657 | -5,921 | 97.4% | 147.35% |
| Net Expenditure over Income | 339,939 | 169,970 | 196,307 | -37,725 | 115.5% | -65.50% |

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

No budget

Paid at start of the year.
 Repairs to fence panels £525
 Spends now in for Winter bedding

Will be overspent due to new vans. 3 replaced
 Fltvo invoice cost: £1,758. Some movement required. vehicle repairs coded to here.

Roundabout works. grant due in.
 Polytunnel repairs CTC/36/2425. transfer from Capital Emr reserve

No budget

Income Variance 100% Green. 75% to 99% Amber. 0%-75% Red
 Two of four payments received

Contract did not go ahead

No budget

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| COMMITTEE: | Environment Committee | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager | | |
| AGENDA ITEM | 11 | | |
| REPORT TITLE | Allotments | | |
| Background | <p>A statutory duty is to provide allotments. In England where there is a parish or town council it is the parish or town council which is the allotment authority, rather than any higher level authority for the area. So Congleton Town Council is the allotment authority for the area covered by Congleton Town Council . All allotment authorities have power to provide allotments. They also have a duty to do so if there is a sufficient demand for allotments (Section 23, Allotments Act 1908).</p> <p>The duty is confined to the provision of allotment gardens (in the case of a district with a population of 10,000 or more, the duty extends only to allotment gardens not exceeding 20 poles). The law does not stipulate a timeframe within which the authority must act. Whether or not such a demand exists is for the authority to decide, but it must take into account any representation in writing made to it by any six electors or council tax payers resident in the area, to the effect that the circumstances of the area are such that it is the duty of the authority to take proceedings for the provision of allotments (section 23(2), Allotments Act 1908).</p> <p>In practise it is very difficult for any challenge in law to be brought against an authority for deciding not to make such provision, given the way the legislation is worded. The Town Council are aware there is a lack of Allotments with both Allotments sites in Congleton ; Vale Allotments (privately owned) and Hilary Avenue Allotments (CTC Owned).</p> <p>What is an Allotment</p> <p>An allotment, according to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. An allotment is traditionally measured in rods (perches or poles), an old measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. 10 poles is the accepted size of an allotment, the equivalent of 250 square metres or about the size of a doubles tennis court. However it would appear that almost all of the allotments in Congleton are smaller than this size, which probably reflect the lack of supply relative to the demand. Current provision as of March 2023 there are 3 known allotment sites in Congleton as follows:</p> | | |

| Site Name | Gross Area of land involved (m2) | Number of plots (full/half) | Ownership | Private/ Temporary/ Statutory | Waiting List open |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Hillary Avenue | 2,300 | 18 plots in total. 16 plots are for tenants who live in the CW12 postcode area. Each plot comprises an area of between 50/60 square metres. 1 Plot is reserved for a community group. 1 Plot consists of 2 raised beds and is reserved for a tenant with a mobility/disability issue | Congleton Town Council | Statutory allotment | Yes |
| The Vale allotments | ,2,500 | 17 Full & 6 Half plots | Congleton Sustainability Group | Quasi public, but not a statutory allotment | Yes |
| Swan Street | 7,180 | Unknown, and not capable of being established | Privately owned by number of owners | Privately owned individual plots some of which are known not even to be tenanted | None |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | <p><u>The Need</u></p> <p>The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest that there should be a minimum of 15 plots per thousand households (or 1 plot for every 65 households)</p> <p>Cheshire East Council does not appear to have an allotment strategy, and in any case, CEC is not the allotment authority for Congleton. That is the Town Council. Cheshire East do publish an online list of allotment sites in Cheshire East – none of the above sites in Congleton are on that list, a list that includes other Parish Council sites.</p> <p>Within Cheshire East Council’s Local Plan Strategy, adopted in July 2017, the following references are made to allotment provision:</p> <p>The vision for Cheshire East in 2023 includes that “people will lead healthy and active lifestyles benefitting from improved access to sporting facilities, high-quality open spaces, play areas, allotments, and the open countryside”.</p> <p>Para 12.8 under Leisure states “Leisure and sport facilities and green spaces such as parks and allotments can help to enhance everyone’s life. Such provision is important for residents’ social mental and physical health and well-being and to the achievement of sustainable communities”.</p> <p>Policy SC3 on Health and Well-being indicates that CE and its partners will create and safeguard opportunities “for safe, healthy, fulfilling and active lifestyles, by inter alia (7) promoting the role of communal growing spaces including allotments, garden plots within developments, small scale agriculture and farmers’ markets in providing access to healthy, affordable, locally produced food options.</p> <p>The recently adopted Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) also includes various policies about allotment provision and protection.</p> <p><i>Policy ENV7 on Climate change indicates that development proposals should incorporate measures that can adapt and/or demonstrate resilience to climate change and mitigate its impacts, and in particular that development proposals should:</i></p> <p>(iv) include, where possible, opportunities for the growing and sourcing of local food supplies (such as allotments and other community schemes)</p> <p><u>Demand</u></p> <p>Two of the existing sites (The Vale Allotments and Hillary Avenue) maintain a waiting list. Every year they ask those on their waiting lists to confirm that they still have an active interest in obtaining an allotment.</p> |
| Environmental | None. |
| Financial | It needs to be noted that there is no budget for the provision of additional allotments. |
| Decision Requested | Make councillors aware of the shortage of Allotments and consider taking forward into the business planning. |

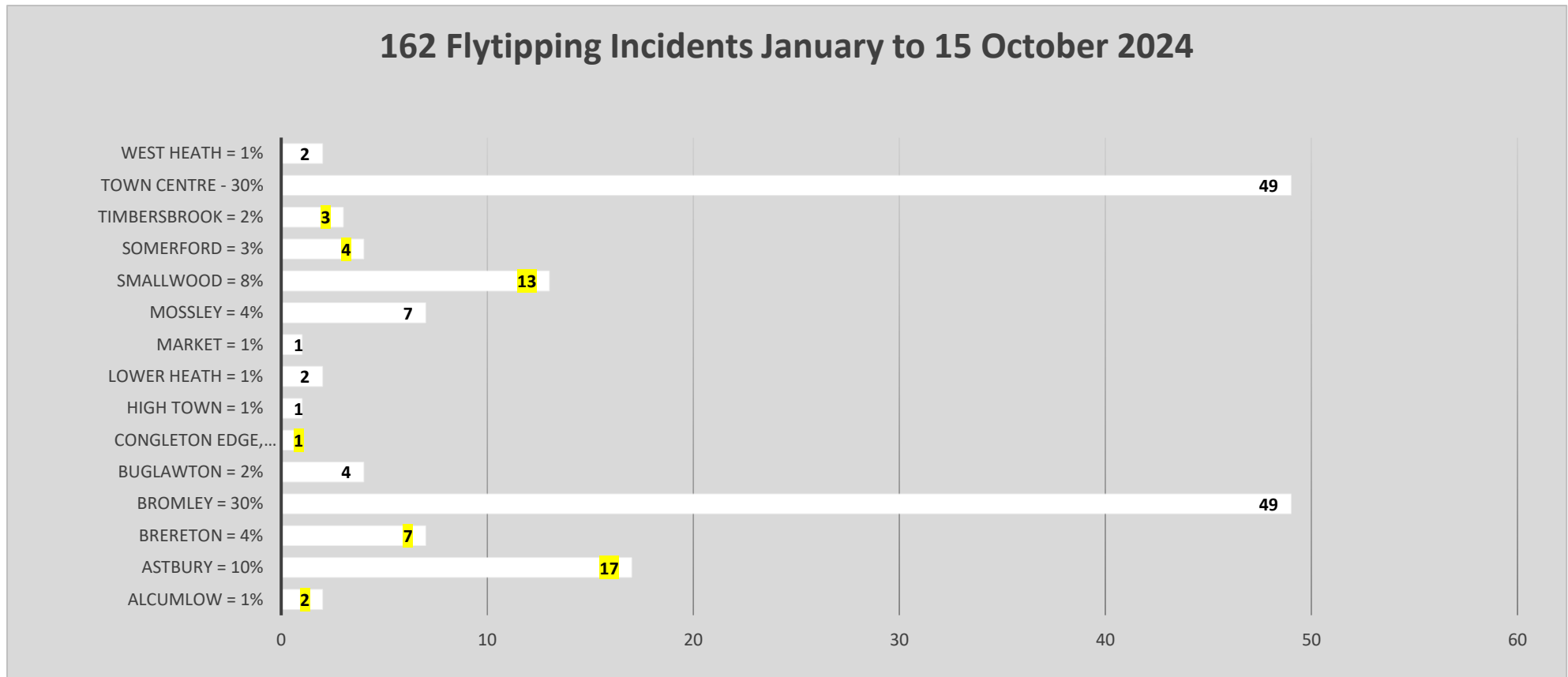
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| COMMITTEE: | Environment Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|---------|---|---|---|----|----|----|----------|----|---|----|----|----|---|-------|---|---|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|----|----|----|----|----|------|---|----|---|---|----|----|------|---|----|---|----|---|----|--------|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|---|---|----|----|----|---|---------|---|---|----|---|----|----|----------|---|---|----|----|---|--|----------|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28 th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Town Hall | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REPORT FROM | Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE | 12 Streetscape Services – Update and KPI's | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Update | <p><u>Fly Tipping</u></p> <p>As well as noting the quantity of fly tips per month and annually we are now calculating the cost for each specific fly tip over the course of a year. Below you will note the number of fly tips we have dealt with over the last four months, in comparison to previous years :</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>2019</th><th>2020</th><th>2021</th><th>2022</th><th>2023</th><th>2024</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>January</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>16</td><td>30</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>25</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>March</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>32</td><td>24</td><td>14</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>April</td><td>10</td><td>12</td><td>19</td><td>10</td><td>19</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>5</td><td>40</td><td>22</td><td>11</td><td>11</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>4</td><td>22</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>26</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>July</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>August</td><td>5</td><td>18</td><td>10</td><td>26</td><td>19</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>14</td><td>23</td><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>October</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>17</td><td>25</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>December</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>10</td><td>30</td><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>70</td><td>136</td><td>150</td><td>205</td><td>206</td><td>181</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total Cost</td><td>2324.16</td><td>5380.52</td><td>2481.45</td><td>£12,300.87</td><td>£ 15,360.76</td><td>£ 12.778.16</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>See Appendix A for percentage graphs as per Action from our last Environment Committee Meeting.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>We currently have all members of the Streetscape team in work.</p> <p><u>New KPI's going forward</u></p> <p>Going forward we would like to introduce the following KPI's which will be reported through to the Environment committee at every meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Event Attendance- Variety of Streetscape Measures | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | January | 4 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 30 | 20 | February | 10 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 7 | March | 4 | 0 | 32 | 24 | 14 | 27 | April | 10 | 12 | 19 | 10 | 19 | 24 | May | 5 | 40 | 22 | 11 | 11 | 24 | June | 4 | 22 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 20 | July | 8 | 21 | 0 | 13 | 9 | 19 | August | 5 | 18 | 10 | 26 | 19 | 18 | September | 6 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 9 | October | 5 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 21 | 13 | November | 4 | 4 | 17 | 25 | 4 | | December | 5 | 4 | 10 | 30 | 15 | | | | | | | | | Total | 70 | 136 | 150 | 205 | 206 | 181 | | | | | | | | Total Cost | 2324.16 | 5380.52 | 2481.45 | £12,300.87 | £ 15,360.76 | £ 12.778.16 |
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 4 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 30 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| February | 10 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 4 | 0 | 32 | 24 | 14 | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 10 | 12 | 19 | 10 | 19 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | 5 | 40 | 22 | 11 | 11 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June | 4 | 22 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 8 | 21 | 0 | 13 | 9 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| August | 5 | 18 | 10 | 26 | 19 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| September | 6 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| October | 5 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 21 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| November | 4 | 4 | 17 | 25 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December | 5 | 4 | 10 | 30 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Total | 70 | 136 | 150 | 205 | 206 | 181 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Total Cost | 2324.16 | 5380.52 | 2481.45 | £12,300.87 | £ 15,360.76 | £ 12.778.16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy Bills V's Usage - Vehicle Mileage Data - Percentage of plants V's Costs for each year - Paddling Pool cost V's users <p>As a committee we should have a small discussion around these 6 topics to hear the views and opinions.</p> |
| Financial Considerations | Concerns over the financial impact of fly-tipping. |
| Environmental Considerations | New KPI to help with aligning fuel, energy, etc to help us reduce our carbon footprint. |
| Equality Considerations | None. |
| Decision Requested | To receive the report. |

Appendix A – Fly Tipping Graphs



Key

Areas in **YELLOW** are outside of the Congleton LAP

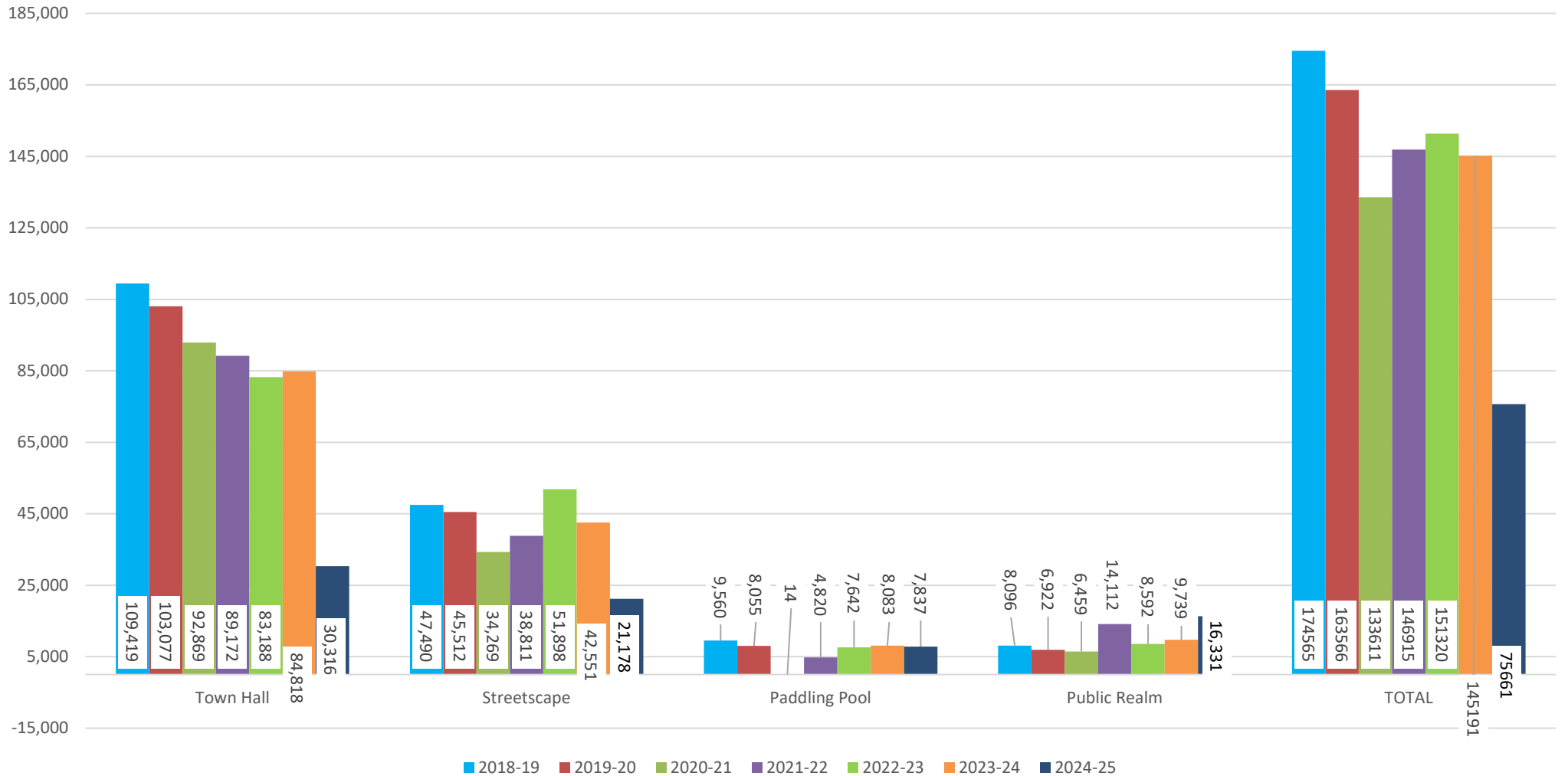
This equates to 47 incidents (29%)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| COMMITTEE: | Environment Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | | | | Town Hall | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REPORT FROM | Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGENDA ITEM | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REPORT TITLE | Carbon Footprint Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Update | <p>At each Environment Committee Meeting we will provide up-to-date graphs and figures on the Town Council's Carbon Footprint which is based on the updated methodology, we have attached Appendix A which shows the current carbon figures for the Town Council, which is split under the 4 main headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall • Streetscape • Paddling Pool • Public Realm <p>Latest Figures shown in graph Appendix A</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>TO MONTH 6</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>2018-19</th> <th>2019-20</th> <th>2020-21</th> <th>2021-22</th> <th>2022-23</th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Town Hall</td> <td>109,419</td> <td>103,077</td> <td>92,869</td> <td>89,172</td> <td>83,188</td> <td>84,818</td> <td>30,316</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscape</td> <td>47,490</td> <td>45,512</td> <td>34,269</td> <td>38,811</td> <td>51,898</td> <td>42,551</td> <td>21,178</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paddling Pool</td> <td>9,560</td> <td>8,055</td> <td>14</td> <td>4,820</td> <td>7,642</td> <td>8,083</td> <td>7,837</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Realm</td> <td>8,096</td> <td>6,922</td> <td>6,459</td> <td>14,112</td> <td>8,592</td> <td>9,739</td> <td>16,331</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>174565</td> <td>163566</td> <td>133611</td> <td>146915</td> <td>151320</td> <td>145191</td> <td>75661</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TO MONTH 6 | Area | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | Town Hall | 109,419 | 103,077 | 92,869 | 89,172 | 83,188 | 84,818 | 30,316 | Streetscape | 47,490 | 45,512 | 34,269 | 38,811 | 51,898 | 42,551 | 21,178 | Paddling Pool | 9,560 | 8,055 | 14 | 4,820 | 7,642 | 8,083 | 7,837 | Public Realm | 8,096 | 6,922 | 6,459 | 14,112 | 8,592 | 9,739 | 16,331 | TOTAL | 174565 | 163566 | 133611 | 146915 | 151320 | 145191 | 75661 |
| | | | | | | | TO MONTH 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Area | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Town Hall | 109,419 | 103,077 | 92,869 | 89,172 | 83,188 | 84,818 | 30,316 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Streetscape | 47,490 | 45,512 | 34,269 | 38,811 | 51,898 | 42,551 | 21,178 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paddling Pool | 9,560 | 8,055 | 14 | 4,820 | 7,642 | 8,083 | 7,837 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Realm | 8,096 | 6,922 | 6,459 | 14,112 | 8,592 | 9,739 | 16,331 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 174565 | 163566 | 133611 | 146915 | 151320 | 145191 | 75661 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Environmental | Reducing carbon is key to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and its responsible Environmental Management approach. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Equality | The impact of Climate Change is predicted to affect the most vulnerable in society and those already living in poverty. The town council must show leadership in addressing climate change and decarbonising our assets and services where possible. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial | Driving down our carbon footprint will also have the benefit of reducing fuel and energy consumption which will in turn save the council money in the long term. However, in some cases investment in equipment and infrastructure may increase short-term costs and the balance of these two opposing trends must be carefully assessed. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Decision Requested | To receive updated carbon footprint figures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appendix A

Congleton Town Council
Carbon Footprint
Kg CO2
Per Cost Centre
Per Year
Current year updated to Month 6
Baseline 2018-2019



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| COMMITTEE: | Environment Committee | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 28th November 2024 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager | | |
| AGENDA ITEM | 14 | | |
| REPORT TITLE | Biodiversity Infrastructure | | |
| Background | <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"> • Identified potential tree planting locations across the town • Supported tree planting programme • Identified verges for wildflower planting • Identified and put in place schemes for reduced mowing regimes • Ceased the use of Glyphosate on defined sites • Install bug hotels and hog houses at appropriate sites • Install bat and bird boxes in our open spaces • Sow wildflower meadows on appropriate sites • Professional Wildlife and Bird Surveys carried out on Land maintained by CTC • Created a list of what more can be added to each specific site <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> | | |
| Proposal | <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> | | |

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|---------------------------|--|
| Environmental | 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. |
| 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 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. |
| 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. 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 500m² at a rate of 2g p/m²

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