

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

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| COMMITTEE: | Community Committee | | |
| MEETING DATE AND TIME | 30 January 2025 7.00 pm | LOCATION | Congleton Town Hall |
| REPORT FROM | Cathy Dean, Communities and Admin Officer | | |
| AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE | 14 Congleton Partnership Update | | |
| Background | <p>This paper has been prepared to update committee members on the Congleton Partnership activities and direction following the new constitution voted in at the AGM on 10 September 2024.</p> <p>Founded in 2006, the Partnership originated from the Congleton Market Town Initiative, evolving significantly since its first constitution in January 2007. The Partnership continues to respond to the needs of the community and support the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) sector, leveraging local resources to enhance Congleton.</p> | | |
| Details | <p><u>Updates:</u></p> <p>The first community event 'Meet the Funders Event' was held on Tuesday 19th Nov '24. It was a successful event with over 80 attendees. There was a soft relaunch of the Partnership with organisations applying to be affiliate members. New members include:</p> <p>Congleton Rugby Union Club, Congleton Street Pastors, Congleton Pride, Congleton Rotary Club, New Life Church, Wild Spirit Woods, SWANS, Artisanity, So Cheshire, CHOC Care Community, Cheshire East Integrated Care Partnership.</p> <p>We need to continue the membership drive with more community events (detailed below) and refresh the Partnership website.</p> <p>Christmas Tea Dance was held on the 4th of December. Andrew Bell provided the entertainment. We invited local care homes and canvased bungalows in West Heath, Mossley and Buglawton. A successful event, we had fantastic feedback from the attendees and raised over £100 for the Mayors charities. We would aim to hold a similar event each year.</p> <p>Christmas Hampers - £1000 grant from Plus Dane and £300 Partnership funds allowed us to create 130 Christmas Hampers for people receiving Old Saw Mill meals.</p> <p><u>Events 2025 –</u></p> <p>Discover Volunteering – 11th March Congleton Town Hall 6 pm – 8 pm with Congleton Volunteer Action, spotlight on volunteering organisations within the town. Introducing CVA and celebrating our volunteers 'Congleton Crew'. In a similar style to the Meet the Funders event, we will be introducing members of the public to volunteering opportunities within the town.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Health and Wellbeing Fayre - 18th March 2025, Congleton Town Hall. With over 30 exhibitors participating, the event is a comprehensive showcase of the diverse health and wellbeing services available within the Congleton community. Whether it's fitness, mental health support, community activities, or specialised services, the Fayre promises a wide array of resources.</p> <p>VE Day Celebrations – 8th May – A shared moment of celebration.</p> <p>In partnership with CTC, plans are being made to celebrate the 80th celebration of VE Day. Following suggestions from https://www.veday80.org.uk/ we are holding a fish & chip dinner / 1940's inspired lunch, we will be inviting local care homes and isolated residents.</p> <p>Green Fayre – 27th September</p> <p>The 6th annual Green Fayre is a chance to explore green issues and local solutions. Around 30 stallholders take part on the day, a good mixture of local businesses, groups and organisations. As the Green Fayre coincides with the Makers Market it is always a busy day. The Makers Market is on the Bridge Street area and the Green Fayre is on the closed High Street and Town Hall.</p> <p><u>Other Projects:</u></p> <p>Community Transport – The Partnership continues to operate community transport with New Life Church. Successful application to Flourish fund, awarded £8200 for driver training to increase our pool of volunteer drivers for Partnership buses (D1 category is a license requirement to drive 17-seater.) Currently in talks to arrange the training.</p> <p>Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund – The Partnership administers the MWMF, applications will be open for applications in late February.</p> <p>Creative Champions/Congleton Volunteer Action - Alison Wright is continuing her work to promote, encourage and celebrate volunteering within Congleton. Starting with the volunteer event detailed above we will be running sessions throughout the year.</p> |
| Financial Implications | None. Work is delivered within the reserved funds for Congleton Partnership. |
| Environmental Implications | Considered as part of each piece of work. |
| Inclusivity Diversity Impact | The Congleton Partnership uses communication tools to meet different audiences and provides events/activities that try to reach isolated members of our community. |
| Decision Required | That Councillors note this report. |