

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

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> <b>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>15</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Community Poly Tunnel</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>Congleton Town Council, has been communicating with Cheshire East Borough Council on granting us permission to have the full lease of the area within Congleton Park where all the Poly Tunnels and Green Houses are currently situated. Within this site there is a Community Poly Tunnel which historically has been used for Congleton In Bloom and storage for shrubs and trees. It is suggested that the space could also be used to provide a space for individuals and groups to come and learn about environmental or horticultural topics. Initial ideas include subjects like composting, propagating and organic pest control.</p> <p>Gardening is understood to be beneficial for mental and physical well-being and Congleton Town Council would like to open this specific Poly Tunnel to local individuals and groups, not only seasoned gardeners, but also those who want to learn in a supportive workshop which enhance our Town through healthy living, biodiversity loss and sustainability. With many volunteers who already have a plentiful amount of experience they wanted to make sure their skills and qualifications are passed on.</p> <p>We feel there is so much more scope for what and when we can grow on this site. We can grow early in the year and really be ahead of the season. It also gives us indoor space to work when the weather is wet.</p> <p>With an online booking system where groups would be able to book the Poly Tunnel to carry out their workshops, Our Streetscape Manager and Operatives will be taking the lead of the Site and will ensure before each workshop the Poly tunnel is ready and has been cleared from the previous groups as well as ensuring all health and safety procedure are followed.</p> <p><b>An exciting project that not only brings the community together but also has a positive impact on the environment.</b></p>		
<b>Environmental</b>	Activities in the poly tunnel will support our sustainability aims and biodiversity action plan by engaging with more groups and residents on these topics.		
<b>Equality</b>	Accessibility at the poly tunnel will be reviewed to ensure that the site is suitable for use by those with restricted or reduced mobility or visual impairment.		
<b>Financial</b>	The Town Council will soon have full financial responsibility for the Poly Tunnels and it is therefore important that we make the most of this facility. Whilst initial workshops are likely to be FOC there is the opportunity for rental of the space or paid workshops in the future.		
<b>Decision Requested</b>	To approve the request to look into putting together trial environmental workshops with an online booking system.		