



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

23rd January 2025

Dear Councillor,

Community Committee – Thursday 30th January 2025

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 30th January 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 in 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.

Yours sincerely,

David McGifford
CHIEF OFFICER

Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

Tel: 01260 270350

Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

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 Community Committee held on 21st November 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. 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 before the meeting.

5. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

6. Cheshire Police (verbal update)

To receive and consider a verbal report from Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

7. White Ribbon Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meetings held on 15th January 2025](#) and receive a short report about White Ribbon Day 2024.

7.1 Drink Spiking Test Kits

8. Committee updates (enclosed)

To update progress on actions from items discussed at the previous Community Committee meeting.

9. Community Safety Working Group (enclosed)

To receive the [notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 5th December 2024](#) and receive a short report from the Chair.

10. Communications Update (enclosed)

To receive and note a report from the Town Council's Communications and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon, highlighting the Town Council's Communications activities for November '24 to January '25.

11. Congleton Community Projects (verbal update)

To receive a verbal update with regards to initial discussions regarding the Service Level Agreement with Congleton Community Projects and the delivery of this year's Food and Drink Festival on the 8th of June 2025

12. VE Day 80th Anniversary Event (enclosed)

To receive an update on the plans for VE Day 80th Anniversary Event.

13. Town Centre

13.1 Town Centre Safety

13.2 Town Centre Flag Proposal

14. Congleton Partnership Updates (enclosed)

To receive a report from Congleton Partnership on main events for 2025.

To: Members of the Community Committee

CLLrs: Richard Walton (Chair), Glen Williams (Vice Chair)
Dawn Allen, David Brown, Mark Edwardson, Suzy Firkin, Emma Hall, Sally Holland, Susan Mead, Shaun Radcliffe.

Ex Officio: Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor), Cllr Rob Brittain (Deputy Mayor)

Other members of the Council for Information, Police, Honorary Burgess (5), Press (3), Congleton Library, Congleton Information Centre.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
21.11.24**

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

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 21 November 2024](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

- Cllr Richard Walton (Chair)
- Cllr Glen Williams (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Dawn Allen
- Cllr Dave Brown
- Cllr Mark Edwardson
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Emma Hall
- Cllr Sally Ann Holland
- Cllr Susan Meade
- Cllr Shaun Radcliffe

Ex Officio: Mayor Cllr Kay Wesley, Deputy Mayor Cllr Robert Brittain

Non-Committee Members:

Officers: David McGifford, Chief Officer Debbie Coxon

Members of Press 0 Members of Public 2

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received as all councillors were in attendance

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/22/2425 resolved to approve and sign the [Community Committee minutes](#) held on 29 August 2024 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations were received by Cllrs Sally Anne Holland, Emma Hall and David Brown on matters relating to Cheshire East Council and Glen Williams on items 14 and 16

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public

5. Urgent Items

No urgent items were raised

6. MyCWA Presentation

Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie Chief Executive of MY CWA provided an excellent presentation on the support that is available for male victims of domestic abuse and was accordingly thanked by councillors . Saskia agreed to forward the video that was not shown at the meeting to the Chief Officer

7. Cheshire Police Update

Sergeant 5793 James Bell advised the committee of the levels of police-related incidents to view the [Cheshire Police Crime Statistics via this link.](#)

- Sgt Bell encourage more reporting of all crimes including dog attacks both dog-on-dog and dog-on-person
- Days of Action' in conjunction with CTC have increased the number of shops using 'Nice Investigate' to report town centre crime. Shoplifting is down.
- Cllrs Allen asked if many of the perpetrators of the crime had mental health issues (yes there are some)
- Cllr Radcliffe spoke of the need for a code of conduct for users of the town centre

8. White Ribbon Working Group Meeting Notes

CO/23/2425 resolved to note the updates from the previous Community Committee.

9. Updates Paper

CO/24/2425 resolved to receive the Updates paper.

10. Health and Wellbeing Working Group Minutes

CO/25/2425 resolved to approve the notes from the Health & Wellbeing Working Group held on 3rd October.

11. Community Safety Working Group Minutes

CO/26/2425 Resolved to receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 12 September 2024.

12. Communications Update

CO/27/2425 Resolved to receive the communications update.

13. Congleton Sustainable Travel

CO/28/2425 Resolved to receive the report and the proposed action contained within the report

Action That CTC supports the provision of these improvements to 'join up' Congleton's town centre cycle and pedestrian routes, write to Cheshire East Council to –

1. Support the proposed work and
2. Request a meeting with CEC to discuss it, including timetable and funding

14. Congleton Rotary Bonfire Report

CO/29/2425 Resolved to receive the report provided by Rotary and noted the success of the event. It was stated that there appeared to be unauthorised traders selling merchandise at the event and it was suggested queried how this could be dealt with

Action – to look into the legalities relating to unauthorised traders.

15. Christmas Lights Switch On

CO/30/2425 Resolved to receive the update and request for more support on the evening. It was stated that there appeared to be unauthorised traders selling merchandise at the event and it was suggested queried how this could be dealt with as per the Rotary bonfire

Action – as agenda item 14

Action – Officers to e-mail all councillors to advise where and when support is needed

16. Congleton Partnership Activities

CO/31/2425 Resolved to receive the updates relating to Congleton Partnership

Cllr Richard Walton
Chair of Community Committee
meeting finished 20.59pm

White Ribbon Group

Minutes 15/1/25

- **Attendance:** Kay Wesley, Mike Wesley, David McGifford, Rachel McCarthy, Richard Walton, Peter Munroe, Jonathan Dakin
- **Apologies:** Robert Douglas and Mark Edwardson
- **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed
- **Report/discussion WRDay 2024:** successful, although quiet, it was great to highlight the importance of this. The WR pub crawl was very good and the message was received very well in most venues, another date to be arranged. The beer mats have also been allocated throughout all venues visited and will help to spread the message. Next year we will attend the webinars together at the town hall and discuss afterwards. Ideally WR should publish the webinars earlier for exposure. **ACTION KW.** Kay to write to Eaton Bank again to arrange a visit, the year 10's at Congleton High were very interested and enthusiastic, the video went very well and the PCC was delighted. 22,000, all post reached and over 150 people made their promise. Richard to present a PowerPoint to the community committee, kay to draft. **ACTION KW AND RW.**
- **Mayor's White Ribbon Walk/Pub Crawl:** There is nothing scheduled for a white ribbon walk, but the next pub crawl is Friday, February 28th, at 4 p.m., ideally at Mossley location. Invite other members.
- **School Presentations:** Eaton Bank and primary schools, we ideally need to go into these, ring around may work better. Send over an email with video and ask if they would like a visit. **ACTION KW**
- **Other Organisations:** Mossley Scouts, **ACTION JD**
Ask Barney about Dane Valley Scouts **ACTION KW**
- **AOB:** WR garden 2025, plaque in the park - Ruth. (think this may be allocated to VE Day), or the fire station, accreditation logo to all CTC vehicles. **ACTION DMCG**
On the notice boards – welcome to Congleton, Fairtrade town needs changing to WR accredited, at the next council meeting **ACTION DMCG**, the information centre date needs changing from the 23/24 to 24/25.

Active bystander training. Contact James Bell **ACTION KW**. Next agenda add sports clubs. Link to google docs action plans attached here;

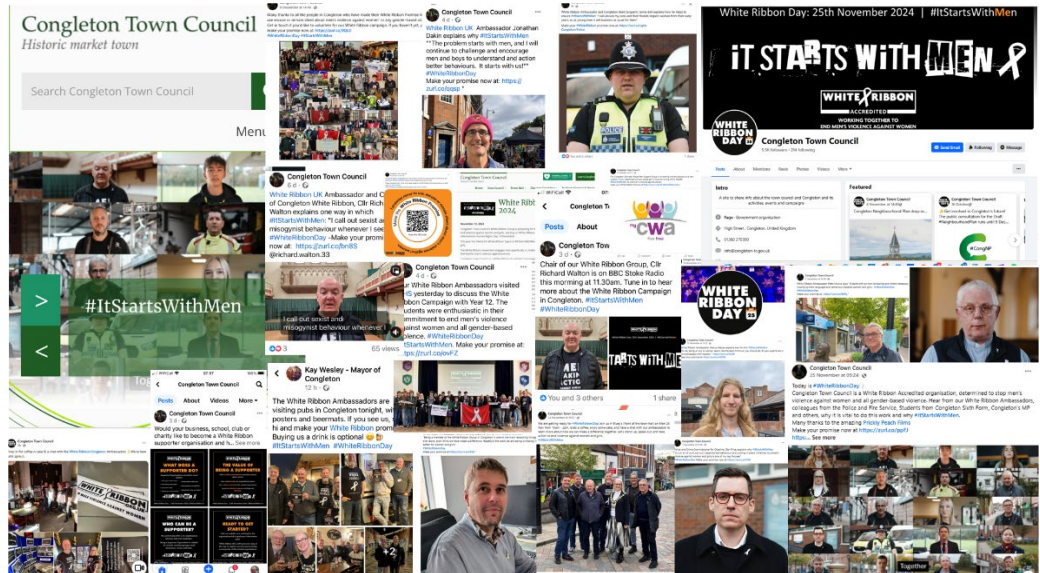
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tXs_Cq9O1mEV6h2ot_IkJBQXvHYypvxSN5hZVVv8L10/edit?usp=sharing

- **Date of Next Meeting:** 12th March – 11.30am-1pm

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	David McGifford, Chief Officer and Richard Walton, Chair, White Ribbon Group		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 White Ribbon Day 2024 Update		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council is a White Ribbon Accredited organisation. White Ribbon is a national charity that engages men to challenge men’s violence against women and girls. Recent high-profile cases (Andrew Tate, Al Fayed) have emphasised the importance of this campaign.</p> <p>Our Congleton White Ribbon goal is to “Strive to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and abuse in Congleton”.</p> <p>The CTC White Ribbon Working Group consists of Councillors, Officers and Volunteer White Ribbon Ambassadors from the community.</p>		
White Ribbon Day 2024	<p>White Ribbon Day is 25th November, which is also the United Nations International Day for the elimination of violence against women.</p> <p>It starts ‘16 days of activism’ against violence and abuse, and organisations across the country (including Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and Fire Service, and domestic abuse provider myCWA) take part in raising awareness and sharing strategies to end violence.</p> <p>The theme for White Ribbon Day 2024 was #ItStartsWithMen to end men’s violence.</p> <p>Congleton 2024 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Awareness Campaign – White Ribbon flag, white ribbons on lampposts, posters in sports clubs, pubs and the Town Boards • Town Centre Stall – conversations with local people, handing out leaflets and White Ribbon promises • White Ribbon ‘Drop-In’ in the Town Hall on the day itself – 25th November • Several White Ribbon Ambassadors wrote letters to the Congleton Chronicle • White Ribbon Pub Tour – Ambassadors visited local hostelrys with beer mats, posters and promise sheets. This was a very successful way to engage people. • White Ribbon ‘It Starts With Men’ Film by Prickly Peach Films, featuring Ambassadors, the MP, the PCC, young people from Congleton High School, local business owners, Cheshire Fire & Rescue and Cheshire Police, about why White Ribbon is important and what we can all do to help. Watch the film. • An Article about Male Allyship published by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) featured several Congleton Ambassadors. NALC has become a White Ribbon Accredited organisation and the Congleton Team helped them put together their White Ribbon Toolkit. 		

- **White Ribbon Ambassadors gave talks** at Astbury St Mary’s Primary School, the Mother’s Union and St John’s Breakfast Club
- **Three White Ribbon talks at Congleton High School**, for Years 12/13, Year 10 and Year 11. CHS is looking at becoming a WR Supporter School.
- **The press** had articles about the White Ribbon Campaign, our work with young people and the theme of #ItStartsWithMen
- **BBC Stoke Radio** interviewed Cllr Walton about the White Ribbon Campaign
- **Social Media and Online** – Congleton Town Council used its social media channels and website to build awareness of the campaign, reaching almost 7000 people on Facebook alone.



Download the full [White Ribbon Day 2024 Report Here](#).

<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>More school presentations are in plan, as is approaching sports clubs and youth groups. We have been very pleased with the response from young people and want to build on this in 2025. We would also like to repeat the ‘Active Bystander’ training in partnership with Cheshire Police.</p>
<p>Financial Implications</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Environmental Implications</p>	<p>Environmental considerations are taken into account when considering materials, printing, travel and other use of consumable resources. Otherwise, minimal.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity Impact</p>	<p>White Ribbon is a campaign intended to challenge inequalities by preventing crime and therefore protecting vulnerable people.</p>
<p>PROPOSAL</p>	<p>To note the report. We encourage all Councillors who have yet not done so attend a White Ribbon Awareness session.</p>

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	David McGifford, Chief Officer / Cllr R Walton		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7.1 Spiking Test Kits		
Background	<p>The White Ribbon Group has been in discussions with both the police and the Congleton Pub Watch Group raising concerns over the amount of drink spiking taking place in and around Congleton. The Group discussed the potential of providing local pubs with free test kits which could be given to someone who believes their drink has been spiked.</p> <p>Since its last meeting of the WRG on the 15th of January 2025 contact has been made with the PCC regarding this matter who advised that funding is available for these kits however applications need to be sent to the PCC's office by the end of January.</p> <p>An application will have been sent to the PCC's office during w/e 31-1-25 and clear guidance on the use of these kits will be provided to publicans.</p>		
Financial Implications	There are no final implications to the council as the kits are FOC.		
Environmental Implications	Guidance on the use and disposal of these kits will be provided.		
Equality and Diversity Impact	Where stocked these kits will be available to any individual who believes their drinks have been spiked.		
PROPOSAL	To note this report.		

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	David McGifford, Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 Updates Paper		
Background	This paper has been written to update members on progress on actions from items discussed at the previous Community Committee. These items do not need a full paper and are either ongoing issues or confirmation of completion or resolution.		
Updates	<p>CO/17 Speed Indication Devices (SIDS) – Research into SIDS to enable Cllrs to make a decision on future use and establish if Congleton Repair Café can repair current damaged SID</p> <p>CO/28 Congleton Sustainable Travel - Action That CTC supports the provision of these improvements to ‘join up’ Congleton’s town centre cycle and pedestrian routes, write to Cheshire East Council to –</p> <p>1. Support the proposed work and request a meeting with CEC to discuss it, including timetable and funding</p>		
PROPOSALS	To Note this Report		

Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 5th December 2024 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Glen Williams, Rachel McCarthy,
Sgt James Bell, Linda Webber

Via Zoom Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Richard Walton

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain, Laura Woodrow-Hirst
2. **Notes of the meeting** of September 2024 were accepted as correct
3. **Draft Agenda for today was approved**
4. **Action Log**
 - a) Professional beggars in town, only 1 report in November, get car details from the drop off if possible, add code of conduct letter for Congleton, add to Bear Neccessities, add the light up toy sellers to the code of conduct with an exclusion order for all mentioned.
 - b) Community gardens, the police have been doing more drive by's in this area.
 - c) Police day of action 14th October, over 20 shops now signed up, James bell to visit B&M again and speak to Elaine Dale the manager and encourage to sign up.
 - d) CCTV, signs and ANPR, Rachel to liaise with Richard Christopherson regarding funding, better signage and potentially barriers?
 - e) Speedwatch, few issues on the bypass, back lane also a meeting place, reintroduce with councillors in attendance and socials shared by CTC and Cheshire Police
 - f) Youth liaison van very successful and has been implemented in the market area
 - g) Dog on dog attacks are being dealt with and the relevant owner came forward
5. **Police update on Crime (Sergeant James Bell)**
 - 5.a Shoplifting** – 3 well known shoplifters in jail and one pending. 14 in August, 12 in September, 12 in October, 9 in November, 3 in December. Two well known offenders are now in jail, one is pending.
 - 5.b Drug & Alcohol Abuse** – in November 18 drugs and 23 drink
 - 5.c Anti-social Behaviour** – market area a few reports, nothing major, the cheshire east bus for 3 weeks on Friday nights in the market area.
 - 5.d Domestic Violence** – 27 in September, 34 in October and 35 in November.

sexual offences - 1 September, 1 October, 2 November
 - 5.e Hate Crime** - 3 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November

5.f Speeding/Traffic ANPR – Richard Christopherson, better cyclist signage and road painting, few issues on the bypass, Back Lane is a meeting place at the moment. Speed watch reintroduced, and only 1 replied to participate in the community speeding campaign, maybe councillors should also attend and place in Bear Necessities. Warning letter to repeat offenders and could get a visit from the police. New campaign - new years's resolution regarding speeding, send a copy and put it on socials.

Action James Bell regarding new years's resolution speeding campaign.

Action Rachel to write CEC Community Safety and CCTV to see if action can be take with signs and ANPR.

5.g Road Safety concerns about vehicles using the pedestrian area as a cut-through mainly between 4 pm and 10 am when the barriers are not in place. This is a safety problem.

5.h Assaults & Public Order 55 October, 55 November, 1 December so far.

5.i Residential Burglaries 7 October, 3 November

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6. Police Priorities – Christmas, road safety Mondays, stopping cars, operation Jingles 20th/21st 2 am shifts into the town centre, 6 officers. Drug dogs into the premises again. David Levins new Chief Inspector for Congleton.

7. Cheshire East Council ASB team - not able to make the meeting

8. Street Pastors Update – updates emailed over. diffused 5 different groups, assisted 37 people, 13 drinking issues, 9 emotional, 24 bottles and cans removed, 9 flipflops handed out, 15 bottles of water, **response pastors** 37 incidents, 3 pastors have completed additional training, they wear brighter blue caps and a tabard, street pastors are still low in numbers although 3 additional are being trained (11 in total). They are out on New Year's Eve.

9. CCTV Update - we are going to book a visit for the new year

10 Shop Watch Update - Rachel reported that Shop Watch was a bit quieter at the moment.

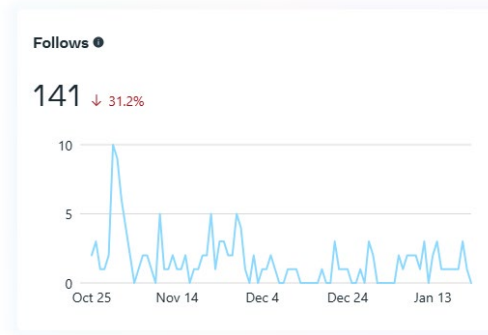
AOB: - community gardens, 4 stop searches have taken place in here, Ruth will cut back the shrubbery when informed where the problem areas are that are overgrown.

Dog attacks – no more reports have come in and the dog has been identified, the owner has come forward, an interview scheduled, and housing asked to visit potentially.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 6 February 3 pm– 4.30 pm Bridestones. There will also be a Zoom option.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall												
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Officer														
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Communications Update														
Background	This paper has been prepared to give committee members an update on the communications activities that took place over the last 90 days (25 Oct-22 Jan)														
Details	Social Media Overview														
	Facebook Followers: 5.6K Instagram Followers: 1.1K Twitter: 3.5K														
	Facebook Performance Overview														
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Reach ●</p> <p>62.5K ↓ 29.1%</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Content interactions ●</p> <p>4K ↑ 59.9%</p> </div> </div>															



Social media posts issued: 275 (excluding shared posts). Avg. 3 per day

Top 5 FB Posts:

<p>after 10am on this Car Park Free parking days funded by Congleton Town Council</p> <p>Saturday 7 December 2024 Saturday 14 December 2024 Saturday 21 December 2024</p> <p>Free Parking Days in Congleton Funded...</p> <p>Tue Dec 3, 7:27am</p> <p>20.9K views, 73 likes, 30 shares</p>	<p>Congratulations to the winners of thi...</p> <p>Mon Dec 16, 5:52am</p> <p>15.7K views, 293 likes, 65 shares</p>	<p>You've spoken up about Congleton's...</p> <p>Tue Nov 26, 8:47am</p> <p>10.4K views, 0 likes, 0 shares</p>	<p>Spiking is a Crime Spiking is...</p> <p>Sun Dec 29, 9:25am</p> <p>10.2K views, 36 likes, 1 share</p>	<p>after 10am on this Car Park Free parking days funded by Congleton Town Council</p> <p>Saturday 14 December 2024 Saturday 21 December 2024</p> <p>Free Parking Days in Congleton Funded...</p> <p>Mon Dec 9, 2:40am</p> <p>5.3K views, 14 likes, 2 shares</p>
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CTC social posts are usually shared to:

- Congleton Chat's Back 26.9K members
- Congleton News & Views 13.2K members
- Congleton Radio 1.1k followers

CTC Website:

- Thrive working on the new structure & visuals – managed by Cathy Dean.

Key Statistics for the website:

Views: 20K, Users: 8.1K, Av engagement time: 50 sec

Organic searches (**7.3K visits**) continue to generate the highest traffic, via search engines such as Google/Bing etc.

Top 10 pages (largest numbers of visits)

Page	Views	Users
TOTAL	20,485	8,102
Rotary Bonfire and Fireworks	4,115	2,282
Home Page	1890	759
Christmas Switch-on	661	468
Events What's-On	524	400
Committee Meetings	522	81
Town Hall What's-On	511	345
Christmas Sponsors	401	291
Events Town Hall	393	286
Business Support	365	297
Your Council	306	158

Noticeboards

The six town noticeboards and the CIC What's on Window are updated weekly to promote town council events and activities organised by local organisations and community groups.

Key Events

- White Ribbon Day (25.11) 16 Day Campaign – see paper 7 update
- Neighbourhood Plan Consultation
- In Bloom Celebration Evening
- NSPCC Toy Appeal
- Christmas Windows Competition
- Christmas Switch-On

New publications

- Print and digital media promoting Christmas
- Bear Necessities (Winter 2024)

Press Releases: 16

Radio Interviews: 5

Other Editorial: Effective Directories, Sept – Nov (circl. 11k)


Proposal	For Councillors to note the report and for the officer team to take on board suggestions and recommendations from Councillors.
Financial Implications	Work is delivered within the annual budgets set by the Town Council
Environmental Implications	Considered as part of each piece of work. Carbon-neutral certificates are obtained for Bear Necessities and paper from sustainably managed sources used for other work.
Inclusivity Diversity Impact	The team uses different channels and communication tools to meet different audiences.
Decision Required	That Councillors note this report.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities and Admin Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations		
Background	<p>VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025 – A Shared Moment of Celebration</p> <p>Building on the success of D-Day 80 on 6th June 2024, which commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings with over 1,000 beacons and 500 lamps lit across the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and UK overseas territories, the national campaign now focuses on celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 1945, marking the end of WWII in Europe. (see https://www.veday80.org.uk/ for more information.)</p> <p>This paper is to inform members of Congleton Town Council Plans to date.</p>		
	<p>The initial plans following suggestions from the national campaign include:</p> <p>9 am - raising of the VE Day flag at the Cenotaph.</p> <p>11 am - Service at the Cenotaph with the *British Legion, Town Crier and dignitaries.</p> <p>12-2pm – Fish and Chip dinner at Congleton Town Hall, we will be inviting members of our community from our local care homes, isolated members of our community, local groups etc. Working with Congleton Partnership’s senior forum. Plans for entertainment 1940’s singer or swing band, decoration of the main hall. CTC officers will support Marks events during the lunch.</p> <p>Baking a WI Celebration Cake.</p> <p>6:30 pm - Ringing of church bells at St Peter's Church</p> <p>9 pm - Lighting a Lamp Light of Peace/light up the Town Hall.</p> <p>Congleton Park In Bloom Floral Display</p> <p>*We would like to work closely with the Congleton Branch of the Royal British Legion, they are meeting in February to discuss plans.</p> <p>Congleton Partnership has agreed to match fund the event up to £1000, research is ongoing into other grants that might be applied for.</p>		

	<p>Congleton Museum will be approached for a display of wartime memorabilia.</p> <p>Local craft groups will be approached to see if we can get displays around the town.</p>
Financial Implications	<p>Final costs are to be confirmed. Congleton Partnership will match funds up to £1000. Further grant funding is to be applied for.</p>
Environmental Implications	<p>The team will follow event guidance to reduce the environmental impact of activities and events.</p>
Equality and Diversity Impact	<p>Full consideration is being given to making the event as accessible as possible to all members of our society and considering how their needs can be met at this event.</p>
PROPOSAL	<p>To approve the proposal for VE Day celebrations.</p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer / Cllr S Radcliffe		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13.1 Town Centre Safety		
Background	<p>With a reasonably steady daytime and the growth in the evening economy, significant concerns are being raised about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Bridge Street in the Town Centre due to the abuse and lack of enforcement on vehicle movements in that area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The signage clearly states that vehicle access is allowed after 4.00 pm through to 10.00 am for deliveries. During that time the road access barriers at the top of Bridge Street / Market Street and Bridge Street/ Swan Bank are removed at 4.00 pm and re-instated at 10.00 am. However, cars and vans are gaining access via Little Street and West Street, between those hours when it should only be used by pedestrians and cyclists 2. During the 4.00 pm and 10.00 am period (set aside for deliveries) the following illegal activity takes place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles using Bridge Street as a cut-through to West Street as well as parking for restaurants and servicing takeaway vehicles. • Vehicles driving through and parking to collect and deliver meals. • This is not dissimilar to other towns such as Crewe and Macclesfield. 		
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage entering Bridge Street via Market Street could be deemed to be confusing, it is also poorly located. • Bollards by Higher Ground café allows enough space for smaller cars to pass through this area. • At Little Street there are no bollards due to allowing Emergency Vehicle access, vehicles are using Little Street despite no entry signs being visible. • There appears to be no enforcement. 		
Options being investigated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ANPR (auto number plate recognition cameras) 2. Improved signage 3. Gates Barriers at all 3 entry points – to be discussed with emergency services 4. Establishing options for enforcement 		

Financial Implications	The costs are not known at this point and are part of the investigations.
Environmental Implications	The implications of no action could result in serious injuries or even fatalities on Bridge Street as it is not a safe environment for users of the town centre. This could also impact businesses as footfall may decrease as a result of the growing misuse of vehicles.
Equality and Diversity Impact	Residents with visual and mobility issues are more at risk of vehicles being driven on Bridge Street between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm
PROPOSAL	To note/add comments to this report.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer / Cllr Richard Walton		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13.2 Town Centre Flag Proposal		
Background	<p>Congleton Pride seeks the permission of Congleton Town Council to install Unity Pride Flags on the 114 existing flagpole holders located throughout Bridge Street, High Street, Swan Bank and Lawton Street. This project celebrates diversity, inclusion, and unity, further cementing Congleton’s reputation as a welcoming and forward-thinking town.</p> <p>See images appendix1</p>		
Project Overview	<p>Scope: Purchase of 114 flagpoles and bespoke Unity Pride Flags.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation: Professional installation, removal, and storage arrangements. • Costs: Congleton Pride will raise funds to cover all expenses related to the project, ensuring no financial burden on the taxpayers of Congleton. • Dates of Display: Flags will be flown on agreed-upon dates throughout the year, such as during Congleton Pride and other events promoting inclusivity. <p>Commitment to Community Sensitivity Congleton Pride respects the autonomy of all local businesses. While we encourage participation in this initiative, we emphasize that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There will be no obligation for businesses to display a Pride Flag. 2. No negative messaging or public criticism will be directed toward businesses that choose not to participate for any reason. <p>Benefits to the Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Unity: The Unity Pride Flags symbolize acceptance and diversity, fostering a sense of belonging for all residents and visitors. • Economic Growth: The initiative can attract visitors, support local businesses and enhance Congleton’s reputation as a welcoming town. • Community Pride: Demonstrates the town’s commitment to inclusion, aligning with broader regional and national efforts to promote equality. <p>Conclusion This initiative offers a cost-neutral opportunity for Congleton to showcase its values of diversity, inclusion, and unity. By granting permission for this project, the Council will be supporting a positive, community-led initiative that enhances the town’s vibrancy and reputation. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Council and the community to bring this vision to life.</p>		

Financial Implications	Stated that there will be no financial implications to the Town Council.
Environmental Implications	Environmental considerations are taken into account when considering materials, printing, travel and other use of consumable resources. Otherwise, minimal.
Equality and Diversity Impact	Visual impact demonstrates the town's commitment to equality and inclusion.
PROPOSAL	Request the Council's approval, subject to the successful raising of sufficient funds, to allow the Unity Pride Flags to be flown at the designated locations. We also seek guidance on appropriate dates for display and any logistical considerations that the Council deems necessary

Order/Line 40061/A1

Size 647mm (w) x 2520mm (h)

Media Knitted Polyester 115gsm

Quantity 1

No Sides Single Sided

Finishing Roped and toggled ready to fly with a hem all round

Extras

Printing Direct to fabric

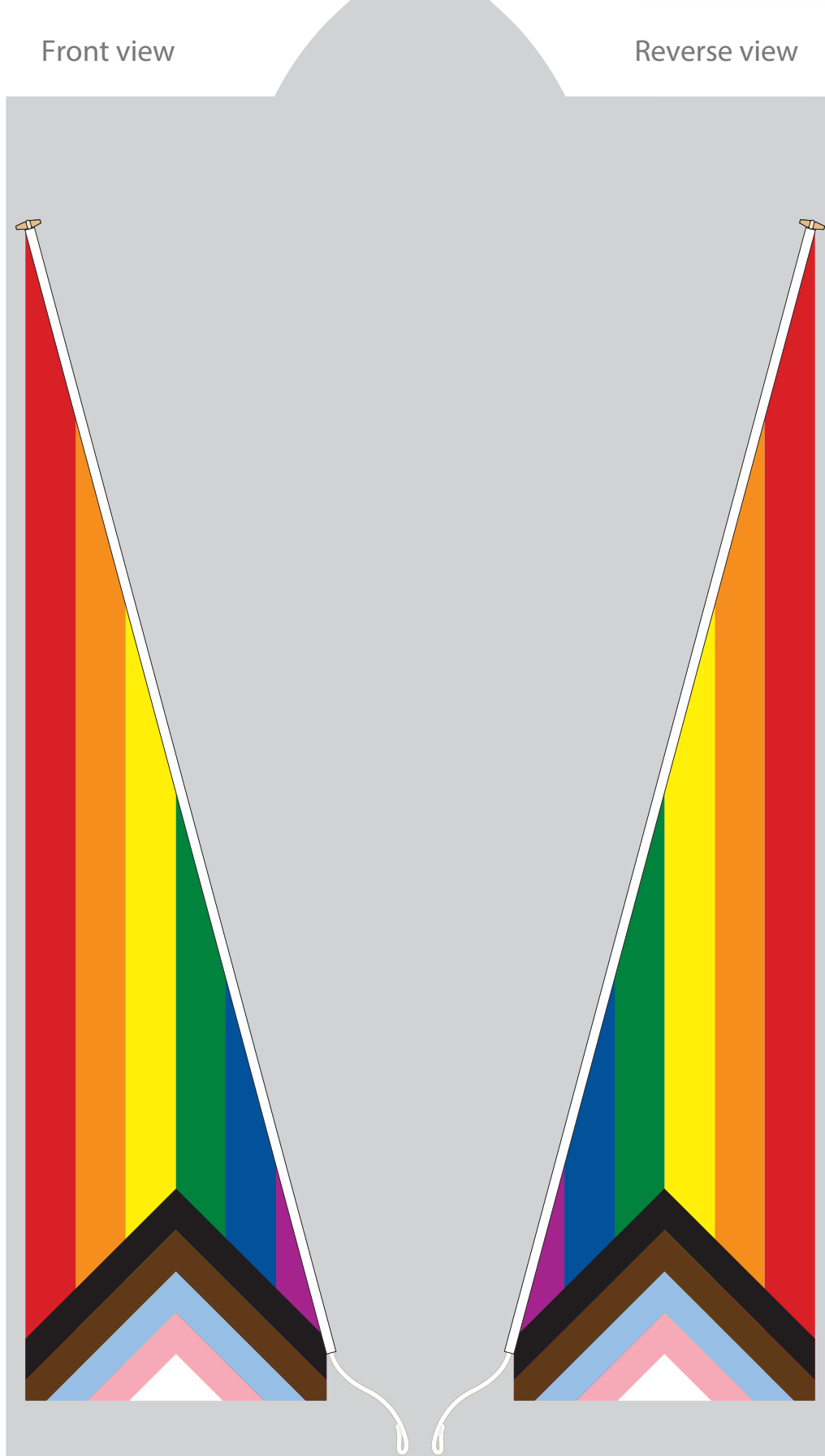
Colour CMYK (4 colour process)
Please be aware colours will vary from screen to print

Colour Match Not Specified

Note We will best match only to the colours referenced. Only certain pantones can be accurately matched with 4 colours. Please consult a pantone bridge chart to check expected output.

Disclaimer We will NOT take responsibility for any errors, including spelling, in the supplied or created artwork. By approving this document you agree that the details shown here are correct.

Designer MJ
02392 237 130 (ext. 3)



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

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>		

	<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 Markers 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.