

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 28th November 2024

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the **Agenda & Papers – 28th November**

In attendance:

Committee members: **Cllrs**

Suzy Firkin (Chair)
Amanda Martin
Susan Mead
Heather Seddon
Glen Williams

Non-Committee Members: **Cllrs**

Robert Brittain
Kay Wesley

Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford – Chief Officer
- Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager

Members of the public: None

Speaker: United Utilities Representatives x 2

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for the absence were received from:

Cllrs: Heather Pearce (Vice Chair), Charles Booth, Sally Ann Holland

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

ENV/17/2425 Resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 26 September 2024 as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Heather Seddon on matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council, and Cllr Glen Williams related to agenda item 11. Allotments.

4. Outstanding Actions

Appendix A – Actions updated

5. Questions from Members of the Public

None received.

6. Urgent Items

Urgent items received at the meeting:

Cllr K Wesley – Concern over CEBC change over to three weekly refuse collection

Cllr A Martin – Concern over planning policy and tree replacement.

7. Congleton Waste Water Treatment

Presentation received from United Utilities representative on the following matters:

- Update River Dane Project 2020-2025
- Current Congleton UU Projects
- Storm Overflows and future investments
- River Rangers and Future Events

8. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

ENV/18/2425 resolved to receive an update from Congleton in Bloom Working Group

A vote of thanks to all the CTC Staff and volunteers who work all year to achieve the high standards and awards.

9. Green Working Group

ENV/19/2425 resolved To receive the notes of the Green Working Group held on 3rd October

10. Streetscape Trading Account

ENV/20/2425 resolved to receive the Streetscape Trading account report.

11. Allotments

ENV/21/2425 resolved to receive the report

Action – Green Working Group to look into further farmland opportunities

Action – Capture further allotment figures across Congleton including community sites.

12. Streetscape Report

ENV/22/2425 resolved To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

Action – Liaise with Housing associations within Congleton on their fly tipping figures and the possibility of skip clearance days in hot spot sites

Action – request funding support from CEC in lieu of ‘pop up waste facility’

13. Carbon Footprint

ENV/23/2425 resolved to receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

14. Biodiversity Infrastructure

ENV/24/2425 resolved to note the costs of the site-specific biodiversity plan and the next steps.

Action – A budget line proposal to go forward in the business plan on Biodiversity infrastructure

Action – Proposals to emphasise the need for resident consultation on each site

15. Cheshire East Report (verbal update)

Received a verbal update from Cllr Heather Seddon on matters relating to Cheshire East Borough Council :

- New bin strategy will be in place in April 2026
 - o Weekly Food Waste collection
 - o Black Bin Household waste 3 weekly collection
 - o New team of waste educators and enforces

Cllr Suzy Firkin
(Chair)

Appendix A

Date of Meeting	Item Number	Details of Action	By who	By When?	Latest Update	Progress
13.7.23	ENV/02/2324	Amendments to Congleton In Bloom Working Group Terms of Reference to allow further invited guests and members onto the In Bloom working group as this group is a lot more volunteer-led. Green Working Terms of Reference change the wording to allow for exploring the requirement for inseting and offsetting A Chair for both working groups is to be elected by the group and must be a Town Councillor.	RB/DM	14.7.23	Amendments made and resent out - now published on website	Complete
13.7.23	ENV/09/2324	send map of the 30 biodiversity sites to all councillors	RB	14.7.23	sent 13.9.23	Complete
21.9.23	ENV/17/2324	Congleton In Bloom - To review the timings of the meeting with the Working Group members, as well as the option of a Vice Chair	RB/DB	2.11.23	all agreed	Complete
21.9.23	ENV/18/2324	Minutes from Green Working Group brought to next meeting to approve	RB/HP	2.11.23		Complete
2.11.23	ENV/53/2324	To arrange a meeting with all councillors to discuss further and approve the green spaces consultation CEC	RB/DM	24.11.23		Complete
28.03.24	ENV/68/2324	Congleton in Bloom Working Group - Thank all the volunteers who helped in 2023 and already helping in 2024.	RB			Complete
28.03.24	ENV/71/2324	10a - Circulate details of fly-tipping by areas and circulate to Councillors	RB		emailed to all cllrs 3.5.24	Complete
		10b - Circulate lists of Streetscape staff training to Councillors	RB			Complete

		10c - Thank Streetscape staff for all the support and extra work they carry out	RB			Complete
28.03.24	ENV/22/2425	Publicise to Councillors the new arrangement with regard to committee papers and carry out a survey to establish IT hardware requirements.	RB			Complete
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		Contacted CEC Highways who have looked into the sequence	Complete
26.9.24	Item 5	CEC replanting Scheme when trees are felled	RB		Email sent and policy being looked into ANSA do not have a policy led by CEC	In Progress

26.9.24	ENV/12/2425	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			Complete
26.9.24	ENV/12/2425	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
26.9.24	ENV/13/2425	Email all Cllrs the four headings under our Carbon Footprint Summary and what each area covers, (Town Hall, Streetscape, Paddling Pool and Public Realm)	RB		emailed 7.10.24	Complete
28.11.24	ENV/21/2425	Green Working Group to look into further farm land opportunities	Green WG			Not Started
28.11.24	ENV/21/2425	Capture further allotment figures across Congleton including community sites.	RB			Not Started
28.11.24	ENV/22/2425	Laise with Housing associations within Congleton on there fly tipping figures and possibility of skip clearance days in hot spots sites	RB			Not Started
28.11.24	ENV/24/2425	A budget line proposal to go forward in the business plan on Biodiversity infrastructure	DMcG			Not Started
28.11.24	ENV/22/2426	request funding support from CEC in lieu of 'pop up waste facility'				Not Started
28.11.24	ENV/24/2427	Proposals to emphasise need for resident consultation on each site				Not Started