

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Summer 2025

Have Your Say on How Congleton's CIL Funding Should Be Spent

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge collected from developers when new developments are constructed. In Cheshire East, the levy is collected by Cheshire East Council and passed on to the relevant town or parish council for reinvestment in the local community. The law allows CIL monies to be spent on a wide range of infrastructure and community improvements, including play areas, open spaces, parks, green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, and community safety initiatives.



To date, Congleton Town Council has received £21,684 in CIL funding. At the Annual Town Meeting in May, town councillors discussed possible projects with residents who were in attendance and shortlisted three priority proposals for how this funding could be used to benefit the town:

1. **Pedestrian Safety Gates** – Install gates on Bridge Street and Little Street to safeguard pedestrians and cyclists from vehicles during the pedestrianised hours of 10am–4pm.
2. **Public Realm Improvements** – Invest in the maintenance and upgrade of bins, benches, signage, and other street furniture across the town centre.
3. **Public Toilets** – A contribution towards refurbishing the town centre public toilets (once legal transfer from Cheshire East has been achieved).

Help us decide how this funding should be used by selecting your preferred option. To complete the short survey, simply scan the QR code or visit:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSZPPZL



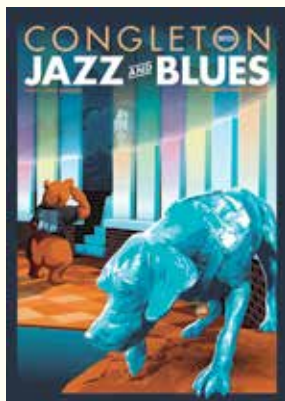
15th Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the music festival – and it's set to be the biggest yet!

To celebrate this milestone, the festival will feature more venues and more gigs than ever before, bringing an exciting mix of live music to the heart of the town.

The free, two-day event takes place over the **Bank Holiday weekend (23-24 August)**. Festival branding features the iconic Treo Statue and Cenotaph artwork, look out for it on leaflets, posters, programmes, and merchandise.

Follow Congleton Jazz & Blues on social media for the full line-up.



Congleton Goes Green

Get ready for a fantastic day celebrating all things green!

This year's Green Fayre on **Saturday 27 September** from 10am-3pm will take over the closed High Street. Featuring over 30 stalls showcasing eco-friendly businesses, products, and services. Inside the Town Hall, don't miss the Congleton Repair Café and The Big Clothes Movement.

Keep an eye out for the Hedgemen as they wander through the crowds and be sure to visit the popular Makers Market in the pedestrian area. Stallholders promoting green initiatives can book a stand free of charge.

Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Scan the QR code on your mobile device to read this issue of Bear Necessities online.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be **Autumn 2025**. All contributions to be sent to debbie.coxon@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Congleton Town Council - Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN.

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✉ info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

🌐 www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Championing Accessibility

Three Congleton businesses have been awarded Silver Status for accessibility under the town council's new **Disability Welcome Scheme**.

Congleton Information Centre, Congleton Veterinary Centre and Crown Bank Dental have all been recognised for their efforts to improve access and inclusion for disabled residents and visitors.

The scheme is part of Congleton Town Council's Equal Access Action Plan, which aims to remove barriers and promote a more inclusive town.

The Council encourages more local businesses to join the scheme and help make Congleton accessible to all.

Image: Dr Deborah Lawson awarding Suzie Gregory of Congleton Veterinary Centre with former Town Mayor and Consort.



Another Splashtastic Season!

Congleton Paddling Pool will close its gates on **Sunday 31 August**.

The town council would like to thank all the families who visited and supported the pool throughout the season. Ruby's SEND sessions were especially well received, providing a calm and welcoming environment for children with additional needs and their families.

With strong attendance and great community spirit, it's been a wonderful summer.

Need Funding for a Local Project or Event?

If so, Congleton Town Council may be able to support your not-for-profit organisation, charity, or local group with a grant.

Applications are considered at the Finance and Policy Committee — a public meeting with all agenda papers published on our website.



Finance and Policy Committee meeting dates are 25 September, 20 November, 12 February and 26 March 2026. Grant applications must be submitted at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Download the application form and find full details at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants/

New Local Businesses to Explore

Several new businesses have recently opened, offering more choice for residents and visitors alike.

Supporting our local shops and traders helps keep Congleton's economy thriving, creates jobs, and preserves the character and community spirit of our town. Let's shop local and back our independents!

Welcome to: 171 Darts, Barking Mad, Blue Collar Record Shop, Feast, Invicta TCG, Oh Shoot! Plants, Orso Lounge, Plant Paradise, SN Skincare & Aesthetics, Tatama Coffee, The Green Room, Victoria Café, Zante Palm.



Image: Nathan Craig, Owner, Oh Shoot! Plants, Lawton Street.

Know Your Local Councillors

The public elected 22 councillors to serve on the town council until May 2027. They have been elected into five wards. Here are the pictures and names of your councillors. More details can be found on the town council website.

West Ward

West Heath



Suzie Akers Smith

Robert Brittain

Robert Douglas

Suzy Firkin

North East Ward

Bromley, Buglawton



Charles Booth

Susan Mead

Rob Moreton

Shaun Radcliffe

Glen Williams

North Ward

Low



Dawn Allen

Russell Chadwick

Meet Congleton's New Town Mayor

Cllr Robert Brittain has been serving as town mayor since May 2025 and has hit the ground running, attending a wide range of community and civic events—from 100th birthdays to sporting fixtures and local festivals. He is joined in his duties by his wife, Susan Brittain, as Mayoress, and Cadet Haru Pepper of the Titan Explorer Scouts.

The town mayor has chosen Mentell, Visyon, and Circus Starr as his mayoral charities, supporting mental health and inclusion. Cllr Suzy Firkin was also appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2025–2026 civic year.



Invite the Mayor to Your Event

If you are organising an event in Congleton that supports the local community, celebrates a special occasion, or promotes a local business or initiative, you can invite the mayor to attend. Email: mayor@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Celebrating Congleton's High Street Heroes

Earlier this year, the Town Mayor's High Street Awards were launched to recognise the commitment of local businesses that have remained a vital part of Congleton's town centre and shopping parades. So far, 14 businesses have received awards, including several Lifetime Achievement recognitions!



The awards honour businesses providing face-to-face, local service and celebrate their role in keeping the town vibrant and welcoming. Each recipient receives a certificate and a window sticker marking their years of service.

To nominate a business trading for at least five years, visit: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/high-street-awards/

Save the Date

The Town Mayor's Charity Ball will take place on **Friday 17 April 2026**, at Congleton Town Hall. This elegant evening promises a three-course dinner, live music, and entertainment — all in support of the mayor's charities. The ball is a highlight of the civic calendar and a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a memorable night out while raising funds for important local causes. More details, including how to book tickets, will be announced soon.



A Fantastic Mayoral Year for Cllr Kay Wesley

Former Town Mayor, Cllr Kay Wesley had an outstanding year, attending over 250 events and working tirelessly to support local groups, residents, and businesses.

In addition to her civic duties, she organised her own fundraisers and raised an impressive total of nearly £12,000 for her chosen charities. Donations were made to Ruby's (£4,000), myCWA (£7,000), and Congleton Pride (£1,961.29).

Her dedication, energy, and community spirit made a lasting impact, and Congleton Town Council extends heartfelt thanks for her remarkable service throughout the 2024–25 term.



Councillor emails are cllrfirstname.surname@congleton-tc.gov.uk

C = Conservative
L = Labour

I = Independent
LD = Liberal Democrat

EP = Equality Party

ver Heath

South East Ward

Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook

Central Ward

Town Centre, Newcastle Rd



Emma Hall



Amanda Martin



David Brown



Arabella Holland



Sally Ann Holland



Heather Pearce



Kay Wesley



Mark Edwardson



Heather Seddon



Richard Walton



Liz Wardlaw

Enrol Now for Autumn Term Adult Learning & Work Support



Springboard at Congleton Riverside starts its autumn term on Monday 8 September, offering a variety of fully funded tutor-led classes and nationally recognised qualifications for adults aged 19+.

Options include: Functional Skills Maths, English, Essential Digital Skills for Work (EDSW), and 18 flexible online courses. Need help with job searching, training, or CV building? Springboard's Work Hub provides personalised support, available every Thursday. This service is open to adults 19+ in work, out of work, or looking to advance their careers.

For more info and enrolment visit: www.springboard.me.uk



Keep Footways Clear for All

Overgrown hedges are making Congleton's footways difficult, and sometimes dangerous to use, especially for prams, pets, and elderly residents.

While Cheshire East maintains council-owned land, private homeowners are reminded to trim their boundary hedges. Clear paths mean safer streets for everyone. Now that nesting season is over, it's safer and legally appropriate to trim hedges.



Travel for £1 with the 16–19 Bus Saver!

The 16–19 Bus Saver is a discount scheme for young people aged 16 to 19 who live in Cheshire East. With this pass, you can travel for just £1 per single journey on any bus service, as long as your journey starts, ends, or takes place within Cheshire East. Perfect for school, work, or leisure — it's a great way to save on everyday travel.

Learn more and apply at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/buspass



Congleton Library's Summer Reading Challenge

This year's challenge is themed Story Garden - young readers are encouraged to read six books over the summer and take part in a range of themed activities, including LEGO building, magical creatures, and badge-making sessions.

Most events are free of charge, though advance booking may be required.

Children who complete the challenge will be awarded a medal and certificate at a special award ceremony on **Monday 8 September**.

Visit: facebook.com/CongletonLibrary

News in Brief

New Operator for Park Café:

Registered charity Everybody Health & Leisure is set to take over the operations of the Congleton Park café later this summer.

The café will run under the Taste for Life brand.

Mobile Recycling Centre for Congleton:

Congleton will soon be served by a mobile household waste recycling centre, operating for four hours per visit from September.

Part of a new Cheshire East Council contract, the service aims to ensure residents have adequate access to recycling facilities.

For more info: cheshireeast.gov.uk/hwrc

New Tool Launched to Report Local Issues:

Cheshire East Council has launched traCE, a new online tool to report potholes, fly-tipping, and other local issues.

Replacing Fix My Street, traCE is available 24/7, works on any device, and allows users to track updates and avoid duplicate reports—making it easier to keep communities safe.

Report an issue: trace.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Hospice Bed Appeal:

East Cheshire Hospice has launched a £95,648 appeal to replace its specialist beds, vital for providing dignified end-of-life care.

The new beds will offer comfort, safety, and connection for patients and families.

Donations can be made at:

eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/bed-appeal

Spooktacular Half-Term Fun!

Congleton Town Council is excited to announce a Haunted Halloween half-term celebration from **Saturday 25 October to Monday 3 November**.

Families can enjoy a free Halloween Trail through the town centre, with spooky clues and surprises supported by over 40 local businesses. Witchy Wednesday returns to the Town Hall on 29 October with creepy crafts, ghoulish games, and pumpkin carving.

It's a great chance to explore the high street, support local shops, and enjoy some seasonal fun.

Full details will be available on the council website and social media.



Preparing for Big Switch-On

Congleton's Christmas Lights Switch-On is set for **Friday 28 November**. The event draws thousands into the town centre, with celebrations starting at **4pm** and the big switch-on at **6pm**. Families can enjoy free entertainment, festive fun, and plenty of Christmas cheer. The town council is now inviting stallholders and sponsors to take part in this much-loved community event.

To get involved, email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Top Tribute Acts

Congleton Town Hall is the place to be for top-notch tribute entertainment this season.

Music fans can look forward to **Coldplay Tribute – Live in Technicolour** on Saturday 4 October, followed by **Ashleigh as Taylor Swift** on Saturday 22 November.

An Evening of Clairvoyance with Medium Steve Holbrook takes place on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

Tickets are available from Congleton Information Centre or online at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council



Celebrating 150 Years

Volunteers from East Cheshire Eye Society have been crafting fabric blocks to celebrate the charity's 150th anniversary and to express creativity despite visual impairments. Their inspiring work will be on display at Congleton Museum from **23 September to 4 October, open daily from 10.30am-4.15pm**. It offers an opportunity to learn more about visual impairment and the work of the East Cheshire Eye Society.



Congleton Museum Sunday Walks

Don't miss the final two guided walks of the season: 'Last Orders' on **7 September** and 'Discover Congleton' on **5 October**. Walks begin at **2pm** from the museum—no booking needed. Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 for Friends of the Museum, and free for children. Walks are easy access, leisurely paced, and include a complimentary cream tea afterwards. www.congletonmuseum.co.uk



Dates For Your Diary

Mark your calendars for a series of exciting events in Congleton! Some events are free, while others require tickets. Please note that all events may be subject to change, so be sure to check with the event organiser before attending.

August

23-24: Congleton Jazz and Blues, Town Centre Venues

September

27: Green Fayre, Town Centre, 10am-3pm

October

29: Witchy Wednesday, Town Hall

November

1: Rotary Bonfire Night, Congleton Park

9: Remembrance Sunday, Cenotaph, 11am

28: Christmas Lights Switch-On, Town Centre

29: Rotary Tree of Light, Community Garden, 4pm

December

18: Community Carol Service, St Peter's Church, 7.30pm



Congleton Town Hall Hire

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Congleton
Town Council

A stunning Victorian landmark with flexible spaces and accessible facilities

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The Grand Hall

Vaulted ceiling, minstrels gallery, sprung floor & balcony

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Perfect for weddings, award nights, fundraisers & large events

The Bridestones Suite

A 'mini Grand Hall' on the first floor

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The Spencer Suite

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Seats up to 12 people

All rooms are available 7 days a week, with hourly, half-day or full-day hire options. Minimum booking: 2 hours



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Our resident commercial partner, Mark's Events, will provide catering and bar services tailored to your event.

Contact: **barandcatering@congleton-tc.gov.uk**

Want to see the space for yourself?

We're happy to arrange a tour of this stunning venue.

01260 270350 (Option 1)

bookings@congleton-tc.gov.uk

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

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