



# Annual Report of Congleton Town Council 2024-25





# Congleton Town Mayor 2024-25 – Cllr Kay Wesley



**It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Town Mayor of Congleton.**

**Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of meeting so many remarkable local people and creating memories I'll always treasure. It has also been lovely to represent Congleton in neighbouring towns and help to strengthen friendships between our communities.**

*Congleton Town Mayor - Cllr Kay Wesley*

## Mayoral Theme: Equality and Inclusion

Like many Mayors, I selected a theme for my year in office: Equality and Inclusion. My hope is that Congleton is now a little more inclusive than it was a year ago.

We launched with Congleton's first fully inclusive Mayor's Parade and Civic Service. Alongside the usual uniformed groups, we invited youth groups, charities and local businesses to join in. It felt like a real celebration of community. The Civic Service included voices from different groups and was a truly moving occasion.

To recognise community volunteers, I introduced the Mayor's Civic Awards this year, and I'm delighted to present the first of these awards at the Town Meeting.

With Dr Deborah Lawson and the Equal Access Advisory Group, we've made progress on accessibility for disabled residents. Town events are becoming more accessible, and we launched a Disability Welcome Scheme to support inclusive businesses.

As a White Ribbon Champion and Mayor, I took part in a film project with young people, police and fire services, business owners, our MP and White Ribbon Ambassadors. The film focuses on the importance of male allyship in ending violence against women and girls.

Inclusion also means civic engagement. I've invited youth groups and residents to tour the Town Hall, view the Town Treasures, and learn about Congleton's history and the town council's role today.

It's also been a pleasure to host events for the elderly, including a Christmas Tea Dance and VE Day 80th Anniversary lunch. These joyful gatherings were highlights of my year, and I've valued the stories shared by our older residents.

## Community Engagement and Events

This year has been packed with community events that show Congleton at its best.

A highlight was celebrating 100 years of Congleton War Memorial Hospital. I attended a patients' party and a town picnic in the park. Nearly every resident has a connection to the hospital—as a patient or even being born there!—and it was wonderful to mark both its centenary and its new diagnostic centre.

In June, I joined the Food and Drink Festival and helped with children's activities. In July, I opened Congleton Pride, a fantastic celebration of love and inclusion. Over the summer, I joined town council Play Days—free fun for local families.

September's Green Fayre was another standout, showcasing our commitment to sustainability and environmental awareness. At Halloween, I transformed into the 'Mayor Witch' for Witchy Wednesday and enjoyed carving pumpkins with the children.

Remembrance Sunday was a solemn and moving experience. I was honoured to welcome veterans and the Princess Irene Regiment from the Netherlands. Seeing the High Street lined with people and hearing spontaneous applause as the armed forces marched past was truly emotional.

I joined the Christmas Parade and lights switch-on - as ever a wonderful event full of community spirit. The Wellbeing Fayre and Artisanity Festival at the town hall were both well-attended and I enjoyed trying my hand at lace-making!

I also helped open two job fairs focused on people with disabilities and health conditions, which were hugely encouraging in terms of participation and opportunity.

I had the honour of helping unveil a plaque commemorating an incredible community achievement. Trees for Congleton has planted 30,000 trees, one for every resident of our town and a legacy for generations to come.

Throughout the year, I've opened new businesses, visited schools and care homes, and met so many people who contribute to Congleton's success. From music and theatre performances at the Town Hall and Daneside Theatre to sporting events and cultural celebrations, the town's talent and enthusiasm never cease to amaze me. We are very lucky in Congleton!

## Charitable Work

For my Mayor's charities, I selected three organisations that embody equality and inclusion: myCWA, Ruby's, and Congleton Pride.

myCWA supports people affected by domestic abuse, offering services in Congleton including advice clinics and peer support. I did a 15km sponsored walk for myCWA, also tracking local flora for Congleton Museum's "Our Disappearing Nature" project. The route will feature in a new 'Discover Congleton' trail map I'm creating as part of my mayoral legacy.

Ruby's is a Congleton-based charity supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families. Together, we organised a Winter Walk around Astbury Mere for SEND families. With activities throughout the trail, it was a brilliant day and a great fundraiser too.

Congleton Pride works to make LGBTQIA+ residents feel safe and welcome. As well as the annual Pride celebration, the team runs year-round events, works to combat hate crime, and promotes inclusion through partnerships with local groups.

I hosted a 'Pride in Leadership' event at the Town Hall, inviting other Mayors and Pride organisers to share ideas on building inclusive towns. It was such a success that they agreed to make it an annual tradition.

The Mayor's Ball was a sell-out success, attended by community members, civic guests and our MP. We raised vital funds in support of these excellent causes.

I also took part in the Rotary Swimathon, raising funds for the Mayor's Charities and Rotary-supported causes.

## Thanks

I am deeply grateful to my civic team. My consort, Mike, has been beside me every step of the way, making the year an unforgettable shared experience. My Mayor's cadet, Barney Mitcheson, is a remarkable young man with many talents including music, swimming (useful in the Swimathon!), and the ability to chat to everyone about anything! Thank you.

As Mayor, I've chaired the town council meetings and would like to thank my fellow councillors for their enthusiastic debate and dedicated service. Although my year as mayor is ending, I will continue to serve as a Town Councillor, working for residents and striving to ensure that Congleton is a town that works for everyone.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has welcomed me to their events and organisations during my mayoral year. Your dedication and hard work make Congleton the wonderful place it is. Thank you.



# Town Councillors for the period of this Annual Report

## Town Council

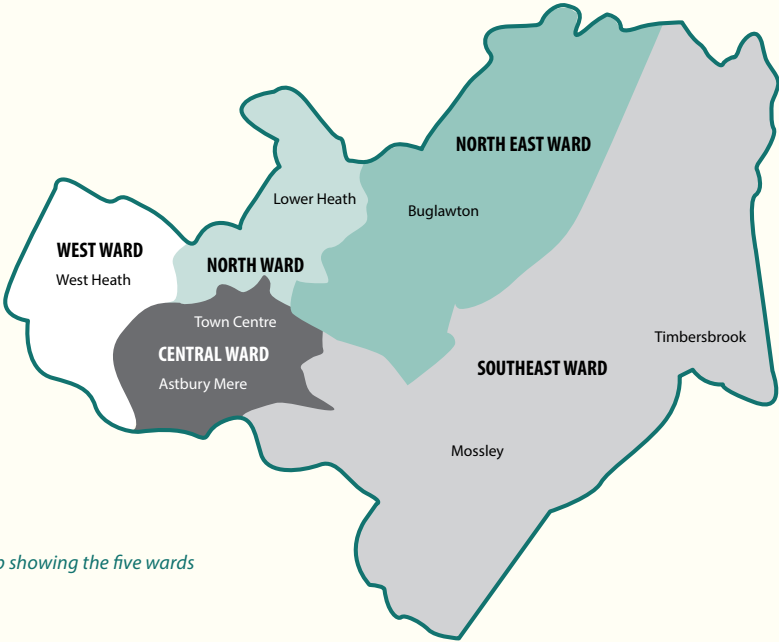
During this annual report period the town council had 22 councillors elected to serve in five wards across the town. Councillors are elected for a period of four years.

The councillors serving from May 2023 to May 2027 are listed below.

You can find out more about the councillors on the town council website.

South East Ward (Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook)	North East Ward (Bromley, Buglawton)	Central Ward (Town Centre, Newcastle Road)	North Ward (Lower Heath)	West Ward (West Heath)
David Brown (C) Arabella Holland (C) Sally-Ann Holland (C) Heather Pearce (I) Kay Wesley (EP) – Mayor	Charles Booth (C) Susan Mead (EP) Rob Moreton (I) Shaun Radcliffe (I) Glen Williams (C)	Mark Edwardson (I) Heather Seddon (L) Richard Walton (L) Liz Wardlaw (C)	Dawn Allen (C) Russell Chadwick (C) Emma Hall (C) Amanda Martin (C)	Suzie Akers-Smith (I) Robert Brittain (C) – Deputy Mayor Robert Douglas (LD) Suzy Firkin (LD)

C = Conservative    I = Independent    L = Labour    LD = Liberal Democrat    EP = Equality Party



Map showing the five wards

## Officers for the period of this annual report April 2024 to March 2025 were:

- Chief Officer - David McGifford
- Communities & Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer – Jackie MacArthur (Left Nov 2024)
- Finance Manager and RFO – Serena Van Schepdael
- Streetscape Development Manager- Ruth Burgess
- Town Hall Manager - Mark Worthington
- Bookings and Administrative Officer - Celeste Smith
- Finance Officer – Sue Trow
- Senior Information Advisor – Jessica Thyer
- Marketing, Communications and Civic Officer – Debbie Coxon
- Town Centre & Events Officer - Rachel McCarthy
- Communities & Administration Officer - Cathy Dean
- Facility Officers - Tim Muston, Martin Simpson, Peter Wilcox. Pete Foster (casual).
- Information Advisors – Celeste Smith, Linda Fox, Barbara Fynn, Natasha Henson. Paolo Pinto (Left September 2024, maternity cover)
- Casual Information Advisors – Annette Bradley, Jackie Potts
- Streetscape Supervisor - Simon Farrall
- Streetscape Operatives - John Acton, Chris Banks, James Bibby, Terry Davies, Dave Foster, Mick Pritchard, Rob Serwin, Mark Stubbs, Noel Stubbs, Mike Wild, John Braun and Adrian Bullock.
- Casual Paddling Pool Attendants - May to September

Find out more on the [Meet the Team](#) pages of the town council website.

## Council Meetings

The Council has five main committees in addition to Council. The dates for the meetings in the civic year 2024/25 were:

<b>Community</b>	27 Jun 24 • 29 Aug 24 • 21 Nov 24 • 30 Jan 25 • 17 Apr 25
<b>Council</b>	13 Jun 24 • 03 Oct 24 • 12 Dec 24 • 27 Feb 25
<b>Council Annual Town Meeting</b>	09 May 24
<b>Council AGM</b>	16 May 24
<b>Council &amp; Special Finance &amp; Policy</b>	15 Aug 24
<b>Emergency Council</b>	11 Jul 24 • 23 Jan 25
<b>Environment</b>	11 Jul 24 • 26 Sep 24 • 28 Nov 24 • 06 Feb 25 • 03 Apr 25
<b>Finance &amp; Policy</b>	06 Jun 24 • 19 Sep 24 • 14 Nov 24 • 14 Jan 25 • 13 Feb 25 • 27 Mar 25
<b>Planning</b>	30 May 24 • 04 Jul 24 • 08 Aug 24 • 12 Sep 24 • 10 Oct 24 • 07 Nov 24 05 Dec 24 • 16 Jan 25 • 20 Feb 25 • 20 Mar 25 • 24 Apr 25
<b>Town Hall, Assets &amp; Services</b>	20 Jun 24 • 05 Sep 24 • 31 Oct 24 • 23 Jan 25 • 10 Apr 25

For a copy of the minutes and agendas for each committee meeting see the [Committees](#) section of the town council website.



# What Services does the Town Council Provide?

Congleton Town Council is one of the largest of the 108 town and parish councils in Cheshire East. The Council was founded in 1980 and became fully operational in April 1981. It provides the most local tier of government for Congleton.

It serves the local community by:

- Providing an essential link between town residents and Cheshire East Borough Council to ensure grassroots views are heard and considered.
- Encouraging economic development and regeneration of Congleton.
- Examining planning and licensing applications and giving opinions to the Borough Council on behalf of residents – 220 applications in 2024-2025.
- Managing a range of local services and facilities to benefit Congleton including the Town Hall, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services, paddling pool and allotments.
- Runs campaigns and activities to promote and encourage a greener and more sustainable and inclusive community.
- Providing financial support to a variety of community groups and organisations which support the well-being of Congleton residents.
- Organising and supporting events that encourage the community to enjoy and celebrate being part of the Congleton community.
- Communicates with local people through the [Bear Necessities newsletter](#), social media, the town guide, leaflets, surveys and stalls in the high street, emails and letters.
- Looks for opportunities to bring funding, pilot schemes or any opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents in Congleton.

Congleton Town Council covers an area of 2255 hectares (22.55 sq. km or 8.7 square miles) with a population of 28,482 (figure from the 2021 census).

Since January 2014 the Town Council has delivered Grounds and Cleansing Services for Congleton, via a devolved services agreement with Cheshire East and ANSA. This includes grounds maintenance - mowing, hedge cutting, pruning of shrubs etc. and street cleansing functions- emptying more than 200 litter and dog bins each day, removal of fly-tips, litter picking and generally keeping Congleton a safe and tidy place to live.

The town council serves as the accountable body for the [Congleton Partnership](#). It also provides funding to [Congleton Community Projects](#) and operates a grant scheme to support local groups and organisations.

Congleton Town Council activities revolve around eight key strategic objectives shown on pages 12-14 and the central thrust of the 2025-2029 Corporate Strategic Plan. Decisions are made via public committees and ratified at Council. There is a 15-minute public question time at the start of each committee. For more about the work of the Town Council see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk).

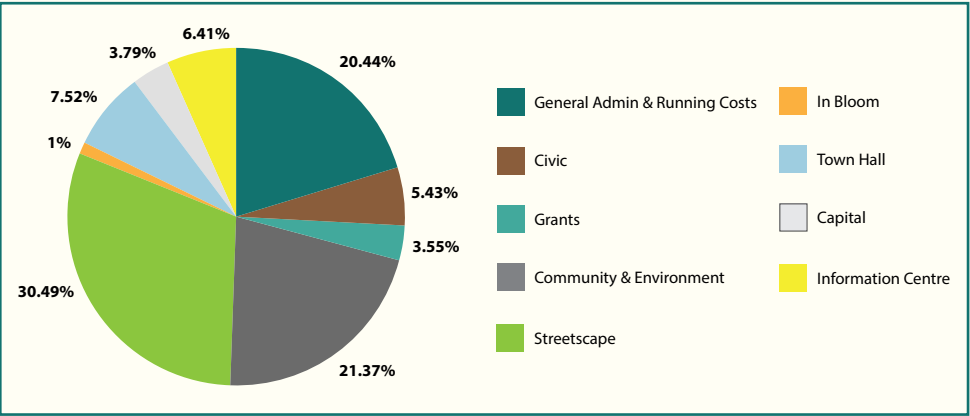


# How is the Town Council Financed?

The majority of the town council's funds come from a Precept which is added to the Council Tax levy set by the Principal Authority. In 2024-2025 the Precept was £1,182,221, which equated to £105.49 per Band D property for the year.

The total cost of Streetscape Services was £819,745 of which £419,256 was funded through the Cheshire East contract.

The Financial Information provided is unaudited, our year end was 31 March 2025. The Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be available for public viewing for 30 days, dates are still to be confirmed but will include the first 2 weeks in July. The information will be available via our website Finance page. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be available by 30 September 2025 in line with Accounting Regulations and will also be available on our website though the [finance](#) page.



Town Council Management Accounts: Expenditure 2024-2025 (These figures are unaudited)

Overall Outcome		
General Admin and Running Costs	£252,263	20.44%
Civic	£67,025	5.43%
Grants	£43,873	3.55%
Community and Environment	£263,774	21.37%
Streetscape	£376,377	30.49%
In Bloom	£12,329	1.00%
Town Hall	£92,827	7.52%
Capital	£46,778	3.79%
Information Centre	£79,098	6.41%
Total	£1,234,344	

# 2024/2025 Grants Allocated

The Town Council has supported local and voluntary and community groups with approximately £35,090 worth of grants in 2024-2025.

Among those assisted were:

Name		
Grants given to hirers of the Town Hall	Town Hall Hire	£3,700
Congleton Museum	Notional Rent	£4,500
Congleton Community Projects	Project Support	£16,000
TOTAL		£24,200

Name	Project	Grant (£)
Congleton Players	Make up etc for Frankenstein	£1,000
Congleton Pride	Stage for July 24 event	£856
Congleton Museum	Heritage Trail sticker	£460
Congleton and District Horticultural Society	Annual Show contribution	£500
Trinity Methodist Church	Car Park resurfacing	£1,000
Mossley Old School Trust	Main hall floor repair	£500
Congleton Harriers	Half Marathon Medical cover	£750
Havannah PTA	Recycling bins	£810
Wild Salt CIC	Good Food Mood lessons	£1,000
Congleton Rangers	Trip	£150
Congleton Harriers	Cloud 9 Medical Cover	£475
Congleton Amateur Swimming Club	Training courses	£789
Friends for Leisure	Supplies & activities for April 25 onwards	£1,000
Friends of Congleton Park	Concerts in Bandstand 2025	£800
Bromley Farm Hub	Luncheons 2025	£800
TOTAL		£10,890

To find out more about how to apply for a Town Council grant see the [Grants section of the Town Council website](#). All applications for Town Council grants are considered by Councillors at the Council's Finance and Policy Committee.

## Some Notable activities for Congleton in 2024/25

- In partnership with Ruby's, Summer SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) sessions were held at Congleton Paddling Pool every Wednesday morning.
- Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership hosted the fifth annual Green Fayre.
- A new female Town Crier was appointed.
- The town council partnered with Congleton Police on an ongoing initiative to combat retail crime in the town centre.
- Town Hall tours for youth groups were introduced hosted by the town mayor.
- The Town Council's White Ribbon Group received national recognition from White Ribbon UK. Congleton's White Ribbon Campaign video was featured in White Ribbon UK's national round-up of the 2024 campaign, highlighting the council's continued commitment to ending male violence against women.
- The consultation for Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan closed on 9 December 2024, attracting an impressive 530 responses and generating hundreds of thoughtful and detailed comments. The plan is now being reviewed and is expected to proceed to a public referendum in late 2025.
- The town mayor, in partnership with Congleton Pride, hosted a Pride in Leadership event. Bringing together civic leaders and representatives from local Pride groups across the region to explore ways to make towns across Cheshire more inclusive and welcoming for LGBTQIA+ individuals.
- Congleton Town Mayor's Civic Awards were launched. Aimed at recognising and celebrating the invaluable contributions of local volunteers who make a positive difference in the community.
- Congleton Town Mayor's High Street Awards launched to celebrate and promote the efforts of local businesses, and their contribution to the town centre.
- The town council launched the Disability Welcome Scheme for local shops and businesses. The initiative aims to encourage greater accessibility across the town.
- Trees for Congleton has successfully planted over 30,000 trees since 2019—one for every resident—surpassing its original target and marking a significant milestone in the town's commitment to environmental sustainability.
- Congleton Town Council, in collaboration with Congleton Police and with funding from the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner's Safety, Working Together, Action and Prevention (SWAP) fund, launched new Drug Testing Kits in Congleton to support spiking victims.
- The town council has made significant strides in enhancing the inclusivity and accessibility of its marketing materials and public events, ensuring that all members of the community feel welcomed and represented.



# Progress on the Town Council's Strategic Objectives

## **SO 1 Ensure growth of the town is matched by adequate services and infrastructure**

- Liaising with Cheshire East on S106 and CIL contributions towards infrastructure projects in Congleton
- Completed the first round of consultation (regulation 14) on the Neighbourhood Plan which had over 500 responses
- Considered and gave feedback on 220 Planning applications
- Continued to work with Plus Dane on a well-being hub for Congleton
- Continued to work with Cheshire East Council for more local and better recycling options
- Liaising with East Cheshire Health Trust over improved medical services in Congleton
- Commented on consultations on car parks, bus services, flexi-link, street crossings, and Congleton Library opening hours
- Starting to engage with Cheshire East Council on devolvement of services.

## **SO 2 Ensure transport infrastructure is integrated and sustainable**

- The Congleton Transport Plan underpins the council's position on Integration and Sustainability
- Planning committee commented on the transport infrastructure on all relevant applications
- Continued to work ongoing on plans to improve walking and cycling routes across Congleton
- Continued to lobby Cheshire East about improved public transport options
- Continued to lobby Cheshire East Council about road crossings needed to improve walking and cycling in Congleton
- Provided robust responses to the Cheshire East Car Parking Reviews, rejecting the level of parking charge increases proposed by CEC and the increase in chargeable hours.

## **SO 3 Reduce economic, social and health inequalities within our community**

- Considering Equality and Inclusion implications of all Council decisions
- Created a new Community Committee to cater for the increased work on accessibility, inclusion and community issues - previously part of Community and Environment Committee
- Introduced an Equal Access Advisory Group and conducted a survey of disabled residents. From this, developed an Accessibility Action Plan, Accessible Events guide and Disability Welcome scheme for shops
- Ongoing financial support for lunch clubs that deliver or provide in-house meals to those who need it
- Supported Congleton Pride and hosted a Cheshire-wide 'Pride in Leadership' event at the town hall
- Helped promote and signpost to services for mental and physical health support
- Promoted male allyship to combat gender-based violence through the White Ribbon campaign, and supported CEDSAP
- Supported the Social Supermarket in Lawton Street and cookery classes at Bromley Farm Hub.

## **SO 4 Ensure that the town centre is fit for 21st century**

- Continued to work with Cheshire East on improving the CCTV coverage in Congleton
- Continued to support and liaise with town traders, putting on town centre events and promoting the town
- Taking over responsibility for the annual Food and Drink Festival
- Liaise with shops and pubs on safety and anti-crime campaigns
- Progressing a legal agreement for the transfer of the Capital Walk public toilet area to the town council to enable reinstatement
- Worked with Cheshire Constabulary and other agencies to prevent crime and make our town safer.

## **SO 5 Greater promotion of Congleton as a place to work, live, visit and do business**

- Promote local pride and environmental excellence through the Congleton in Bloom campaign, which secured a record 21 awards, including Best Large Town in the North West, and earned a place in the 2025 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals
- Hosted nine tribute events at the Town Hall, driving community engagement, increasing visitor numbers, and generating revenue for the town council
- Improved accessibility and inclusivity at the Christmas Lights Switch-On with the introduction of a quiet viewing area, enhanced facilities, and revised layout to support a safer, more welcoming experience for thousands of attendees
- Organised a 1920s-themed community event in Congleton Park over the May Bank Holiday to commemorate the centenary of Congleton War Memorial Hospital
- Launched the Town Mayor's High Street Awards, recognising and celebrating the contributions of local businesses to the vibrancy and success of Congleton's town centre.

## **SO 6 Congleton Town Council will be sustainable and carbon neutral**

- Utilised a grant to undertake and complete a feasibility and design stage of the Town Hall Decarbonisation project
- Continued to work on 30 Biodiversity improvement sites
- The Green Fayre which we organise in September has become a key event in the Congleton calendar growing larger each year
- Increased the number of wildflower meadows and borders across the town
- Trees for Congleton has reached the target of planting 30,000 trees, with support from the Town Council, and site maintenance has been handed over to Streetscape
- Continue to develop our mowing and weed control regime to support biodiversity
- Continue to calculate and review the town council's carbon footprint whilst taking steps to reduce contributing components.

## **S0 7 Ensure we effectively communicate with all sections of our community**

- Increased promotion of Council activities and events through coordinated campaigns across social media, print, and digital channels
- Expanded the Council's social media presence to reach a broader and more diverse audience, encouraging greater public engagement
- Continued to produce Bear Necessities quarterly, alongside additional promotional materials, to keep residents well-informed about key initiatives and services
- Progressed the development of Version 4 of the Town Council website, in partnership with local agency Thrive. The new website will offer a more user-friendly, mobile-responsive experience that better showcases Council services and supports community interaction.

## **S0 8 Ensure a high standard of operational quality and asset management**

- Worked on medium and long-term maintenance needs for the Town Hall
- Increased the number of bookings in the Town Hall
- Reviewed investment strategies
- Maintained "clean" Internal and external audits
- Relevant staff training programmes in place.



# Working Groups 2024-25

The town council had nine working groups and an advisory group operating in 2024-25 to help develop its work. Working groups are usually proposed by a Town Council Committee to deal with a subject that would benefit from more in-depth work than can be carried out via a committee. Sometimes working groups co-opt non-council people with an interest or expertise in the subject to contribute to the group either as a regular member or as a guest to the meeting.

Each working group has its terms of reference, approved by the main committee. Working Groups are not decision-making bodies and return their findings to the committee from which they originated.

Unlike committees, working groups are not open to the press or public unless specifically invited. Their minutes, membership and actions can be seen on the [Town Council's Website](#)

A brief summary of the active Working Groups during the 2024-25 year can be seen below.

## Community Safety Working Group

This was formed from the previously titled Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group - the group also includes the Police and Cheshire East Council ASB team. It considers and addresses crime and antisocial behaviour and its underlying causes in Congleton including Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse and Traffic issues. This Working Group reports to the Community Committee.

## Congleton Green Working Group

This group was established following the Town Council's Climate Change Emergency pledge in September 2019. It is working on a priority list for reducing the carbon footprint of Congleton Town Council activities, based on a baseline data spreadsheet of activities. It also develops plans relating to Nature Emergency and ways to increase biodiversity in Congleton. The group reports to the Environment Committee.

## Congleton in Bloom Working Group

This is a long-standing Working Group that was set up in 2011 when the previous In Bloom volunteer group retired after 13 successful years. It is made up of councillors, officers and volunteers. The Congleton in Bloom group works alongside many It's Your Neighbourhood, community, business and youth groups to help make Congleton an attractive, cleaner and greener town. It also coordinates activities around the annual In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood competitions. It reports to the Environment Committee.

## Congleton Regeneration and Town Centre Working Group

This group explores and where possible implements or works with partners to implement improvements to the town centre. The remit includes physical and social changes. The group will work collaboratively with East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, landlords, developers, Cheshire East Council and other interested and vested partners with the aim of future-proofing the Town Centre and to ensure that it can continue to service the needs of our growing town. The working group reports to the Finance and Policy Committee.



## Health and Wellbeing Working Group

This Working Group lobbies for adequate Primary Health Care facilities that relate to the growth of the town and to develop and promote initiatives or events relating to improving physical and mental health within Congleton. It reports to the Community Committee.

## Integrated Transport Working Group

This group has been considering the Local Transport Development Plan, ways to improve public transport in Congleton, infrastructure needs to make walking and cycling around Congleton safer. Most of the projects rely on large amounts of funding from CEC or central government. The group helps to prepare consultation responses. The group reports to the Community Committee.

## Neighbourhood Plan Development Working Group

This group considers all aspects of work relating to the emerging Congleton Draft Neighbourhood Plan. The group helps to track the policy development and consider the consultation aspects of the plan. The Working Group reports into the Planning Committee.

## White Ribbon Working Group

This group promotes White Ribbon values and behaviours to end male violence against women. The Town Council received White Ribbon accreditation in November 2019. The White Ribbon charity works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. Congleton Town Council wishes to end all harassment, abuse and violence. The group reports to the Community Committee.

## Web Development Working Group

Set up to work on the production of version 4 of the town council's website. The group reports to the Community Committee or Finance Committee.

## Equal Access Advisory Group

This is not a Working Group, but a group of local people with a wide range of disabilities which meet to help advise Congleton Town Council on making Congleton, its town, events, transport and communications more accessible and inclusive for all members of our society. Its work links with the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.



# Congleton Climate Change & Nature Emergency Updates

Congleton Town Council continues to be committed to reducing the town council’s carbon footprint. The council declared a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019.

The three main areas where the town council is looking to reduce its carbon footprint are:

- Energy Use - especially heating the Victorian Town Hall
- Vehicle Use - reducing fossil fuels in council vehicles
- Plant Strategy – moving to more sustainable planting

In 2024-25 the Salix grant was utilised to undertake and complete the feasibility and design stage of the Town Hall Decarbonisation project at no cost to the town council. Additional funding is being sourced to deliver this project.

The town council is also committed to boosting biodiversity in Congleton. Work includes:

- Tree Planting – 30K target completed March 2025
- Site management of areas looked after by Congleton Town Council
- Plans to boost Biodiversity on 30 sites in Congleton
- Working with partners

During the year the Town Council has:

- Introduced a Building Sustainably Checklist for planning
- Operated a Community Food Stand in Congleton Park with Congleton Rotary
- Reached out to surrounding parish councils
- Increased the number of wildflower meadows and borders across the town
- Held quarterly information stands in the town centre on green issues
- Responsibility for an on-line sustainability course for residents
- Use glyphosate free weed control
- Continued to develop our mowing and weed control regime to support biodiversity
- Hosted the annual Green Fayre with Congleton Partnership
- Continue to calculate and review the town council’s carbon footprint whilst taking steps to reduce contributing components

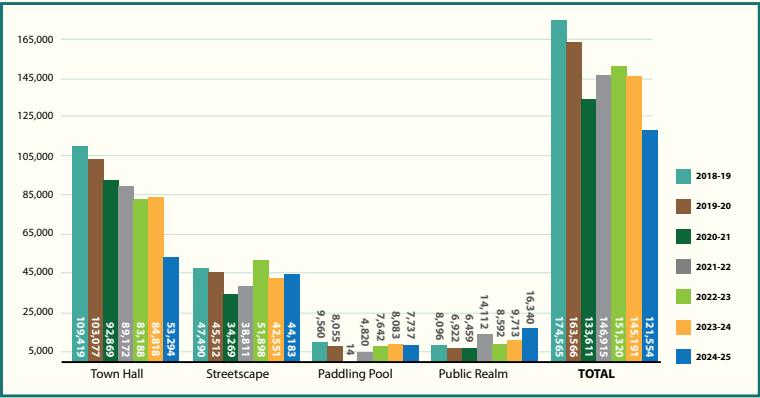


Chart showing  
Congleton Town  
Council Progress on  
Carbon reduction  
2019 – 2024-25

## Key Priorities for 2025/26

- Produce Congleton Town Council's Corporate Strategic Plan 2025 - 2029
- Increase bookings in the Town Hall to reduce the overall running costs
- Negotiate with Cheshire East about devolution of services that benefit local people
- Take Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan through to Referendum
- Work with health providers to ensure that health services are provided locally
- Continue to deliver the CTC Equal Access Action Plan, including the Disability Welcome Scheme for town centre businesses
- Continue to maintain the public realm and develop the Streetscape Service to maintain a high quality of service and offset costs where practicable
- Seek additional grants to support the Decarbonisation of the Town Hall and other environmental projects
- Work with Cheshire Constabulary to help combat and prevent crime in Congleton.
- Have plans ready to take advantage of any additional funds that may be available to improve sustainable transport, increase bus routes or regenerate the town.
- Launch the new council website that is more accessible and informative for residents seeking to learn about the activities of the council, community events, local services and leisure activities
- Obtain Gold in the North West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions
- To successfully deliver the Food and Drink Festival, to enhance the town's profile, stimulate the local economy, and strengthen community engagement.





# Congleton Town Council - 2024 - 2025



**220**

Planning Applications  
considered by the  
Planning Committee



**£35,090**

of grants awarded to 18  
Congleton organisations



**200**

public litter bins  
emptied daily



**19**

organisations received  
subsidies to hold charity  
events in the town hall



**41**

Committee meetings  
held making 363  
resolutions



**28**

public events organised  
by the Town Council



**50**

public events supported  
by the Town Council



**1.5**

million Facebook views



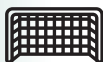
**200**

Mayoral visits



**138,622**

linear miles of Congleton  
streets kept clear of litter



**120,732 m2**

of playing fields  
maintained



**179,010 m2**

of Public Open  
Space maintained

## Congleton Town Council


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

Email: [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01260 270350

[www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

 Congleontown

 Congleton Town Council