

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

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Council</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean, Communities Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>11.1 Town Centre Code of Conduct</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p><b>Town Centre Code of Conduct (See Appendix 1)</b></p> <p>Within our Town Centre, we have had a few issues that impact both businesses and shoppers, these issues include aggressive preachers, professional beggars and general anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Through research, we found that Staffordshire Moorlands Council had similar issues and developed its Town Centre Code of Conduct.</p> <p>We have built upon this document, elaborating on its content and adding several additional items. Police and Crime Commissioner James Bell noted that this would be beneficial, as it would allow them—although they cannot enforce or arrest individuals—to ask people to leave the town centre on the grounds that the Town Council has a code of conduct, which those individuals would be violating.</p> <p>The Community Safety working group has developed the Town Centre Code of Conduct as an advisory group; the full Council must agree to adopt the policy.</p>		
<b>Financial Considerations</b>	There is no cost to the council, but it could help footfall in the town centre if anti-social behaviour is gradually reduced.		
<b>Environmental</b>	The policy could generate a more pleasant environment for both shoppers and businesses.		
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	The policy could generate a more pleasant experience for all who choose to use the Town Centre		
<b>Decision requested</b>	Congleton Town Council agrees to adopt and promote the Town Centre Code of Conduct.		

# Code of Conduct for Congleton Town Centre

Congleton Town Council welcomes people to our town who want to busk, speak, entertain or otherwise engage local people. It is important that we do all these things respectfully and do not cause a nuisance for, or endanger, other people. This Code of Conduct is designed to ensure everyone feels safe and is treated with respect in our town centre.

## SOUND

Temporary producers of sound such as buskers, speakers, protests etc are welcome, but loud noises can disturb other users. Please be aware that others may also want to use the same space.

- If using amplification, the sound should not be audible inside any nearby commercial or residential property
- Buskers/Outside Entertainers – please keep your performance to 2 hours maximum.
- Speakers/Protesters – please do not speak or shout for more than 15 minutes at a time in any one area.
- Content of any speeches/music must be within the law.

## STREET FURNITURE – STATIC ITEMS

When putting items out on the street, please be aware that some users may be using wheelchairs or buggies, or may have limited mobility or vision. Certain items can easily cause injury if placed thoughtlessly. Please follow this guidance:

- A-boards or other advertisements – no more than one per shop, and should be directly adjacent to premises, NOT obstructing pavements. They should measure no more than 800mm by 800mm, and stand no more than 1m above ground level.
- Tables/chairs and merchandise displays are permitted provided they are directly adjacent to the shop (unless specific permission has been granted), extend no more than 2.5 metres, and take up no more than one-third of the pavement.

## VEHICLES IN PEDESTRIAN AREA

This area is not intended for vehicular traffic, in order to preserve the safety of pedestrians. We have had accidents and injuries in the past due to inconsiderate users. Some vehicles are permitted at certain times/under certain conditions, so please do follow these rules:

- Deliveries are only permitted during the authorized hours (outside 10am-4pm, 7 days a week).
- No motor vehicles (vans, cars, lorries, motorcycles, scooters) may enter the area outside these times for any reason.
- No parking is allowed AT ANY TIME, day or night.
- If you are a cyclist, we ask that you dismount and walk through this shared space. If you are not able to dismount, proceed at a walking pace of no more than 4 mph.
- Mobility scooters should move at walking pace (4 mph) or less.

## **POSTERS, STICKERS AND BANNERS**

Let's keep our town centre looking smart.

- Fly-posting is a crime and the Town Council will remove any unauthorized posters or stickers at a minimum charge of £50 to the advertiser.
- Organisers of town-centre events may apply to the Town Council for permission to attach temporary signage to street furniture on the day of the event. No other signs may be attached to lampposts, railings or any other street furniture.

## **DOGS**

Many people enjoy bringing their dog into town, but not everyone is comfortable around dogs, so it is important to consider others.

- Dogs should be on leads and under close control at all times in the town centre.
- Dog fouling is horrible for everyone (and a crime), so please pick up after your dog. You can put your poo bag in any general waste bin.

## **LITTER AND BINS**

Please don't drop litter in our town centre – it makes the area unpleasant for everyone (and fly-tipping is a crime). We all have a role to play in keeping our town looking great.

- There are plenty of bins and recycling bins near the shops. Please use the right bin.
- Businesses must use their trade waste bins and not put rubbish into the public waste bins.
- Any stall-holders or event organisers must take their own rubbish away after the event and not place it in public waste bins.
- Wheelie bins and bin bags must not be left outside shops except on collection day.

## **BEGGING**

Congleton people are kind and look out for one another. We will always support someone who needs help in our town, but please consider the following:

- Begging for money is an offence under the Vagrancy Act. In addition, some people are brought to beg on our streets by organised crime gangs. Do not give money to beggars!
- If you want to help someone who seems to be in difficulty, it is OK to offer them food or a drink.
- If you meet a person who is sleeping outside, please call the Rough Sleepers Outreach team on 0300 123 5017.

Thank you for following this Code of Conduct. We hope you have a wonderful time in Congleton Town Centre!

Congleton Town Council.