



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: David McGifford

20th November 2025

Dear Councillor,

Community Committee – Thursday 27th November 2025

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 27th November 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

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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 18th September 2025](#) 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. Committee Updates (Enclosed)

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

8. White Ribbon Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the White Ribbon Working Group meeting held on the 24th September 2025 and receive a short update from the Chair.

8.1 White Ribbon Day (Verbal Update)

To receive an update on the activities for White Ribbon Day, 25th November 2025.

9. Community Safety Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 6th November 2025 and receive a short update from the Chair.

9.1 The Congleton Code (Enclosed)

To consider the revised 'Congleton Code', which is a guide to how we want people to behave in our Town Centre and recommend that Congleton Town Council agrees to adopt, consult the public on and then promote the 'Congleton Code'.

10. Equal Access Advisory Group (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting on 18th November 2025.

11. 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 from 21st August to 20th November 2025.

12. Your Voice - Your Town. Have your say on local services: Survey Results (Enclosed)

Congleton Town Council has asked residents to take part in a short survey on the future of local services, as Cheshire East Council (CEC) faces unprecedented financial pressures that will directly affect Congleton.

13. Cheshire East Council's Local Transport Plan (Enclosed)

To agree on Congleton Town Council's response to the Local Transport Plan and Investment Framework, with any points Councillors wish to add.

14. Youth Council Update (Enclosed)

To note the Youth Council survey results, workshop, and approve a new Youth Council constitution.

15. Congleton Partnership Update (Enclosed)

To receive an update on activities and plans from Congleton Partnership.

To: Members of the Community Committee

Cllrs: Kay Wesley (Chair), Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair)
David Brown, Mark Edwardson, Emma Hall, Amanda Martin, Susan Mead,
Shaun Radcliffe, Richard Walton, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Rob Brittain (Mayor), Cllr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)

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

Title	Community Committee
Date of Meeting Time	18 September 2025 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	<u>Agenda & Papers for the Community – 18th September 25</u>

Attendance

Committee Members	Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair) Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair) Cllr Mark Edwardson Cllr Emma Hall Cllr Susan Mead Cllr Shaun Radcliffe Cllr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	Cllr Heather Seddon
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer) Cathy Dean (Communities Manager) Debbie Coxon (Communications & Civic Manager)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	0
Also in Attendance	Sergeant Kark Tatlock – <i>left at 7:25 pm</i>

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Suzy Firkin, Cllr David Brown and Cllr Amanda Martin.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/12/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 17 July 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Emma Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Cheshire East Councillor.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public

5. Urgent Items

Cllr Susan Mead, in light of the recent vote in favour of Devolution, can we get the Congleton/Parish boundaries re-examined?

Action – What does devolution mean for Congleton? A separate discussion is needed.

6. Cheshire Police Update

Sergeant Karl Tatlock gave a verbal update with the latest crime statistics for Congleton (East & West). Local priorities are focusing on anti-social behaviour and traffic operations. From January to August, crime is down from 1,392 to 1,220

Operation Sidelines – a national strategy drive to police on foot in town centres, which has come from central government, staff can be drafted from other areas and allocated anywhere in Cheshire.

Cllr Emma Hall raised concerns about parking on double yellow lines outside Quinta Primary School and speeding on Padbury Lane. Cllr Sally Holland commented that all local schools are facing similar issues with inconsiderate/dangerous parking.

Action – Cllr Edwardson asked if it was possible to accompany the police to promote Operation Sidelines. Discuss with Debbie Coxon (Communications Manager) for press/Bear Necessities.

7. Committee Updates

CO/13/2526 resolved to note the report.

8. White Ribbon Working Group

CO/14/2526 resolved to receive notes of the White Ribbon Working Group held on 15th July 2025.

9. Community Safety Working Group

CO/15/2526 resolved to receive the minutes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 4th September 25.

10. Equal Access Group

CO/16/2526 resolved to receive the minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting on 11th September 25.

11. Communications Update

CO/17/2526 resolved to receive and note the report from Debbie Coxon, Communications & Civic Manager, highlighting the Town Council's communications from 11th July to 10th September.

12. CIL's Update

CO/18/2526 resolved to receive the report on the Community Infrastructure Levy survey.

13. Growing Up Wired Event

CO/19/2526 resolved to receive the report on the 'Growing Up Wired' Event to be held on 30th September at Congleton Town Hall.


14. Christmas Lights Switch On 2025

CO/20/2526 resolved to receive the report from Rachel McCarthy (Town Centre & Events Manager) on plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On 2025.

Meeting ended at 7:57 pm

Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27th November 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Updates Paper		
Background	This paper has been written to update members on the progress of 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/18/2425 - High St Awards</p> <p>These awards, celebrating businesses' long service to Congleton, have been very well-received. Councillors and members of the public are welcome to nominate any business with a 'shop front' that has been trading in Congleton for at least 5 years. There is a page and a nominations form on the Town Council Website.</p> <p>A further 2 businesses have been recognised, congratulations to Brown's Furniture and League of Friends Charity Shop for receiving the award and a visit from the Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Brittain.</p> <p>CO/10/2425 – Disability Welcome Awards</p> <p>After a discussion with the Equal Access Group, the Disability Welcome Scheme leaflet is to be reorganised into new sections: Legal Requirements, Silver, and Gold. This is in response to businesses asking what makes gold vs silver, and businesses must meet legal requirements.</p> <p>Businesses can apply for the awards via www.bit.ly/disabilitywelcome</p> <p>CO/03/2526 - Speed Indication Device</p> <p>CTC/38/2526 – Council 23rd October 2025 agreed to purchase a SID for £3052.74, which includes a 24-month 4G contract from Ear Marked Reserve 324 Crime Prevention/Traffic Calming.</p> <p>SID was installed on Manchester Road on an existing pole via Streetscape on the 18th November 2025. Once the poles have been installed on Newcastle Road, we will rotate the device.</p> 		

	<p>GP Same Day Access Service (SDAS) commenced on Wednesday, 05th November 2025.</p> <p>Previously discussed at length via the Health & Wellbeing working group, SDAS provides urgent same-day care for acute illnesses that need prompt attention but are not serious enough for A&E, delivered by a skilled team of Paramedics.</p> <p>Practitioners and Advanced Nurse Practitioners based at Readesmoor GP Practice in Congleton and Holmes Chapel Health Centre. Following usual triage at each GP practice, patients suitable for SDAS are booked in and seen by clinicians who have full access to medical records, can assess, treat, and in some cases prescribe, with all notes added to the patient's own GP record to maintain continuity of care.</p> <p>The service works alongside existing options such as Pharmacy First, which supports several minor conditions, and aims to manage rising NHS demand by ensuring patients receive the right care at the right time through a consistent, pooled clinical team.</p> <p>Appointments run from 10 am to 6:30 pm and must be booked via the patient's usual practice—this is not a walk-in service—and while the model is a significant change for some Congleton practices, it is a pilot agreed by local GP Partners and will be reviewed, with normal GP services continuing for patients whose needs or circumstances make SDAS unsuitable.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council is supporting the NSPCC Congleton Toy Appeal</p> <p>The NSPCC Congleton Toy Appeal is inviting local residents to donate new toys to support children in need across the community. Boots on Barn Road, Congleton Chronicle, Congleton Town Council, and Plus Dane Housing are partnering once again to run the appeal, with donations accepted at collection points until Friday 5 December 2025.</p> <p>In addition to acting as a Drop-off point, the town council is supporting the initiative by issuing press releases and social media posts to raise awareness, displaying promotional posters on town noticeboards, and coordinating deliveries of donated toys to Plus Dane.</p> <p>Last year, residents donated around 500 toys, and this year the appeal seeks gifts suitable for children from infancy through the teenage years. The long-running appeal is coordinated by Plus Dane Housing, which works with a trusted network of local schools, housing officers, churches, and social prescribers to ensure toys reach children who have been formally referred and are most in need.</p> <p>Residents are asked not to wrap gifts so they can be matched appropriately to each child. Distribution will begin from 11 December 2025, with thanks extended to Congleton Rotary for its £1,000 contribution.</p>
PROPOSALS	To Note this Report

White Ribbon Working Group

Minutes 24 September 2025 2 pm – 3 pm

In Attendance

Richard Walton, Kay Wesley, Mike Wesley, Heather Pearce, Jonathan Dakin, Shaun Radcliffe, Peter Munro – David McGifford

1. Apologies

Were received from Mark Edwardson, Rachel McCarthy

2. Election of Chair for 2025-26

Members of the working group elected Richard Walton as Chair

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Were approved without amendment

4. Planning for 30th September – Growing up Wired

Group ran through the expectations on the evening, format and responsibilities, minor amendments agreed.

5. Action Plan

Not reviewed in detail, main focus on WR Day 25th November 2025 Kay W to update and circulate the Action Plan following the meeting

WR Day actions

- Stall required in Town (Rachel to organise)
- KW to work with Debbie to cover contact with press, general press releases, article in Bear N and daily media posts
- DM to check WR flag can fly for the 16 days
- Agreed to continue with lamp post ribbons on WR day
- Promote the 2024/25 WR film on WR day
- Establish if Banners x 2 can go on Bear Island roundabout railings for 2 weeks leading up to WR Day - Rachel

6. Schools presentations

KW to contact primary schools via e-mail to establish interest

7. Date of Next Meeting 31st October 2025 tba

Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 6th November 2025 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Rachel McCarthy, Cllr Sally Holland, Cllr Liz Wardlaw

Cllr Susan Mead, Julia Pestell-Hassall,

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain, Cathy Dean, Sgt Karl Tatlock, Linda Webber, Laura Woodrow-Hirst, Richard Walton, Stuart Hobson, Cllr Glen Williams.
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 4th September 2025 were accepted as correct.
3. **Action Log**
 - **ANPR Update**

We are still waiting for a response from Richard Christopherson regarding actions from the meeting from many months ago, we will ask for a meeting update asap. **RMc**
 - Invite Dane Housing to the next meeting **ACTION RMc**
 - Ask Stuart to attend the next meeting regarding CCTV **ACTION RMc**
 - Ask Cathy to arrange rota for the CCTV room for councillors to attend
 - **Code of Conduct review**

Discussed at length, the principal being that we need to make Congleton town centre better for businesses and visitors, we have looked at other councils and one shopping centre policy, which shows a much easier, symbol poster image of what's acceptable and what's not. We will work on this to draft a poster applicable to Congleton and review it again.
4. **Police update on Crime (Sgt Karl Tatlock)**

Report received, Karl is unwell, so he could not attend.
5. **Police Priorities for Congleton Beat Team – N/A Karl not available**
6. **CEC ASB Team –**

Congleton very quiet, Sandbach and Alsager have quite a lot more going on.

Reports from councillors regarding drug activity on Moody Street, can we move the mobile unit to this area?

We have a graffiti artist in the Mossley area, specifically on Park Lane. Perhaps we should raise awareness on social media about the penalties for this, including criminal damage, as well as graffiti on Canal Street.

Dale Crescent parking issues, ideas of planters on the corner and Woolston Avenue, Doug made aware of this, but the area is tight and we may not be able to facilitate this.

Friendship garden – Bromley Road. A huge firework display was held, and police were informed. This year, police were aware of a huge number of unauthorised firework displays that took place. Next year, social media posts on the dangers of unauthorised displays.

Cash point drug users hanging about when people withdraw cash, we need to be aware of this.

7. Street Pastors Update

Linda could not attend and has been poorly recently. – report to follow.

8. Shopwatch

Very quiet which is good.

9. AOB – Road Safety, Canal Street many wing mirrors knocked off, can police monitor many of the barbers in town for any suspicious activity.

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 15th January 3 pm

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27th November 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager and Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9.1 The Congleton Code		
Information	<p>Congleton Code (See Appendix 1)</p> <p>Within our Town Centre, we have had a few issues that impact both businesses and shoppers, including aggressive preachers, inconsiderate cyclists, professional beggars and general antisocial behaviour. Some elderly, disabled and vulnerable people are reluctant to shop in the Town Centre as a result.</p> <p>The Community Safety Working Group has previously brought a suggested Code of Conduct to Council to help combat these behaviours. This was inspired by other towns and shopping centres such as Staffordshire Moorlands and Telford.</p> <p>The Working Group has consulted the Police, the ASB Team, Street Pastors, shops, pubs and the Equal Access Group, and the idea had broad support from these stakeholders.</p> <p>However, Council felt that the drafted document was too detailed and didn't get the tone right.</p> <p>The CSWG has therefore drafted a more engaging and fun 'Congleton Code' (inspired by the Country Code and similar) to simply remind people of how we'd like our Town Centre to be.</p> <p>This paper asks the Committee to consider the new suggested format and approve going to design.</p> <p>The Congleton Code will then be published in the media (social and local paper) for the public to comment on, before a final version is produced and marketed.</p>		
Financial Considerations	Covered by existing marketing budget. It could help footfall in the Town Centre if anti-social and inconsiderate behaviour is reduced.		
Environmental	Should generate a more pleasant environment for both shoppers and businesses.		
Equality and Diversity	Improved experience for all who choose to use the town Centre, and encourage some vulnerable people who have been reluctant to do so to come into town.		
Decision requested	Congleton Town Council agrees to adopt, consult the public on and then promote the 'Congleton Code'.		

Appendix 1: Mock-up of suggested 'Congleton Code'

The Congleton Code



Please respect others and make our town centre shared space pleasant for everyone.

Keep our children
safe: no vehicles
10am-4pm



Leave room for
buggies and
wheelchairs



Don't block paths!



On a bike? Go at
walking-pace.
(4mph)



No posters or
stickers

It costs to
get them down!



Control & clean
up after your dog



Be considerate if
making a noise

Busking, preaching or
protesting?
Move around.



Use the bins or
take your litter
home



Don't give cash,
give food/drink

Rough Sleepers team:

0300 123 5017



Equal Access Advisory Group

Virtual Meeting - 18th November 25

Attendees – Dr Deborah Lawson (Chair), Cllr Kay Wesley, Cathy Dean, Tom Stephans, Alec Scaresbrook, Diane Ritherdon.

Apologies – Denis Murphy, Theresa Graystone.

1. Welcome from the chair – Deborah welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Notes of the meeting of 11th September 2025 were accepted as a true record.
3. **Actions from previous minutes**

Actions

- **Action** - Kay and Theresa to check out routes from Able World to Readsmore Surgery – **Remove Action**
- **Action** – Dropped kerbs – Replace surveying dropped kerbs with councillor and staff training, aim for springtime to let councillors experience navigating around town in a wheelchair. Give certain tasks to complete. Invite the Cheshire East Highways Officer to the Equal Access meeting.
- **Action** – Contact CAB to see if they will come to Congleton so people can have face-to-face contact. – **Kay had a further discussion with David but no response from CAB.**
- **Action** - Cathy to follow up with Mark (Town Hall Manager) regarding the ramp, accessible toilet sign and mirror in the accessible toilet (button also temperamental) – Permanent Ramp not possible, investigate a removable ramp and bell at the back door:
Update - Temporary ramp also not possible because of the gradient. Due to the distance from the back door to the Information Centre you can't use a standard model. CIC isn't open at the same times as the building. The button on the disabled toilet is temperamental but costs around 7K to replace. – **Deborah suggested contacting 'The Ramp People', Cathy, to follow up.**
- **Action – Disability Welcome Scheme Update** - Add resources to the disability page on the website. Ask for a training budget for CTC in the budget setting. The Disability Welcome Scheme leaflet is to be reorganised into new sections: Legal Requirements, Silver, and Gold. This is in response to businesses asking what makes gold vs silver,

and businesses must meet legal requirements. redesign leaflet – **Cathy/Kay – Carry Forward.**

- **Action** – Arrange a meeting with the Cheshire East Officer - Sam Burnard - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer. Sadly, Sam was unable to attend the meeting 11th November. **Cathy to send meeting dates for 2026** - Kay followed up with Sam to discuss coming over and having a general chat with the group.
- **Colouring Competition Entries** - Cathy to contact the winners and arrange a photo call. **(Completed)**
- **Community Toilet Scheme** - Cathy to contact other councils to see what other councils have done, contact businesses to access support for the scheme. - **Carry forward Cathy/Kay**

4. Review Action Plan

Agreed to postpone as it would take too long for this meeting – Cathy/Kay/Deborah to organise a meeting to review. If anyone else would like to view, please visit -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1r5OPQbUOXatGj6lQn6BCtpcGtxNMZKFkAmLLQV7yrUY/edit?usp=sharing>

5. Transport Plan (Cheshire East) Consultation

Your Transport - Your Voice: Consultation until 7th December 2025

A Cheshire East consultation has launched on a draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Investment Framework. The current LTP was adopted in 2019 and needs updating to reflect the considerable change in transport movements and trends. It is a statutory requirement to maintain a LTP to provide a policy framework that is robust and relevant to the needs of Cheshire East.

The [consultation brochure](#) and further information can be found on our website (www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/LocalTransportPlan), along with a [questionnaire](#) and [short video](#).

Deborah sent feedback to the group before; read the full response in Appendix 1. In summary –

In summary

A. Ableism in the strategy

The plan assumes able-bodied urban mobility. Rural wheelchair users have effectively no modal choice. Exclusion at design stage results in unintentional but significant ableism.

B. Diesel WAV necessity

Most WAVs able to carry powered chairs are diesel vans. Restricting these removes mobility. Sustainable travel must not compromise independence. An equitable society recognises this and would not penalise them for it or impose limitations.

C. Inaccessible pavements

Walking or wheeling improvements cannot be achieved without safe, accessible pavements. Many do not exist or are unusable.

D. Inaccessible consultation

If disabled people cannot meaningfully participate, the resulting plan will be inequitable.

E. Exposure and health

Outdoor waiting for transport (or even being outside for too long) is unsafe for many disabled residents and not acknowledged within the plan.

F. Fairness

Sustainability must include all residents. A strategy that works for urban non-disabled people but excludes disabled rural residents is not equitable or sustainable.

After much discussion within the group, it was agreed to form a response via the CTC community committee on the 27th of November. The plan does not recognise the needs of disabled people within the community and the significant challenges they face. Recommend bringing in experts to comment on the plan with lived experience.

New bus route discussed 93a/c, challenges on bus stops and route landmarks on the new route are noted by Kay, who continues to work with CEC and D&G to improve bus services.

6. Events - Remembrance and Christmas

Rachel – Town Centre and Events Manager for CTC, joined the meeting to comment on the accessibility arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch on 28th November. These are detailed in Appendix 2 and will be posted online and shared on social media/press release.

At the Remembrance parade, chairs are available for the public to use. Next year, accessibility information will be shared on the event page for the new CTC website.

Diane commented that the warning signs for the road closure were not placed far enough up Canel Street, which forced people to do a 3-point turn at the end of the road.

7. Meeting Dates for 2026

Tuesdays 11am – 27th Jan, 14th Apr, 9th June, 8th Sept and 10th November.

Meetings are likely to be a mix of Zoom meetings and in-person. I suggest we hold the January meeting online due to the potential for poor weather. I will reserve the grand hall for the remaining dates.

8. AOB

A - The group is sad to learn that Deborah has to move out of Congleton due to the lack of suitable housing for people with disability in Congleton. Deborah will continue to chair the Equal Access group.

B - Sustainable travel group continues to pursue access to BVW.

C – Email received thanking the group and Deborah for all their hard work, copied below:

“Good morning

I'm writing in to say thank you for this purple pound guide and the disability awareness guide <https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/equal-access-congleton/>

Talk about helpful!! They are really really good. I can really make changes using these that I understand and I've used the disability awareness guide to make my staff more aware (and its making a difference already).

Will you be providing more of these guides in future? I know scope and other websites have bits and bobs but nothing as helpful as these guides. I don't know how local councils work, but these need to be used across Cheshire if they aren't already. Like on a key local government site where councils can download resources. Maybe if you are commissioning more guides you could produce a set and look into it?

So impressed with Dr Deborah Lawson and the work she does with Congleton Council and in the UK. And with Cllr Wesley. And with Congleton Council.

I've cc'd in MP Sarah Russell just so she knows what a great council we have here in Congleton and how helpful these guides are.

*Best regards
Sharon”*

Appendix 1

Cheshire East Transport Consultation (Response by Deborah Lawson)

This feedback is predominantly written with wheelchair users in mind.

The plan does not prioritise disabled people

The strategy largely reflects a generic sustainable travel model primarily suited to urban,

non-disabled users. It places considerable emphasis on active travel, modal shift, public transport hierarchies, and reducing car dependency. While these principles are valuable, the framing does not adequately consider disabled or rural residents.

The plan gives little attention to:

- rural areas with no pavements, poor lighting, and unsafe wheelchair routes
- wheelchair or mobility aid users who cannot engage in active travel
- reliance on diesel WAVs for powered wheelchairs (due to vehicle engineering constraints)
- the lack of accessible bus stops or shelters
- the cold, heat, exposure and health risks involved in waiting outdoors for many disabled people (or consideration of the damage to their electrical mobility equipment in the rain)
- the widespread absence of accessible pavements and dropped kerbs across Cheshire East
- NHS-issued wheelchair battery limitations
- pavement obstructions such as cars, bins, potholes and overgrowth
- the chronic shortage of wheelchair spaces on buses
- the reality that wheelchair users have no modal choice

As such, the strategy appears centred on climate and modal shift, with disability considerations applied afterwards. This creates unintentional but significant structural barriers for disabled people.

Why lived experience directly contradicts the strategy

1. Wheelchair users in rural areas must rely on vehicles

For powered wheelchair users, WAVs (often diesel vans) are the only safe and viable mode of transport. Electric vans typically cannot accommodate tail lifts, dropped floors or the necessary internal height for large powered chairs. These are engineering limitations, not preferences. Any policy that restricts diesel WAVs disproportionately affects disabled residents.

2. Rural pavements are non-existent or unusable

Many pavements fail basic accessibility standards due to:

- missing dropped kerbs
- uneven or broken surfaces
- narrow widths

- cambers
- lack of street lights
- overgrowth
- pavement parking

This makes active travel impossible for many residents. Safety is compromised even in semi-urban areas. And a wheelchair user should not lose independence, having to always have a companion with them to keep them safe.

3. Public transport is unreliable and often excludes wheelchair users

Key concerns include:

- only one wheelchair space on most buses
- lift failures
- inaccessible stops
- passengers being left behind in bad weather when the space is occupied
- minimal shelter or heating at stops
- high risk of illness from prolonged weather/temperature exposure
- very limited battery range for powered wheelchairs
- train assistance that must be pre-booked and is not always provided reliably

The plan's reference to improving bus connectivity does not adequately address the systemic barriers preventing safe, independent public transport use by disabled people.

4. Disability access concerns extend far beyond ramps

Important realities include:

- wheelchair users are significantly colder and more exposed to the elements than walking passengers
- rural distances intensify health risks
- waiting for transport is not an inconvenience but a safety issue
- "walkability" metrics do not apply where pavements do not exist or where mobility is severely limited

5. The consultation documents themselves are inaccessible

Issues include:

- long, complex PDFs
- no easy-read versions

- no audio formats
- limited screen-reader optimisation
- no simplified versions for cognitive impairments
- no large-print versions
- no targeted outreach to older or disabled people

This means those most affected are least able to contribute, creating structural bias in the consultation process.

Universal transport strategies assume conditions that do not apply to disabled or rural residents

The plan assumes:

- everyone can walk 10 minutes to a bus stop
- everyone can cycle
- everyone can wait in bad weather, or the heat/rain/wind
- everyone has equal resilience
- reducing car use is universally positive

For wheelchair users, none of these assumptions holds true. We cannot shift modes. We cannot just walk, just cycle or just take the bus. Most towns do not even have wheelchair-accessible taxis. Many disabled people also require their vehicle for medical needs or to return home in an emergency.

Lack of modal choice

Most residents can choose between multiple modes of travel. Wheelchair users often have one, dependent on:

- pavement existence and quality
- dropped kerbs
- obstructions
- weather
- battery range
- available WAV transportation

Removing or restricting this single mode removes independence completely.

Public transport alternatives also fail to provide a reliable or safe choice, particularly with unpredictable assistance, inaccessible stops, and exposure to severe weather.

Many travel modes such as cycling, scooters, most EVs, narrow paths, stairs, shortcuts are simply impossible for wheelchair users.

Therefore, policies based on modal shift do not reflect disabled people's lived realities.

In summary

A. Ableism in the strategy

By assuming mobility based on higher levels of physical ability, the plan fails to account for residents with limited mobility, particularly rural wheelchair users who have no modal choice. Designing without these realities in mind creates structural ableism, even if unintentionally.

B. Diesel WAV necessity

Most WAVs able to carry NHS-prescribed powered chairs are diesel vans. Restricting these removes mobility. Sustainable travel must not compromise independence. An equitable society recognises this and would not penalise them for it or impose limitations.

C. Inaccessible pavements

Walking or wheeling improvements cannot be achieved without safe, accessible pavements. Many do not exist or are unusable.

D. Inaccessible consultation

If disabled people cannot meaningfully participate, the resulting plan will be inequitable.

E. Exposure and health

Outdoor waiting for transport (or even being outside for too long) is unsafe for many disabled residents and not acknowledged within the plan.

F. Fairness

Sustainability must include all residents. A strategy that works for urban non-disabled people but excludes disabled rural residents is not equitable or sustainable.

Appendix 2

Welcome to Congleton's Christmas Lights Switch-On!

The town council, in collaboration with its Equal Access Support Group, has launched a series of accessibility improvements to ensure everyone can join in the festive cheer. From quieter viewing areas and inclusive spaces to accessible toilets, these enhancements are designed to make the celebrations enjoyable for all visitors.

Whether you're coming to see the big Lights Switch-On, take part in the Lantern Parade, visit Santa's Grotto, or explore the festive stalls, we're committed to ensuring all visitors can enjoy the celebrations comfortably.

The event opens at 4pm, with the big switch-on at 6pm. Festivities in the High Street and Pedestrian area will be at its quietest when the event opens. Anyone who wants to avoid crowds and/or noise is advised to attend early and avoid the congested areas between 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Where are the Accessible & Quiet Spaces?

Congleton Town Hall, (No 10 on the map)

There will be an accessible live-stream of the main stage inside the Town Hall, providing a quieter, more comfortable viewing space. Accessible toilets are also available within the building.

The Space, (No 6 on the map)

An Inclusivity Area in 'The Space' will be open from 5pm–7pm, offering a calmer, supportive environment for anyone who may need a break from the busy crowds while still enjoying the festive atmosphere. Please be aware that the route to The Space is expected to be very busy, especially around 6pm during the Lights Switch-On, so allow extra time to move through the area.

Is Blue Badge Parking available?

Blue Badge parking spaces are available at the following locations, provided by Cheshire East Council. Please note there is no designated event parking:

- Antrobus Street, CW12 1HB: x2 spaces
- Back Park Street, CW12 1EP: x3 spaces
- Fairground, CW12 1BP: x6 spaces
- Princess Street, CW12 1DF: x2 spaces

Will there be accessible toilets?

Toilets are available at several points across the town centre:

- Accessible toilet inside the Town Hall, High Street (No. 10 on the map)
- Portable toilets on Market Street by the bus station, including one accessible unit and three standard units
- Toilets inside Rumba, Swan Bank (No. 3 on the map)

Stall Layout & Accessibility

To improve safety and accessibility, all stalls will be arranged single-sided along Swan Bank, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, and High Street. This ensures clear pathways for visitors, including those using wheelchairs, pushchairs, or mobility aids, while still enjoying the festive stalls.

Please note: These areas are expected to be very busy, especially around the 6pm Lights Switch-On, so allow extra time to navigate through the crowds.

How do I get to Congleton Market Quarter?

You can access the Market Quarter in two ways:

- Down the ramp from Morrisons
- From Princess Street Car Park

Both routes provide convenient access to the stalls, entertainment, and festive activities.

Information Point

Visit Congleton Information Centre for all event details, help, and signposting. This is also the designated Lost Children Point. Located inside the Town Hall (No 10 on map).







Event Marshalls

Stewards will be wearing yellow Hi-Viz jackets. If you require assistance, please speak to a steward. Please note, the majority of stewards are volunteers, and they may need to radio the organisers to assist you with your request.

Road Closures

Road closures will be in place on High Street (12 noon-10pm), and Mill Street and Swan Bank. Motorists will still be able to use Market Street to access Morrisons and the Fairground Car Park. Vehicles on Canal Street will only be able to turn right onto Lawton Street. No access from Moody Steet to High Street. The bus and taxi rank will operate as normal but with all routes exiting via Mountbatten Way.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 November 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall												
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Manager														
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 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.														
Details	Social Media Overview Facebook Followers: 6.8K Instagram Followers: 1.3K Twitter: 3.5K Facebook Performance Overview														
	<table><tr><th>Views</th><th>Viewers</th><th>Interactions</th><th>Clicks</th><th>Visits</th><th>Follows</th></tr><tr><td>1M</td><td>212K</td><td>11.5K</td><td>2.8K</td><td>12K</td><td>476</td></tr></table>			Views	Viewers	Interactions	Clicks	Visits	Follows	1M	212K	11.5K	2.8K	12K	476
	Views	Viewers	Interactions	Clicks	Visits	Follows									
	1M	212K	11.5K	2.8K	12K	476									
	<div><div><div>Views</div><div>1.1M ↑ 15.3%</div><div></div></div><div><div>Viewers</div><div>211.9K</div><div></div></div></div>														
	<div><div><div>Content interactions</div><div>11.5K ↑ 103.6%</div><div></div></div><div><div>Link clicks</div><div>2.8K ↑ 58.1%</div><div></div></div></div>														
	<div><div><div>Visits</div><div>12K ↓ 10%</div><div></div></div><div><div>Follows</div><div>476 ↑ 33.6%</div><div></div></div></div>														

Social media posts issued: 264 (excluding shared posts). Avg 3 per day

Top 5 FB Posts:



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

Noticeboards

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

Key CTC Events

27 Sept: Green Fayre
30 Sept: Growing Up Wired
4 Oct: Coldplay Tribute
29 Oct: Witchy Wednesday & Halloween Trail
9 Nov: Remembrance Sunday

Stakeholder Events Supported

1 Nov: Rotary Bonfire Night
13 Nov: In Bloom Celebration Evening

New publications

Bear Necessities Autumn 2025
Christmas Switch-On Leaflet

Press Releases: 39

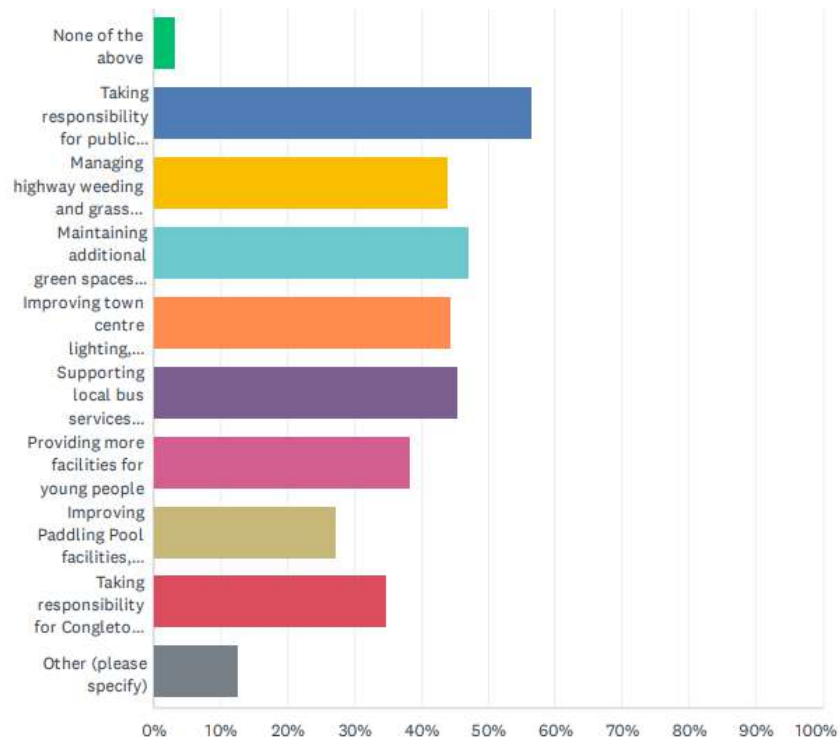
	Radio Interviews: 0 Other Editorial: Effective Directories- DPS in x3 editions(each circl. 51,700k) Beartown Voice (circl. 12k), Christmas feature
Proposal	For Councillors to note the report and for the officer team to take on board suggestions and recommendations from Councillors.
Financial Implications	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	18 th September 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall																																				
FROM	Cathy Dean – Communities Manager																																						
ITEM NUMBER TITLE	12 Your Voice - Your Town. Have your say on local services: Survey Results																																						
BACKGROUND	<p>Congleton Town Council has asked residents to take part in a short survey on the future of local services, as Cheshire East Council (CEC) faces unprecedented financial pressures that will directly affect Congleton.</p> <p>Local authorities across the country are under strain, and CEC is no exception. Despite managing an annual budget of £427 million, nearly 70% is legally committed to adult and children’s social care, leaving limited funds for essential neighbourhood services. Even after receiving £25.3 million in Exceptional Financial Support from the Government, CEC still forecasts a £3.1 million shortfall by March 2026, rising to £33 million the following year due to inflation, rising costs, and increased demand.</p> <p>Residents are already seeing the impact: fewer road and pavement repairs, reduced weeding, infrequent gulley emptying, and the transfer or closure of public toilets. These concerns have also been raised in Congleton’s own community consultations.</p>																																						
RESPONSE	<p>The short survey has asked residents to select which areas they believe should be prioritised for town council delivery or improvement. 216 responses have been collected to date, 20.11.25.</p> <table><tr><th>ANSWER CHOICES</th><th colspan="2">RESPONSES</th></tr><tr><td>None of the above</td><td>3.24%</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Taking responsibility for public toilets, at the bus station, market area, and Congleton Park</td><td>56.48%</td><td>122</td></tr><tr><td>Managing highway weeding and grass cutting</td><td>43.98%</td><td>95</td></tr><tr><td>Maintaining additional green spaces and parks</td><td>47.22%</td><td>102</td></tr><tr><td>Improving town centre lighting, surfaces, benches, and pedestrian safety</td><td>44.44%</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting local bus services connecting new estates, the railway station, hospital, and town centre</td><td>45.37%</td><td>98</td></tr><tr><td>Providing more facilities for young people</td><td>38.43%</td><td>83</td></tr><tr><td>Improving Paddling Pool facilities, including toilets and changing areas</td><td>27.31%</td><td>59</td></tr><tr><td>Taking responsibility for Congleton Market</td><td>34.72%</td><td>75</td></tr><tr><td>Other (please specify)</td><td>12.50%</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>Total Respondents: 216</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES		None of the above	3.24%	7	Taking responsibility for public toilets, at the bus station, market area, and Congleton Park	56.48%	122	Managing highway weeding and grass cutting	43.98%	95	Maintaining additional green spaces and parks	47.22%	102	Improving town centre lighting, surfaces, benches, and pedestrian safety	44.44%	96	Supporting local bus services connecting new estates, the railway station, hospital, and town centre	45.37%	98	Providing more facilities for young people	38.43%	83	Improving Paddling Pool facilities, including toilets and changing areas	27.31%	59	Taking responsibility for Congleton Market	34.72%	75	Other (please specify)	12.50%	27	Total Respondents: 216		
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Q1 Please select which areas you believe should be prioritised for town council delivery or improvement — you can choose more than one option:

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0



66 comments have been received, included in Appendix 1.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey by 6 December. Complete the survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTCServices

Financial Implications	The Congleton Town Council is primarily funded through the Council Tax Precept, collected by CEC. For the town council to maintain its current services in the face of rising costs, the precept will need to increase. If additional services are devolved to the town council, a larger precept increase would be required to deliver them effectively.
Environmental Implications	None in terms of this report, environmental impact will be considered for each of the proposals.
Equality and Diversity Impact	By consulting with Congleton Residents, the Council has ensured that all residents have the opportunity to shape priorities.
DECISION REQUESTED	For information only - note the report.

Responses

Just to emphasise the necessity of making Congleton more pedestrian friendly. And send more traffic wardens round, every day if possible. The on-street parking is at a ridiculous level since the car park charges went up.

A youth centre is something that would hugely benefit the community, giving young people a safe place to meet and socialise also a great way of learning what is going on with young people in the area.

Also good place for underprivileged kids to maybe learn how to cook and eat well on a small budget.

Young bands to play to their target audience and many more things .

Trying to convert the car parks back to cash users so people will come into town instead of using out of area shopping centres

Street maintenance including making road signs visible

Please start looking after the road verges, during spring and summer they become overgrown with grass and weeds and it is very depressing to see that no one is maintaining it. I would suggest that not clearing the organic matter that collects over time that leads to weeds growing is also likely to cause blockages in the sewer systems.

If CTC is short of money, I suggest cutting back on non-essential expenditure. For example, the Paddling Pool and - sadly - Congleton in Bloom. Ensuring enough GP practices/A&E are available for the growing population with all the new build estates.

I think buses are important for the elderly.

A recycling centre in Congleton

Definitely think a bus route , especially to Lewis way estate would be amazing.

The footpath surface from Little Tesco to the pedestrian crossing on Sandbach Road is uneven and slopes towards the road. Very dangerous especially for wheelchair users, mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Finding a bike track like the one in kidsgrove - great for keeping kids active and busy

Tennis courts and basketball for youth

Lightening is currently only provided on one half of the park and not the whole way round . As someone who attends the leisure centre late for swimming lessons I find the park dangerous when its dark but I have no choice but to take that path as its much quicker. Which means I then have to travel with a torch and have someone on the phone for mine and my childs safety

With the amount of new builds going up investment in GP surgeries and NHS dentists as well as more things to do for kids, cinema, bowling etc.

All these services are much better managed at a local level with the Town Council, who can be much more responsive rather than faceless Cheshire East Council who pass the buck and don't sort anything out.

More investment in street art in the town centre

We already pay for these services to Cheshire East. If they are transferred to Congleton, there should be appropriate reimbursement. There should be no increased precept for maintaining a service. This is a heads you win tails I lose option. Ultimately Cheshire East needs to get it's house in order and avoid inflation busting increases for delivering less.

I think CTC should take over all responsibilities because it will deliver services more efficiently and be more accountable through the town council.

We need these things done and have to accept it has to be paid for. It will enhance the town and support its economy.

We are all paying to much tax and council tax ,more effective ways to reduce costs and create a sense of pride doing neighbourhood areas through volunteer groups

The future of Congleton needs to be addressed. I think the new housing estates are brilliant and they will seriously benefit the town and community but we need to see the future of further infrastructure and support for the local businesses. I love the news of the new shops being built on Vikings Way, I think its a huge step in the right direction but we need more. I think there needs to be more clarity on how we actually get more infrastructure, as someone who works in the construction industry, I see that the housing brings the people which brings the money which brings the need for more but from the local social media groups, the concept is lost, be more open about it.

The railway station doesn't meet the needs of young professionals moving to the town, it is bigger than people wanting to shop on a Saturday, having to drive to Macclesfield or Crewe to get a train quicker than what I can get at Congleton is mind blowing and it does raise the question on whether I should continue to live in the town.

There needs to be better communication or signage for the link road. We see far too many HGV vehicles still going through the town and not utilising the road, I appreciate this may come more from National Highways but the pressure needs to be put on.

No access to toilets prevents so many people from visiting our town. This is a reason i do not attend and take my business elsewhere.... would i prefer to visit my town, of course but as a parent and someone with a medical condition, i need access to toilets. So my business and errands goes to Biddulph who can actually provide the services I need.

BIG SHAME!!

Need to improve blocked grids on main roads, hasn't been done since Covid and is a nightmare when we have heavy rainfall

Accessible toilet needed operated with radar key

While I love the history of the paddling pool it's my belief that providing such a facility free of charge is now (mainly due to the accompanying expenses of modern health & safety) too big a drain on a pressured budget.

Pot holes being maintained quicker. The roads are atrocious.

Poorly managed CEC are constantly trying to rip us off with car parking charges resulting in parked cars blocking side roads etc. green bins up another Â£10 and if they'd had there way there would have been a 10% raise in Council Tax which is already one of the most expensive in the area, so you've probably guessed I'm not in favour of paying any extra costs whatsoever. enough is enough!

CTC should look to spend funds on what the Town actually needs. Not just ornamental roundabouts and paddling pools that everyone from outside of Congleton can use!

I'm fed up of the huge precept Congleton Town Council adds, much more than virtually everywhere in Cheshire East. I will see no reduction in my Council Tax from Cheshire East so I don't want to pay twice. You must prioritise reducing the tax burden on residents.

Supporting local businesses in the town centre

Lets get people shopping in the town centre

It is important that the local town council is responsible for the town centre and local community amenities including parks. Highways and transport should be centralised to avoid variance in approach to equipment, scheduling etc.

Focus on the must haves rather than the nice to haves

Stop cycling in pedestrian area. I have nearly been hit in numerous occasions

The older estates around Congleton are looking older and tired due to weeds, damaged footpaths and kerbstones.

Does the town council regularly check each and every purchasing contract to ensure it is getting best price and spending the public purse in the most frugal way possible.

That could be as simple as its utilities, its ancillaries for maintenance, stationary supplies or any/all approved suppliers.

Zebra crossing in Leek road at junction with cross lane. The road crossing is used by school children every day and it's dangerous.

Leek road is a rat run and very congestive with speeding cars. There are TWO such crossings in Biddulph road for access to railway station and Henshull Hall residents.

The buses need to line up with the train departure times. Need the Sunday service back for those that work weekends! Otherwise its impossible to go in to manchester for work at the weekends!

Fixing potholes in roads, not just the main roads.

Reduce council tax, you don't get value for money.

The roads around Congleton are horrendous. Invest in road surface materials that actually last.

Stop increasing green waste bin prices as they are already too high and doing so will only lead to more fly tipping.
Stop wasting tax money on Congleton in bloom, this is not a priority for majority of people

Better public transport links to other towns /cities

Congleton Market would be better utilised under the stewardship of Congleton Market Quarter, as they have re energised the substandard area since they opened and held their own events

A proper bin collection system and recycling scheme

Considering the amount of new builds and the income they receive , surely all amenities listed should be maintained on a regular basis .

Better support for disabled citizens

Renovation of run down areas of the town centre. Dealing with derelict shops and buildings. Improving the streetscape and architectural value of the town centre in particular.

Reduce tax, reduce waste

As the town of Congleton grows, concerns are the infrastructure such as doctors/dentist and e facilities as Macc/leighton won't be able to cope with it much longer and Congleton needs a a and e.

More disabled access such as dropped kerbs. Where there is disabled roadside parking there should be dropped kerbs alongside these spaces. The town isn't wheelchair friendly.

More recreational facilities for young people. Especially outdoor activities such as a skate park like Macclesfield South Park has. That skate park is well liked and used by youngsters. There are a few that spoil it but they are the minority. Any outdoor activity for youngsters is a good thing in my view.

Road surfacing should be a priority the potholes and even surfaces are atrocious.

Not sure if this is for you but we could do with more shops and the people would like to know what's happening with capital walk?

Resurfacing roads & filling potholes properly. Not just with a bit of tarmac that lasts about 6 months.

I think the council priorities should be those areas that are Congleton specific. Roads, transport links and young people facilities should be funded by the county, or wider bodies to prevent postcode lotteries on basic safety.

Protecting recreation spaces and sports fields.

You take take take but don't give anything back. The roads are terrible. Lied about the bypass. Keep putting prices up. No schools. Doctors or anything actually helpful. I pay for my green bin. People living in the centre pay £90 a year to park outside their own house. You keep putting parking prices up yet the town is dead. You are killing it. You couldn't organize a pee up in a brewery. I hope you're ashamed of the jobs you do.

Link the bus times with railway times! So many people walk from town to station for the Manchester train which leaves at 9mins past every hour. The bus is out of kilter with these times!

Better bus services. The town's traffic is difficult to get around with all the cars. More bus services will allow people to leave their car at home.

We need a household waste disposal centre in Congleton

Reduce rents and increase footfall to the town

With an aging population toilets are essential. The physical and mental pain are severe at times made much worse by panic when public toilets are not available. Can we have toilets like Biddulph and with parking space for out of town visitors.

More events. More local service delivery. Library.

Local bus services. Free car parking. Maintaining roads and footpath.

I think the town council will do a much better job taking on the roles you have listed. Weeding in verges appears to be a big issue and is making our estates look ugly, this in turn will lead to an increase in crime when things don't look cared for.

To provide more local shops in the town centre instead of cafes and beauty salons too many of them.

I think the paddling pool costs a huge amount for the few weeks that it is open and many that use it are from outside the area and therefore do not contribute to its costs.

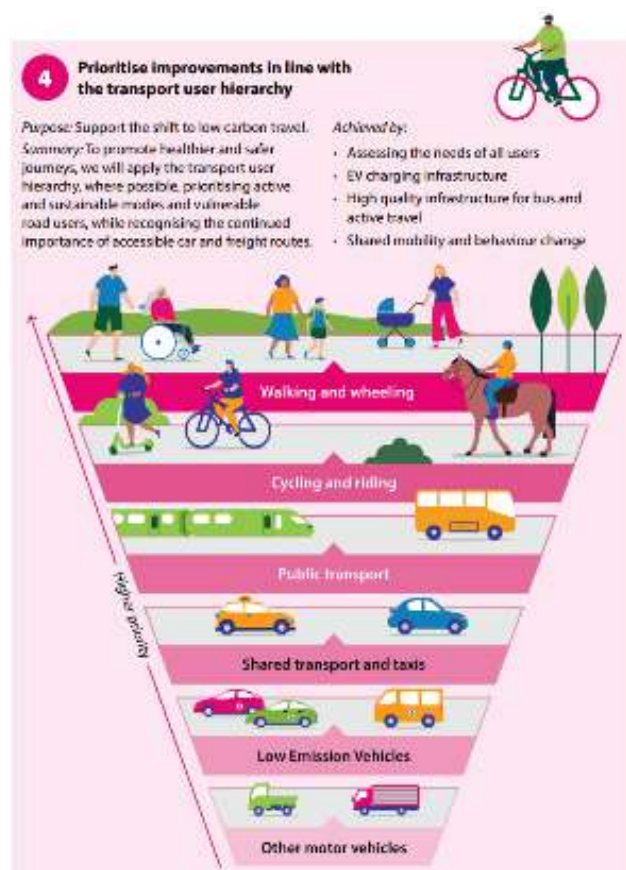
More Schools, Dentists & Doctors in the Town

Streetscape team do a great job and it would be great to see the verges on housing estates maintained again, west heath and the Quinta estate has looked an absolute mess this year, residents have tried but it's impossible without the proper equipment and weed sprayer and sweeper.

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27th November 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager and Kay Wesley, Chair		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Cheshire East Transport Plan Strategy Consultation		
BACKGROUND	<p>Cheshire East Council is consulting on its new Local Transport Plan Strategy and associated Investment Framework.</p> <p>The Consultation closes on 7th December 2025. Congleton Town Council (CTC) provided input to the Vision earlier this year and the full strategy is now available for input.</p> <p>Councillors are encouraged to take part in the Consultation Individually here.</p> <p>In the absence of an Integrated Transport Working Group, the Chair and Cathy Dean have read the plan to check which of the CTC feedback has now been incorporated. They have also consulted the Equal Access Advisory Group who provided helpful input into the previous CTC response.</p>		
INFORMATION	<p>The consultation is summarised in the Transport Plan Brochure, and the full Local Transport Plan Strategy, the Investment Framework and associated documents can be found on the Transport Plan Web Page.</p> <p>Attached in Appendix 1 is the Transport Plan Brochure.</p> <p>The Local Transport Plan Policies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTP1: Support the delivery of growth within the borough through improved connections • LTP2: Ensure transport improvements are fair and inclusive, actively reduce inequalities, and promote better health and wellbeing • LTP3: Promote initiatives and infrastructure that support environmental sustainability and the drive to carbon neutrality • LTP4: Prioritise improvements in line with the transport user hierarchy • LTP5: A place-based approach that responds to the specific needs of people living and travelling across the borough • LTP6: Effective enhancement and development of the transport network, adopting a Manage-Maintain-Invest hierarchy <p>As CTC indicated at the Vision stage, these are acceptable priorities overall, and some of the points that CTC raised previously have now been incorporated into them:</p>		

- Under 'growing the economy' it did not highlight transport options that do not rely on motor vehicles
Now Policy 1 speaks of 'public transport links' too.
- Under 'Environmental impacts' CEC should be leading rather than supporting the transition by providing local infrastructure to encourage travellers to make more sustainable choices.
Policy 3 now mentions 'influencing travel choice' by providing 'low carbon infrastructure'.
- The plan should relate to the Highway Code Hierarchy of road users
This is now included as Priority number 4:



- Accessibility does not seem to be a priority
Now Policy number 2 has the goal 'make transport accessible for all'

2 Ensure transport improvements are fair and inclusive, actively reduce inequalities and promote better health and wellbeing

Purpose: Make transport accessible for all.

Summary: Our plans, projects and proposals will deliver inclusive transport improvements, which support all groups and communities across the borough, in both urban and rural areas. We will develop accessible and sustainable travel options, as well as maintaining access by car for those that need it.

Achieved by:

- Inclusive design and infrastructure
- Affordable and flexible travel options
- Targeted improvements for excluded groups

	<p>However, in spite of Policy Number 2, a number of challenges CTC identified with the Vision remain with the Transport Plan Strategy.</p> <p>Notably, although ‘accessibility’ is as a priority, most of the mentions of accessibility through the document are referring to availability of transport options for able-bodied people, rather than the actual accessibility for those with disabilities.</p> <p>Further, in many sections of the plan - Challenges, Opportunities, Demographics and so on – there is no mention at all of people with disabilities or access needs. As a quarter of our population, they should not be ignored.</p> <p>Note also that many of the considerations for people who use wheelchairs or walking-aids also apply to other users such as parents with small children and pushchairs.</p> <p>The conclusion of the Equal Access Advisory Group is that the strategy largely reflects a generic sustainable travel model primarily suited to urban, non-disabled users. It places considerable emphasis on active travel, modal shift, public transport hierarchies, and reducing car dependency. While these principles are valuable, the framing does not yet adequately consider disabled or rural residents.</p> <p>A. Ableism in the strategy</p> <p>By assuming mobility based on higher levels of physical ability, the plan fails to account for residents with limited mobility, for example rural wheelchair users who have no modal choice or people with visual impairment who could not cycle. Designing without these realities in mind creates structural ableism, even if unintentionally.</p> <p>B. Diesel WAV necessity</p> <p>Most WAVs able to carry NHS-prescribed powered chairs are diesel vans. Restricting these removes mobility, so the Plan should recognise this reality whilst encouraging those who can to use lower-carbon modes of transport.</p> <p>C. Inaccessible pavements</p> <p>Walking or wheeling improvements cannot be achieved without safe, accessible pavements. Many do not exist or are unusable. The mention of ‘footpaths’ that have been surveyed by the Ramblers is a different issue – these are important but used for leisure, not for travel from A to B.</p> <p>D. Inaccessible consultation</p> <p>The documents are long, complex PDFs with lots of images and no easy-read versions, large print versions or audio formats. The website says you can request other formats, but this is not good enough. There should be outreach to ensure disabled people are included and can participate as readily as anyone else, otherwise structural bias will lead to an inequitable plan.</p> <p>E. Exposure and health</p> <p>Outdoor waiting for transport (or even being outside for too long) is unsafe for many disabled residents and not acknowledged within the plan. Other practical barriers exist – for example, flagging down the bus is not possible for a visually-impaired person, but their needs are not mentioned.</p>
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	<p>F. Fairness</p> <p>A strategy that works for urban non-disabled people but excludes disabled rural residents is not equitable or sustainable.</p> <p>From the comments of the EAG it is clear that there is a lack of consideration of the challenges faced by disabled people, and other groups such as parents with young children, and people who live in rural areas without pavements or bus services.</p> <p>In addition, the plan and its investment framework still does not mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 mph speed limits • Improving links to Congleton station and train services • Ensuring Congleton station is fully-served 7 days a week, including late night trains back from Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent • Improving both public and active travel links between different parts of Congleton and within new housing estates <p>Due to the ableism inherent in the Plan, the Chair has approached the CEC team and they have agreed to meet the Congleton EAG to get direct input into the thinking required for the next version of the plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee might like to consider the formation of an Integrated Transport Working Group again as a Task-and-Finish Group to provide input on the next step of transport planning once the LTP is finalised, which will be the next Congleton Transport Development Plan.</p> <p>The CTC Integrated Transport Working Group brought extensive input to Committee for the last Congleton Transport Development Plan and it had considerable impact.</p> <p>Now that more public transport funding is due from government (with multi-year funding allocations for long-term thinking) it is important that Congleton lobbies for our share of the Cheshire East allocation by developing an effective TDP.</p>
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	None for CTC.
EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS	As noted in the report, the LTP Strategy and Investment Framework is not yet working for all our residents, notably those with disabilities those with similar challenges such as parents with pushchairs.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	The goal for the LTP Strategy and Investment Framework is to support environmental sustainability and the drive to carbon neutrality.
PROPOSAL AND DECISION REQUESTED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit the points in this document as CTC feedback to the Local Transport Plan and Investment Framework, with any points Councillors wish to add. 2. Ask the Congleton Equal Access Advisory Group to meet with the Local Transport Plan Strategy team at CEC and provide insight and input for the next version of the Plan and Investment Framework.

	3. Set up an Integrated Transport Working Group to provide ongoing input as the Local Transport Plan Strategy and Investment Framework, and subsequently Congleton Transport Development Plan, are developed.
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Your Transport – Your Voice

Consultation brochure

This
consultation
ends on
**7 December
2025**



Enabling prosperity
and wellbeing for all

Cheshire East
Council

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Foreword

Cheshire East is a borough full of ambition and opportunity. We are home to a highly skilled population, a thriving business community and diverse towns and villages that make our borough a place where people want to live, work, and visit.

Transport and travel play a crucial role in our everyday lives. To ensure our continued success and prosperity, we must plan for a transport network that is fit for the future – one that connects people to jobs, education, healthcare and leisure.

Since our last Local Transport Plan (LTP) was adopted in 2019, the way people move around has changed significantly. New challenges have emerged but so have new opportunities. That's why we've developed a new LTP Strategy and Investment Framework, to ensure our transport policies remain robust, relevant, and responsive to the needs of our residents.

Following the decision to establish a Combined Authority across Cheshire and Warrington, strategic transport will be considered sub-regionally in the future. This LTP puts us on the front foot to feed in our strategic transport priorities for Cheshire East.

This updated plan has been shaped through a collaborative approach across the council, to ensure that transport is not considered in isolation, but as a key aspect of our broader ambitions for the borough.

We know that improving travel choices can help tackle health inequalities, reduce emissions, and support economic growth. Our vision sets out how we will meet these challenges head-on, by investing in better connections, supporting active travel, enhancing public transport, and making our transport system more accessible.

This brochure outlines our vision, policies, and investment approach. Your views are vital in shaping the final strategy. We invite you to take part in this consultation and help us deliver a transport system that reflects the ambitions and needs of our communities - now and for the future.

Together, we can create a brighter, more connected tomorrow for everyone.



**Councillor
Mark Goldsmith**
*Chair of Highways and
Transport Committee*



**Councillor
Liz Braithwaite**
*Vice Chair of Highways
and Transport Committee*



Introduction

Travel is an essential part of everyday life. Whether it's getting to work, accessing education and healthcare, visiting friends and family, or moving goods to support our economy, a reliable and inclusive transport network underpins our borough's wellbeing and prosperity.

Since the consultation on the draft vision and aims earlier this year, we've taken your feedback on board to inform and influence the new LTP Strategy and Investment Framework. There has been extensive engagement across all council departments to ensure a collaborative approach, which supports the delivery of wider strategic priorities.

The Strategy and Investment Framework will guide how we plan, prioritise, and deliver transport improvements across Cheshire East. Together, they set out our way forward for a network that works for everyone: supporting growth, improving wellbeing, reducing environmental impacts and enhancing connections.

This is your chance to help shape our future transport strategy. Your ideas and experiences will guide the plans and priorities that affect us all. Whether you're a resident, business, commuter, or visitor – **your voice matters**.



What is a Local Transport Plan (LTP)?

A LTP is a strategic plan for the improvement of transport to meet the needs of the borough and support longer term plans for economic growth. The LTP needs to be relevant to national, regional and local priorities relating to the economy, environment, health and wellbeing and social inclusion. The LTP will set the context for future investment plans and prioritising within budget. The new LTP enables Cheshire East to feed in proactively to the new Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority.



Vision and aims

In early 2025, we invited residents, businesses, and stakeholders to help shape the future of transport in Cheshire East. Through focus groups, surveys, and targeted engagement, we gathered views on what matters most to residents – accessibility, sustainability, safety and connectivity. These insights, alongside detailed transport evidence and data analysis, have informed the development of our updated LTP.

Our vision shows what we want to achieve for our transport network. It sets out our ambition that will support how we develop, enhance and deliver a network that seeks to meet the needs of people who live, work and visit our borough.



Growing the economy

To support Cheshire East's economy by providing a resilient, connected and accessible network that supports education, housing, business development and employment opportunities.

Improving the wellbeing of our community



To improve health, wellbeing and inclusion in Cheshire East by supporting people to get to where they need to safely.



Reducing environmental impacts

To reduce the impact of transport on the environment in Cheshire East, managing the effect on climate change, air quality and biodiversity.

Improving connections for all



To provide transport choices for all who travel in and around Cheshire East and provide attractive alternatives to private cars.

Our vision is to provide a well-connected, safe and sustainable transport network, accessible to all, that supports a healthy, prosperous Cheshire East.

Policies

Our aims set out our intentions for delivery. To guide these and to ensure a coordinated approach, we have identified a set of cross-cutting policies. These policies actively support our vision and provide clear commitment and direction.

Our six policy statements are set out below and help define how we will work towards achieving the vision and aims. Please refer to the LTP Strategy for more information on the six policies.



1

Support the delivery of growth within the borough through improved connections

Purpose: Strengthen connections between people, jobs and opportunities to support the economy.

Summary: Our financially sustainable transport schemes, plans and initiatives will focus on enabling business growth, improving access to employment, education and leisure and supporting sustainable housing growth.

Achieved by:

- Enhancing public transport and active travel links
- Improving interchange between different modes of transport
- Supporting well-connected development

2

Ensure transport improvements are fair and inclusive, actively reduce inequalities and promote better health and wellbeing

Purpose: Make transport accessible for all.

Summary: Our plans, projects and proposals will deliver inclusive transport improvements, which support all groups and communities across the borough, in both urban and rural areas. We will develop accessible and sustainable travel options, as well as maintaining access by car for those that need it.

Achieved by:

- Inclusive design and infrastructure
- Affordable and flexible travel options
- Targeted improvements for excluded groups



3

Promote initiatives and infrastructure that support environmental sustainability and the drive to carbon neutrality

Purpose: Create safer, cleaner, and more active environments.

Summary: Considering Cheshire East's ambition to become a carbon neutral borough by 2045 in all decision-making, we will act to promote environmental sustainability by supporting low carbon infrastructure, influencing travel choice and considering the environmental impact of our decisions.

Achieved by:

- Considering the impacts of transport infrastructure improvements
- Managing transport networks in ways that contribute towards environmental improvements



4

Prioritise improvements in line with the transport user hierarchy

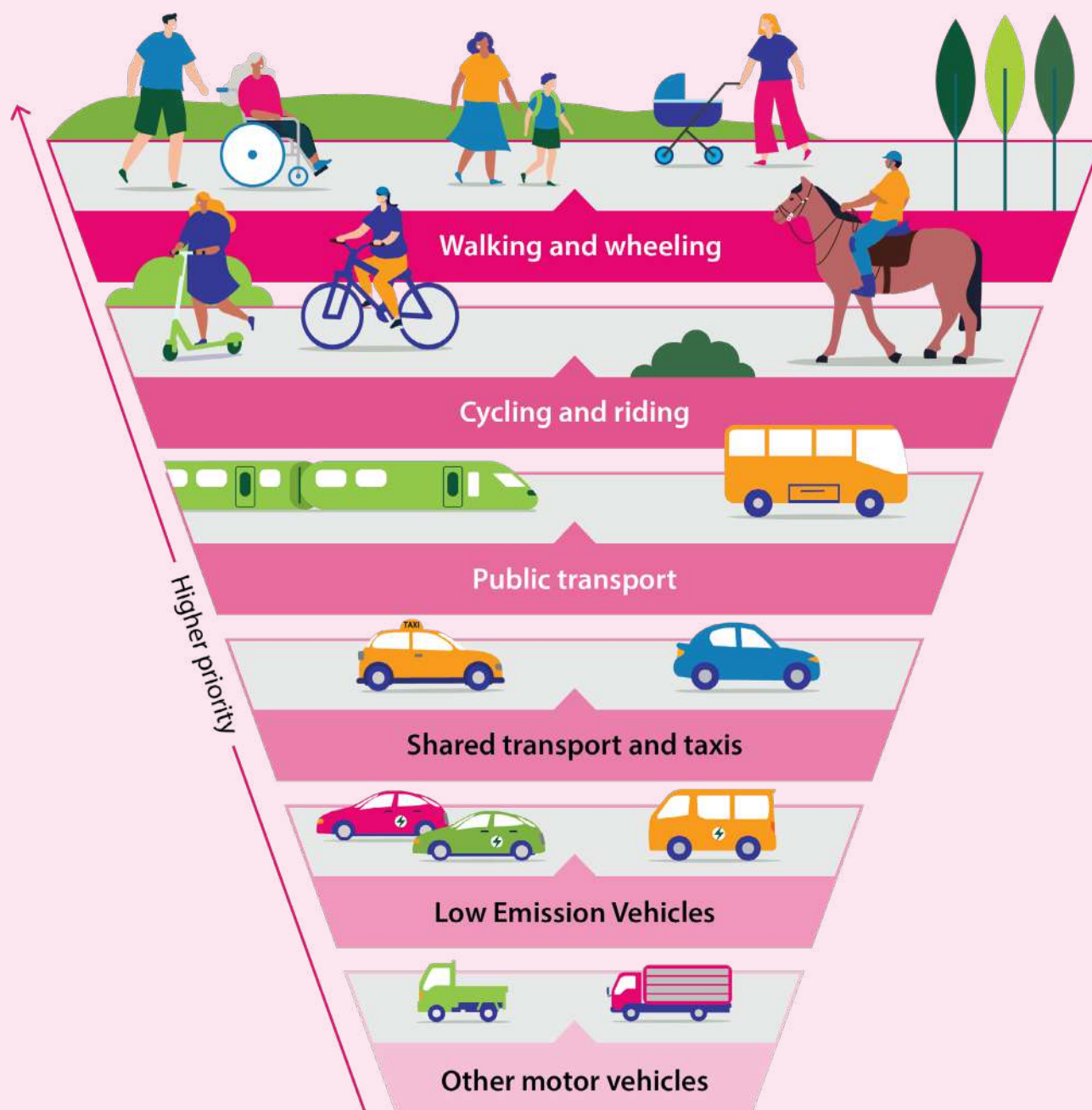


Purpose: Support the shift to low carbon travel.

Summary: To promote healthier and safer journeys, we will apply the transport user hierarchy, where possible, prioritising active and sustainable modes and vulnerable road users, while recognising the continued importance of accessible car and freight routes.

Achieved by:

- Assessing the needs of all users
- EV charging infrastructure
- High quality infrastructure for bus and active travel
- Shared mobility and behaviour change





5

A place-based approach that responds to the specific needs of people living and travelling across the borough

Purpose: Local specific solutions based on people's needs and evidence.

Summary: Our transport solutions, initiatives and schemes will be tailored to the diverse needs of people living and travelling across Cheshire East. We will influence travel through developing place-specific travel options that support people to get to where they want and need to be: effectively, safely and conveniently.

Achieved by:

- Identifying local specific solutions, sensitive to the local environment
- Investment in strategic corridors to key locations

6

Effective enhancement and development of the transport network, adopting a Manage-Maintain-Invest hierarchy

Purpose: Effective management of our transport assets.

Summary: Network and infrastructure improvements will follow a structured hierarchy where the priority is to Manage-Maintain-Invest.

Achieved by:

- Flood mitigation and climate adaptation
- Long-term infrastructure planning
- Understanding user needs across all modes of transport



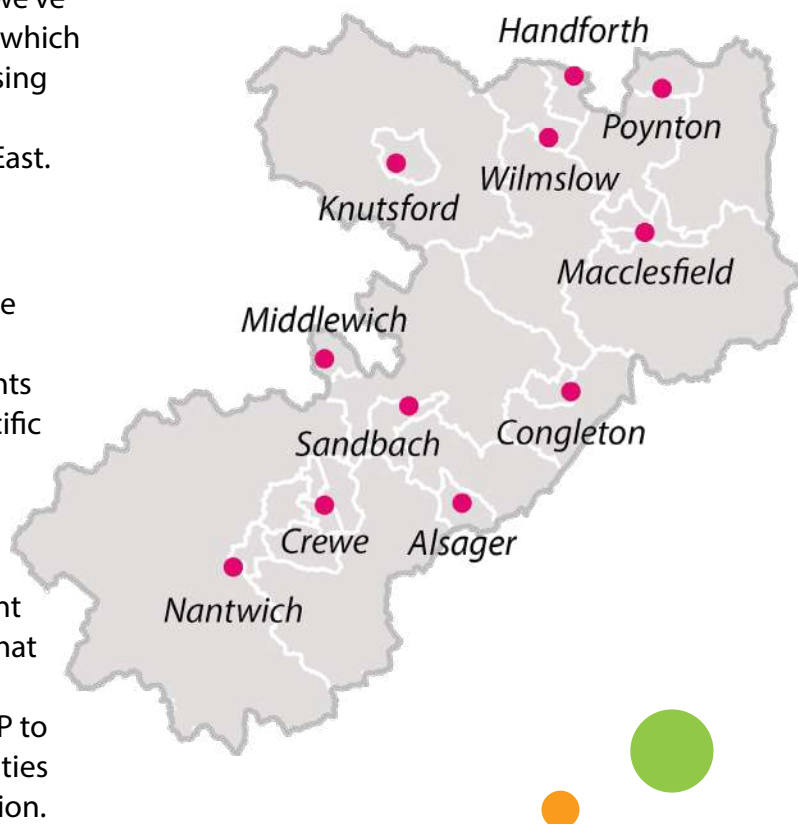
How we plan and prioritise

Delivering our transport vision requires locally tailored, targeted investment. That's why we've developed a new Investment Framework, which provides a structured approach to prioritising projects that align with our LTP vision and deliver the greatest benefits for Cheshire East.

Our key investment packages

To support with prioritising investment, we have identified strategic packages. These packages comprise transport improvements which are high level and either place-specific or boroughwide. This package approach enables flexibility in delivery but also a focus on the outcomes needed.

We have undertaken a bespoke assessment to identify the top performing packages that support our vision. These 'key investment packages' will be the initial focus of the LTP to set us on a course to impact our communities and make beneficial steps towards our vision.



Place-specific

Connecting
Crewe

Connecting
Macclesfield

Connecting
with Greater
Manchester

Connecting
with Manchester
Airport

Boroughwide

Bus network
enhancements

Rural
connectivity

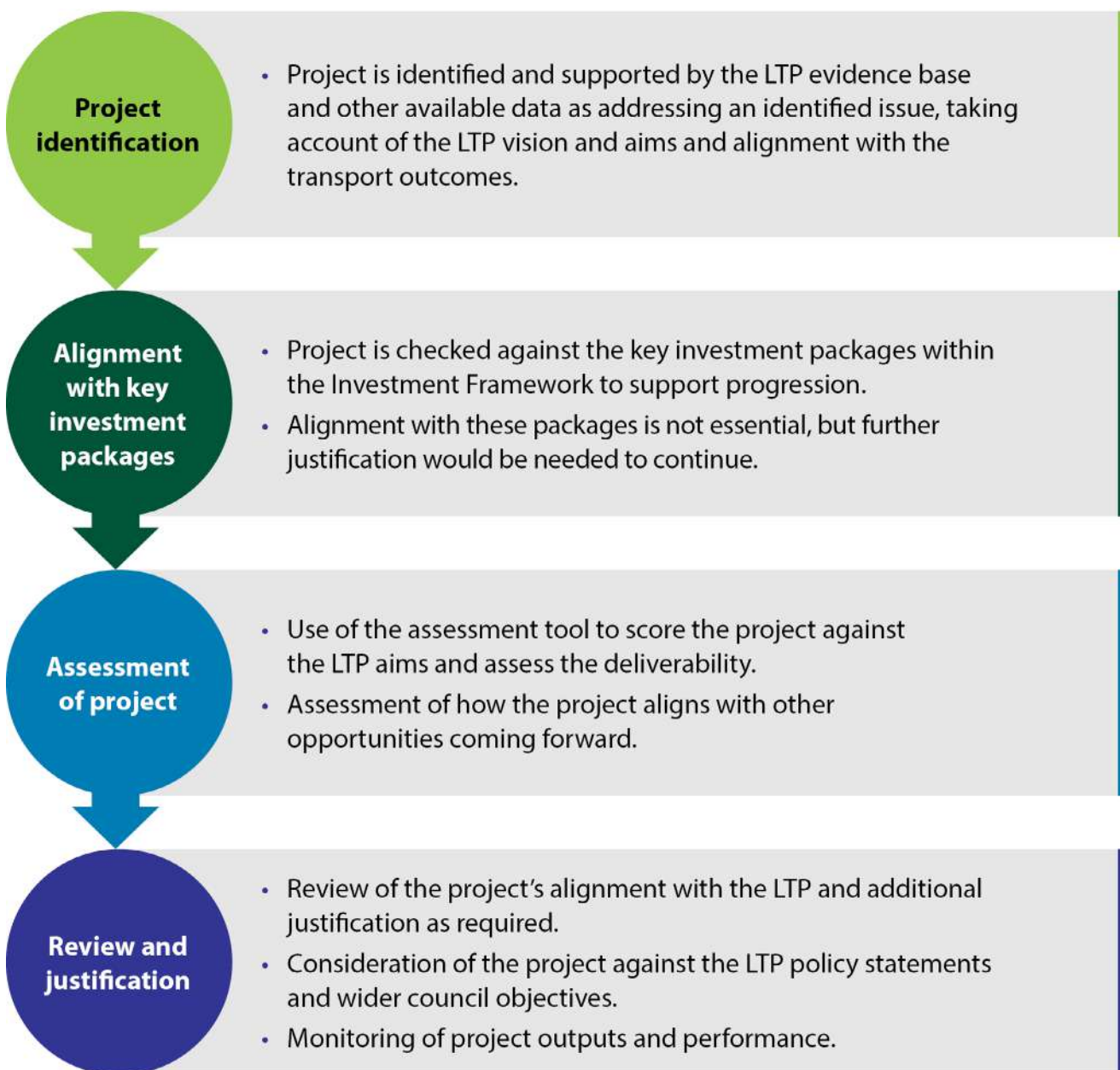
Enhancing
the inclusivity of
the network

Influencing
travel
behaviour

Extended
maintenance and
management

From strategy to delivery

The Investment Framework provides a simple four-step approach which will be used for all transport projects and help us to guide investment to those projects best supporting the LTP vision.



While our framework identifies packages to guide investment, we also recognise that travel patterns and needs change. Therefore, this document may need to be reviewed and updated to allow emerging schemes or technologies to be incorporated. As such, this Investment Framework will not preclude new schemes or amendments to existing packages – it sets out a framework that can be used dynamically. The framework enables schemes to be assessed in a fair, equitable and transparent way.

As schemes are delivered, monitoring will be key to ensuring we are meeting our aims and remain focused on outcomes. Our transport network performance will be reviewed in line with the Key Performance Indicators set out in our LTP.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Health Impact Assessment

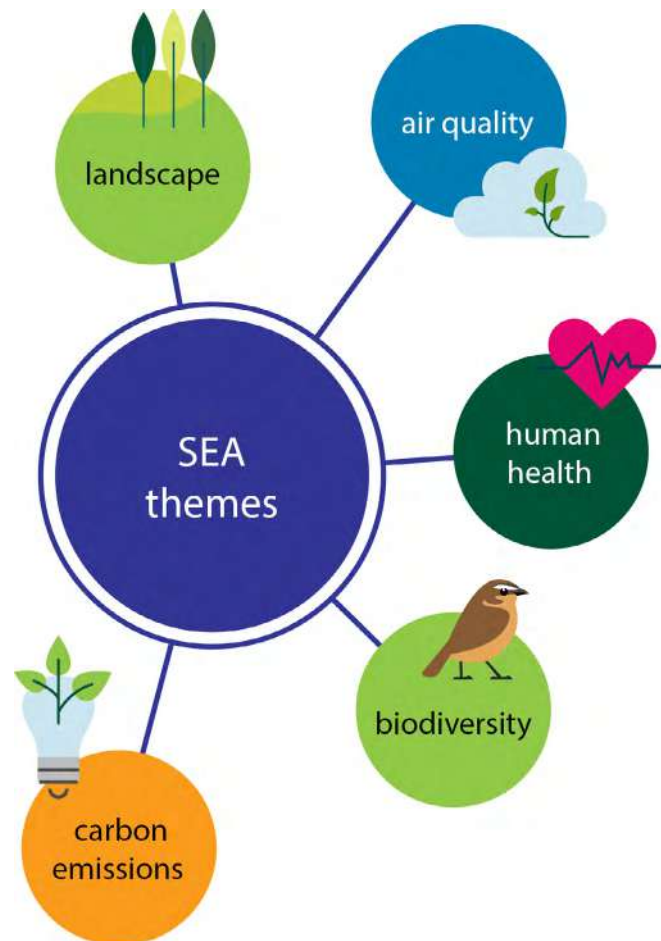
As part of developing the updated LTP, we have carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). It ensures that our transport strategy supports environmental protection and sustainability from the outset.

The SEA is a legal requirement, but more importantly, it's a tool for making better decisions. It ensures that our transport plan not only connects people and places but also protects the environment we all depend on.

The SEA evaluates how proposed policies and key investment packages might affect air quality, carbon emissions, biodiversity, landscape and human health. It helps us:

- identify risks,
- avoid unintended harm, and
- strengthen positive outcomes – especially around climate resilience and active travel.

Use the QR code to review the documents in more detail.



Get involved

By taking part in this consultation, you can influence:

- how we address transport-related challenges and inequalities,
- the outcomes we focus on: economic growth, health, sustainability, or connectivity, and
- which schemes are prioritised for delivery.

This is your opportunity to help us build a transport network that works for everyone.

Please take a few minutes to share your views.

This consultation opens on
Monday 13 October and closes on
Sunday 7 December 2025.



Have Your Say



To submit your views, you can:



Scan the **QR Code**



Visit: **www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/LocalTransportPlan**



Send your views by email to: **ceconsultation@cheshireeast.gov.uk**

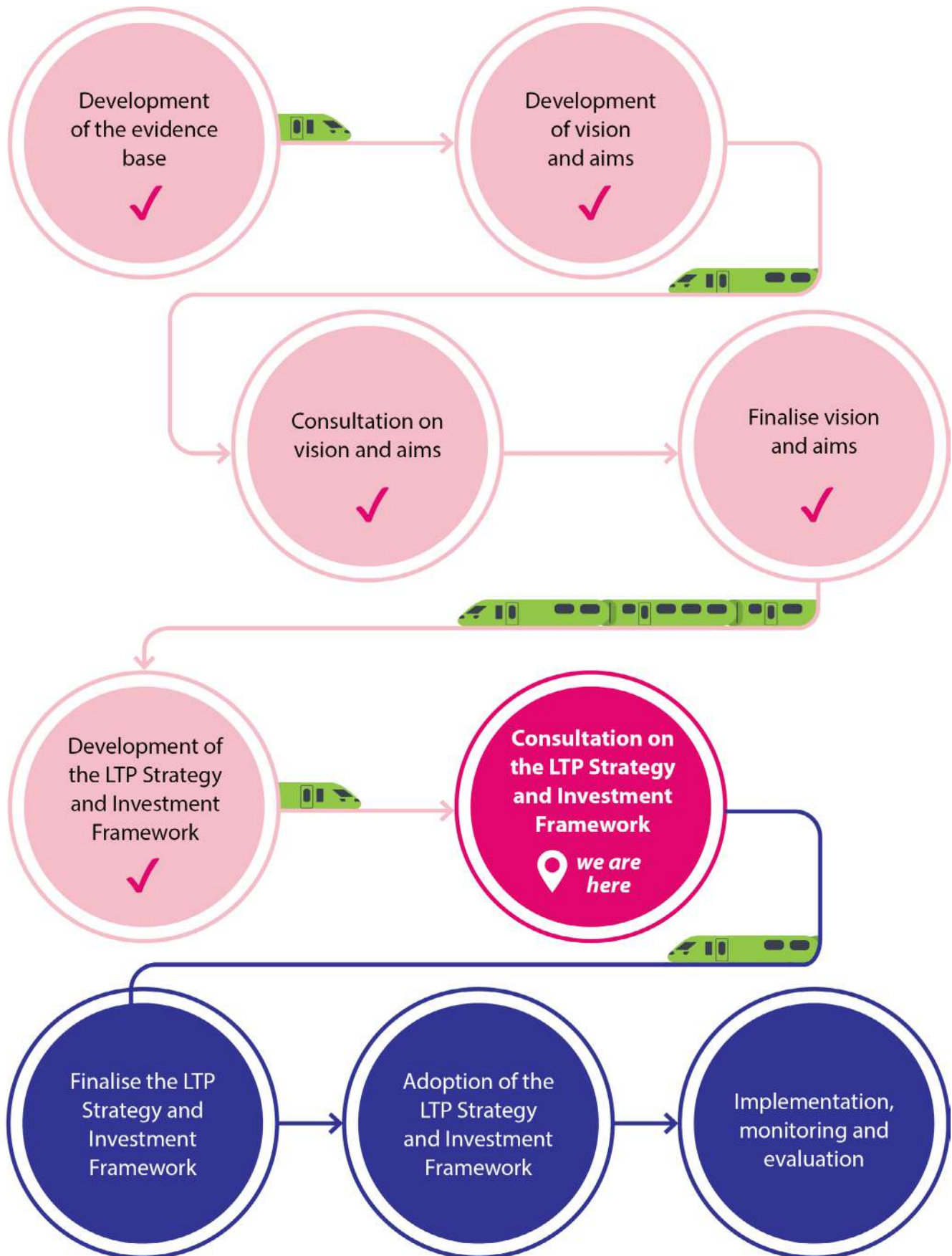


If you are not able to complete the consultation online, paper copies of the questionnaires and brochures are available at our libraries and leisure centres. You can also request these materials by calling **0300 123 5500**, or writing to us at *Research and Consultation, Cheshire East Council, 4th Floor, Delamere House, Crewe, CW1 2LL*



If you would like to receive any consultation material in an alternative format, please also send an email to: **ceconsultation@cheshireeast.gov.uk**

Next steps





Further information:



www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/LocalTransportPlan



Or call 0300 123 5500

Cheshire East Council
Delamere House
Delamere Street
Crewe, CW1 2LL

This information is available in other formats on request

**Enabling prosperity
and wellbeing for all**



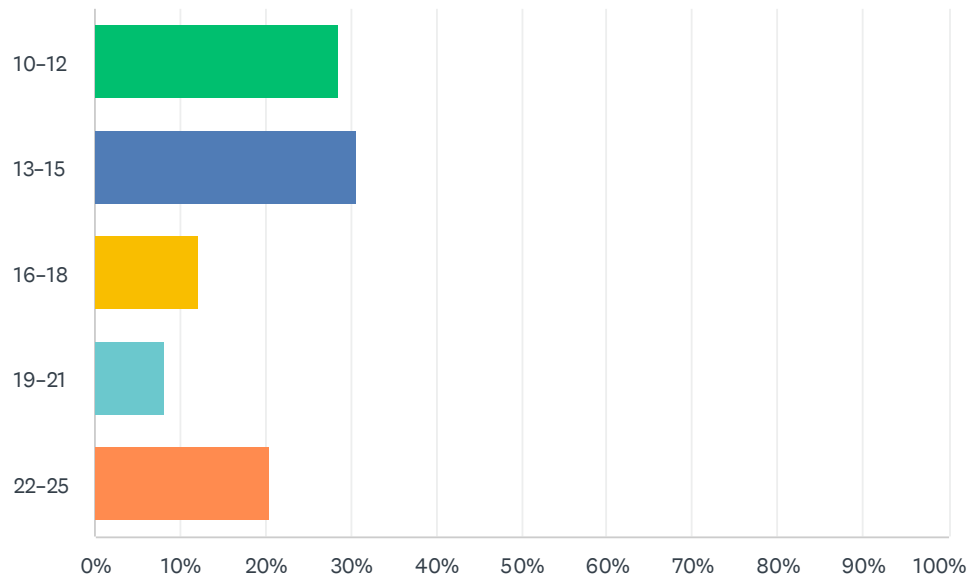
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27th November 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
FROM	Cllr Kay Wesley and Barney Mitcheson (Mayor's Cadet 2024-25)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Youth Council Update		
BACKGROUND	<p>Congleton Town Council used to have a Youth Council Committee, but this stopped functioning about 5 years ago. It had an ongoing problem of the young people involved leaving Congleton and difficulty with succession planning.</p> <p>Young people in the town have shown an interest in the workings of the Council and have participated in Town Hall Tours, where their enthusiasm to learn more and participate in our democracy has been evident.</p> <p>CO/05/2526 - Resolved to support the continued work to set up a Youth Council, including Officer time to organise a workshop, and the use of the Town Hall.</p>		
UPDATE	<p>The Youth Council Survey generated 52 responses. View a summary of the results on this in Appendix 1.</p> <p>In a separate session, Rangers and Scouts were also asked what activities, clubs and pastimes they would like.</p> <p>The first Youth Council workshop took place on 21st October at 6:30 pm, 14 young people attended, from ages 10 to 18. Working in 4 teams, they shared their ideas on how to set up a Youth Council, brainstormed ideas and worked up 4 ideas in more detail.</p> <p>The young people who attended were all enthusiastic and keen to get involved.</p> <p>You can view the outputs from the session and survey results in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Appendix 3 is a draft constitution for the Youth Council, which is simple and easy to understand.</p> <p>A WhatsApp group has been set up as the main communication channel for members. The group is looking to organise a Christmas social with a view to starting the Youth Council in January 2026.</p>		
Financial Implications	Use of the Brassiere to hold meetings. A budget will be approved at the Council budget setting to support the Youth Council.		
Environmental Implications	Engaging young people could help support our initiatives to combat climate change		
Equality and Diversity Impact	It will help the Council to be fully representative of our community if we listen to the voices of young people. The team commits to reaching out to as diverse a range of young people as possible, so that it is not just privileged youngsters who have a voice in the Youth Council.		

DECISION REQUESTED	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the Youth Council workshop.2. To recommend that the Youth Council constitution be approved at Council and added to the Congleton Town Council Constitution, replacing the previous version.
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Q1 How old are you?

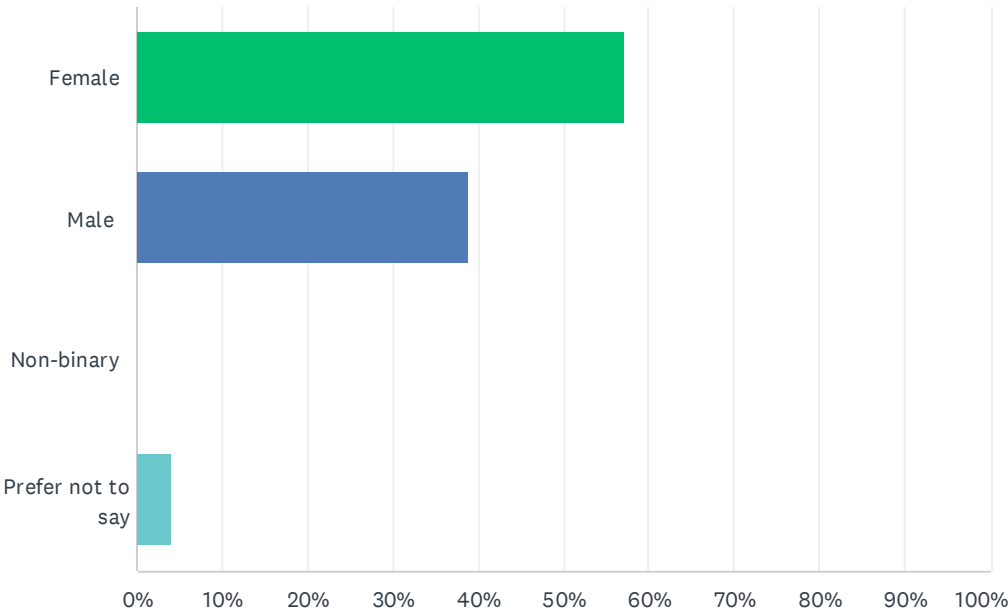
Answered: 49 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
10–12	28.57%	14
13–15	30.61%	15
16–18	12.24%	6
19–21	8.16%	4
22–25	20.41%	10
TOTAL		49

Q2 What is your gender?

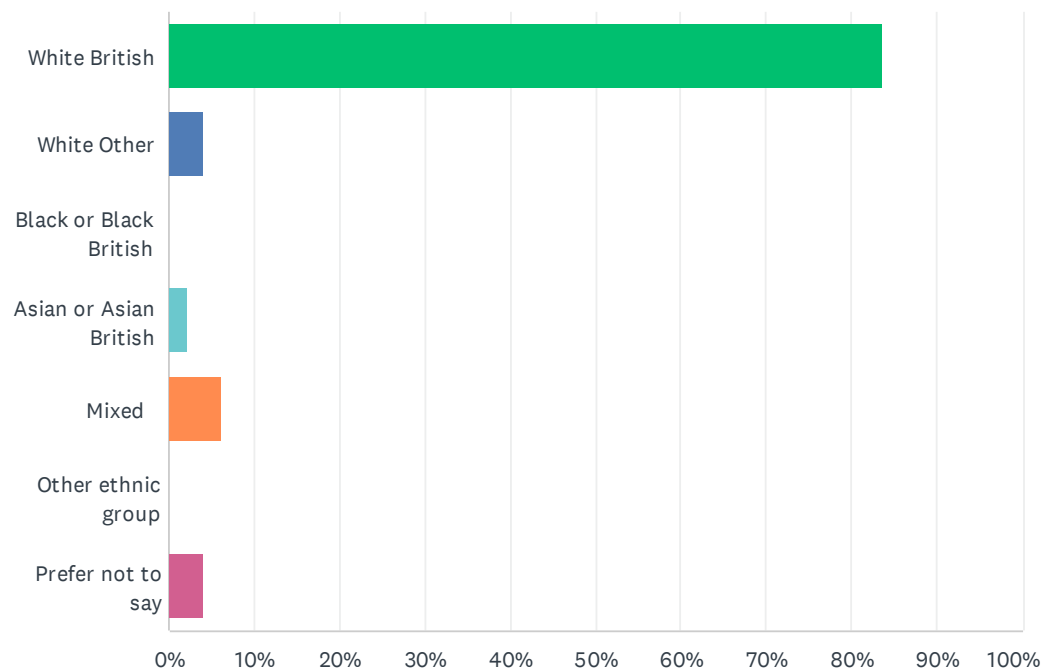
Answered: 49 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Female		57.14%	28
Male		38.78%	19
Non-binary		0.00%	0
Prefer not to say		4.08%	2
TOTAL			49

Q3 What is your ethnic background?

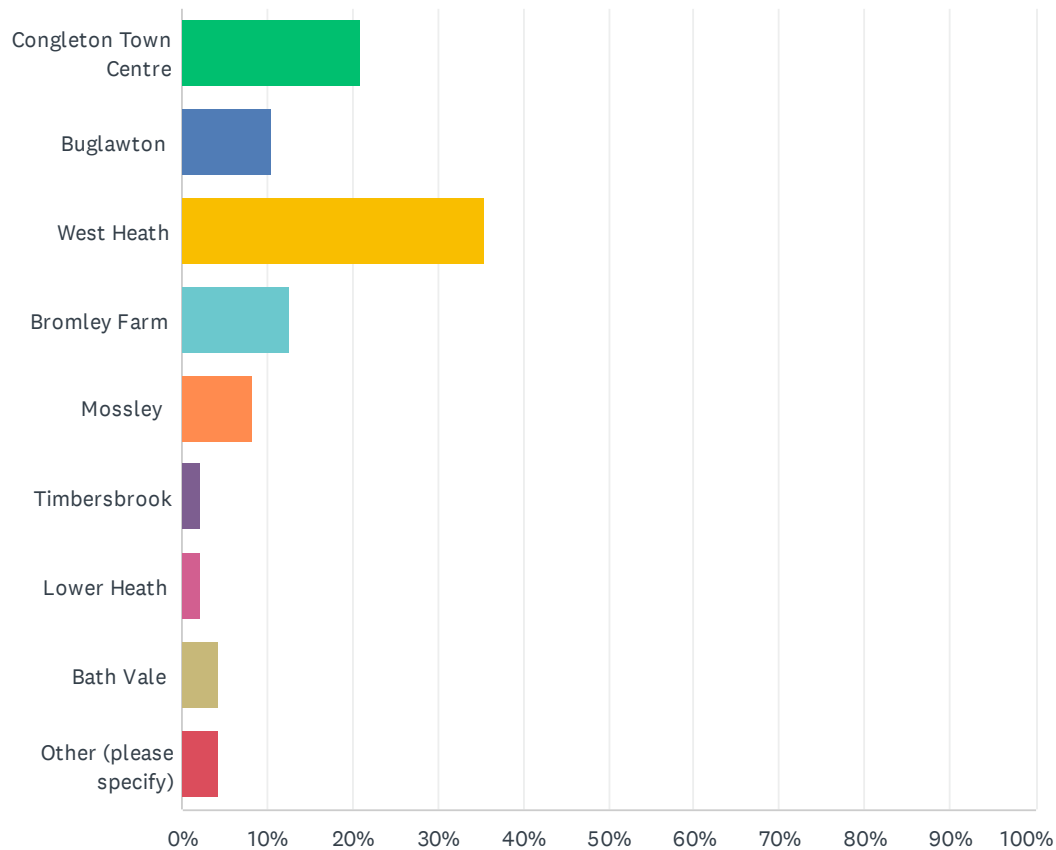
Answered: 49 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White British	83.67%	41
White Other	4.08%	2
Black or Black British	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British	2.04%	1
Mixed	6.12%	3
Other ethnic group	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	4.08%	2
TOTAL		49

Q4 Where do you live (or spend most of your time)?

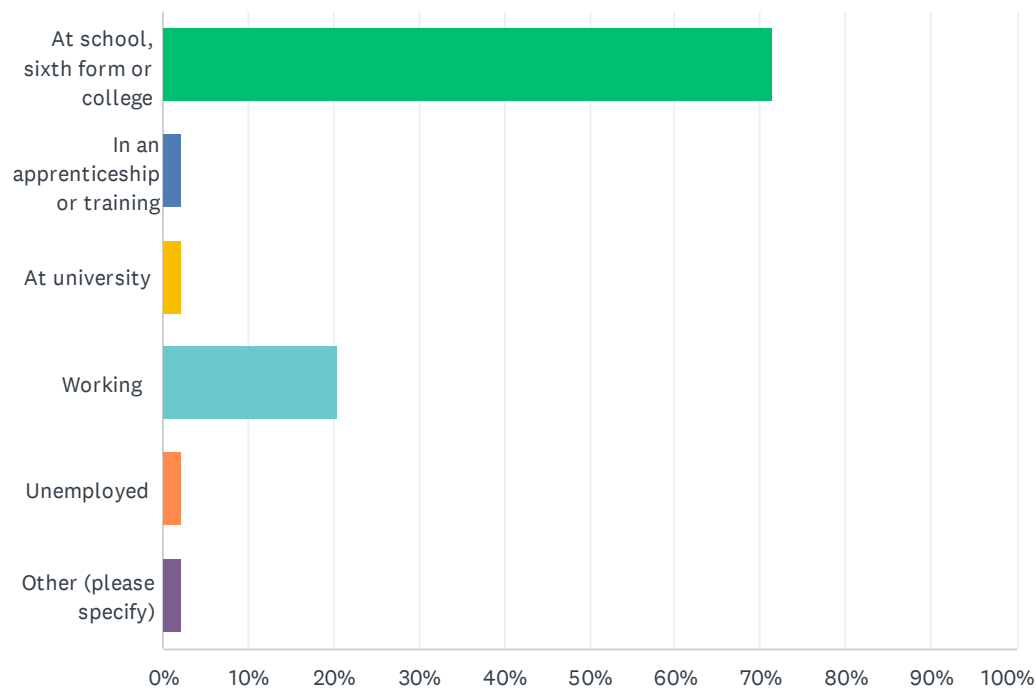
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Congleton Town Centre	20.83%	10
Buglawton	10.42%	5
West Heath	35.42%	17
Bromley Farm	12.50%	6
Mossley	8.33%	4
Timbersbrook	2.08%	1
Lower Heath	2.08%	1
Bath Vale	4.17%	2
Other (please specify)	4.17%	2
TOTAL		48

Q5 Are you currently:

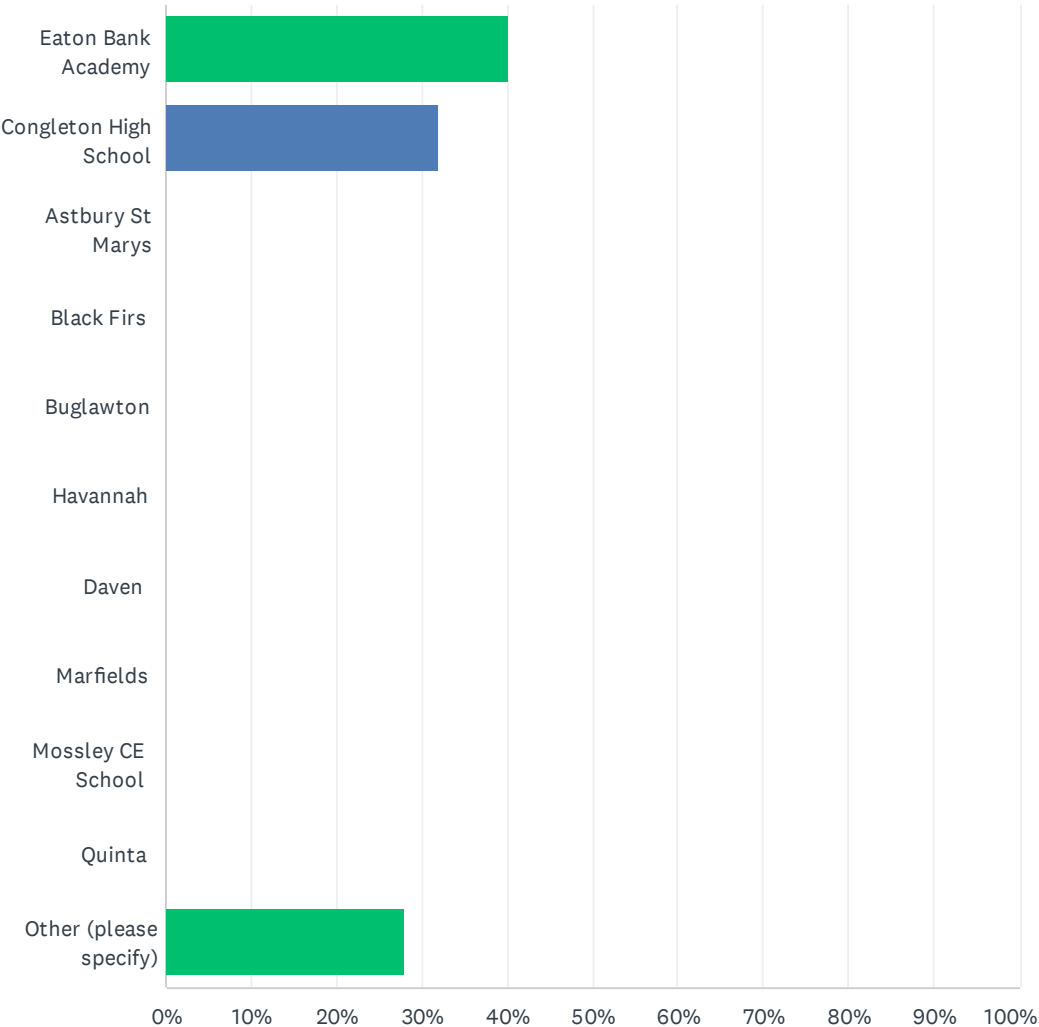
Answered: 49 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At school, sixth form or college	71.43%	35
In an apprenticeship or training	2.04%	1
At university	2.04%	1
Working	20.41%	10
Unemployed	2.04%	1
Other (please specify)	2.04%	1
TOTAL		49

Q6 Which school or college do you attend?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 25

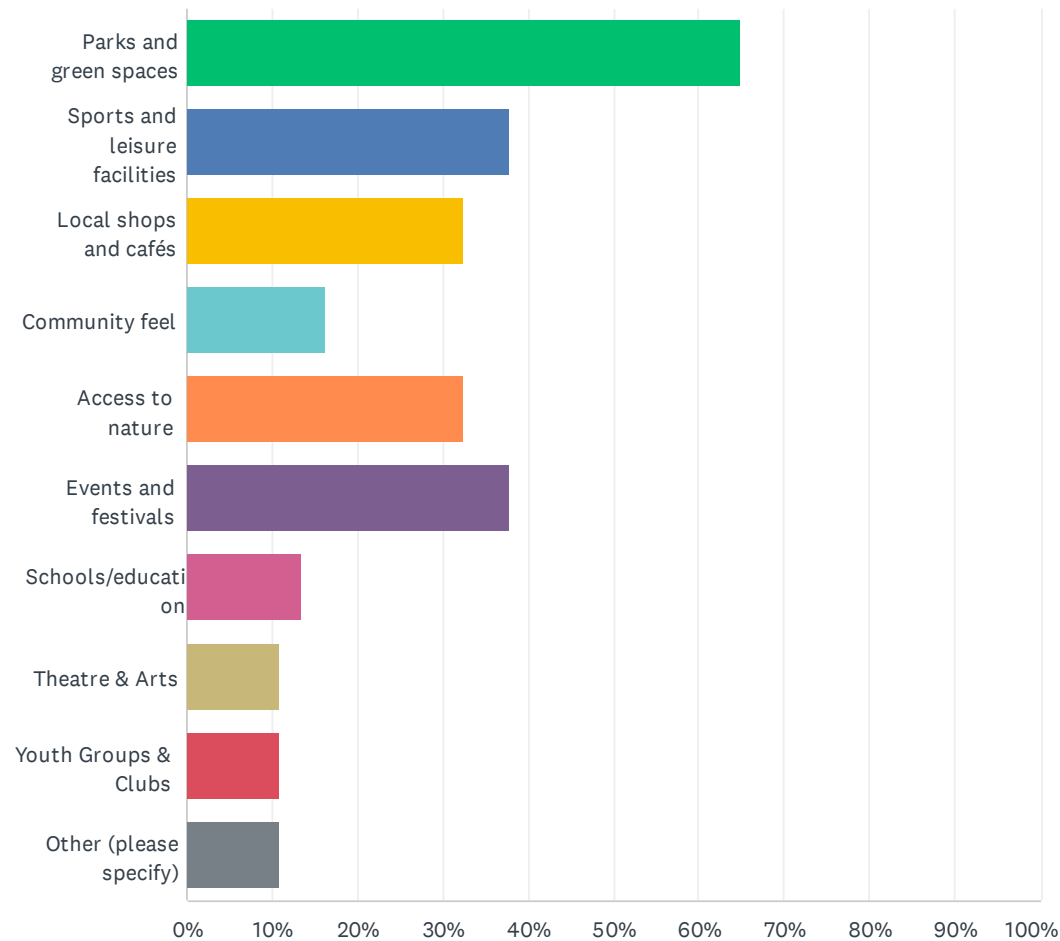


Youth Council Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Eaton Bank Academy	40.00%	10
Congleton High School	32.00%	8
Astbury St Marys	0.00%	0
Black Firs	0.00%	0
Buglawton	0.00%	0
Havannah	0.00%	0
Daven	0.00%	0
Marfields	0.00%	0
Mossley CE School	0.00%	0
Quinta	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	28.00%	7
TOTAL		25

Q7 What do you like most about living in Congleton? (Tick all that apply.)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 13

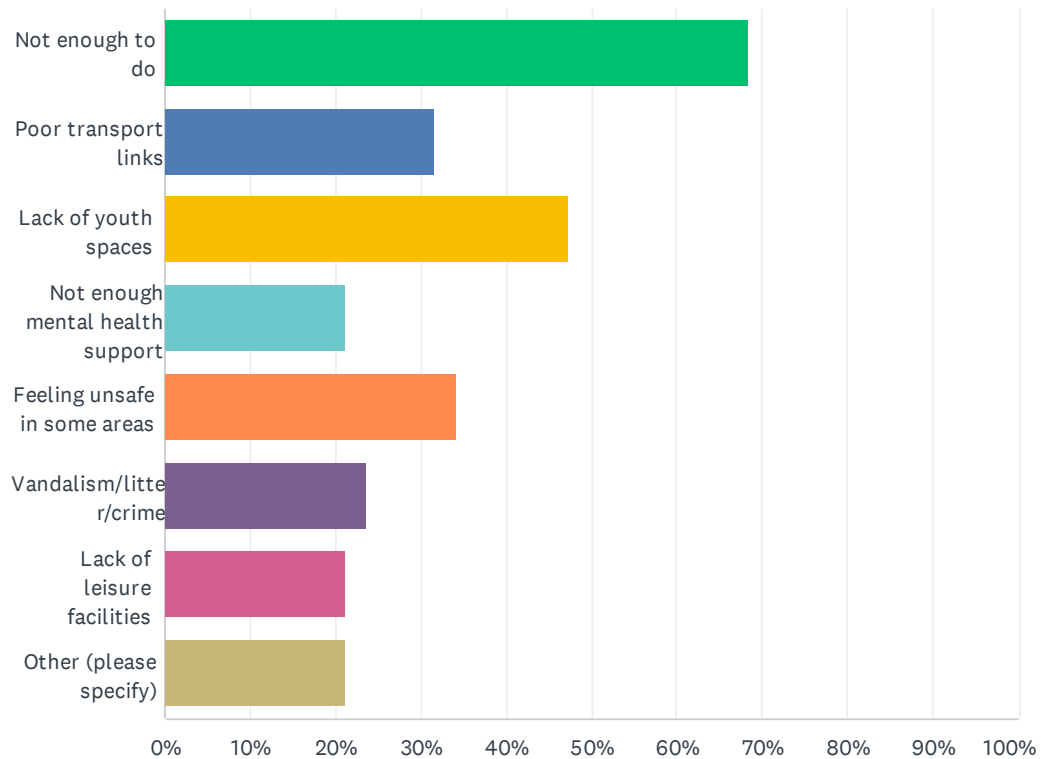


Youth Council Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parks and green spaces	64.86%	24
Sports and leisure facilities	37.84%	14
Local shops and cafés	32.43%	12
Community feel	16.22%	6
Access to nature	32.43%	12
Events and festivals	37.84%	14
Schools/education	13.51%	5
Theatre & Arts	10.81%	4
Youth Groups & Clubs	10.81%	4
Other (please specify)	10.81%	4
Total Respondents: 37		

Q8 What do you not like or think could be better in Congleton?

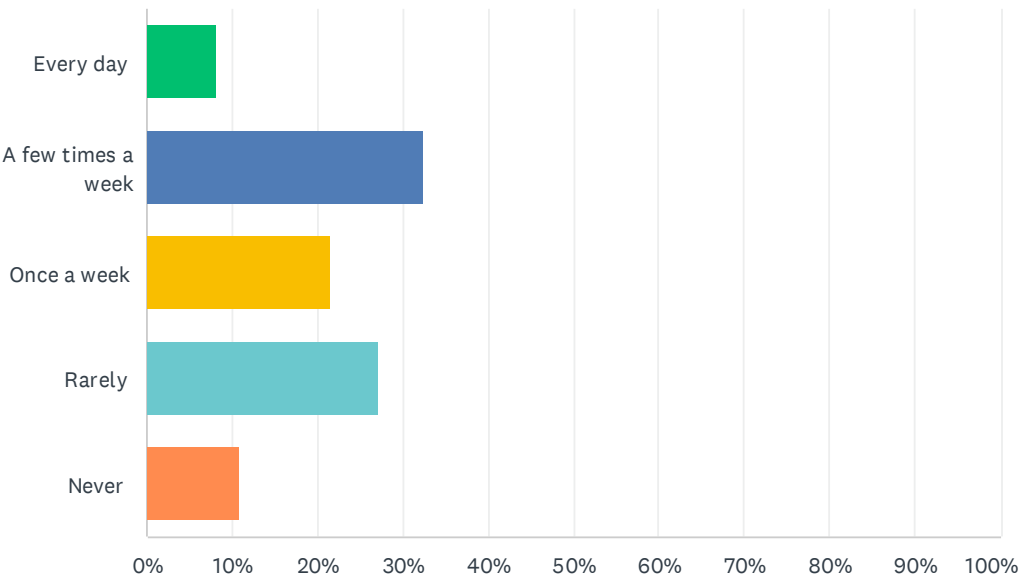
Answered: 38 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not enough to do	68.42%	26
Poor transport links	31.58%	12
Lack of youth spaces	47.37%	18
Not enough mental health support	21.05%	8
Feeling unsafe in some areas	34.21%	13
Vandalism/litter/crime	23.68%	9
Lack of leisure facilities	21.05%	8
Other (please specify)	21.05%	8
Total Respondents: 38		

Q9 How often do you take part in activities outside school/college/work?

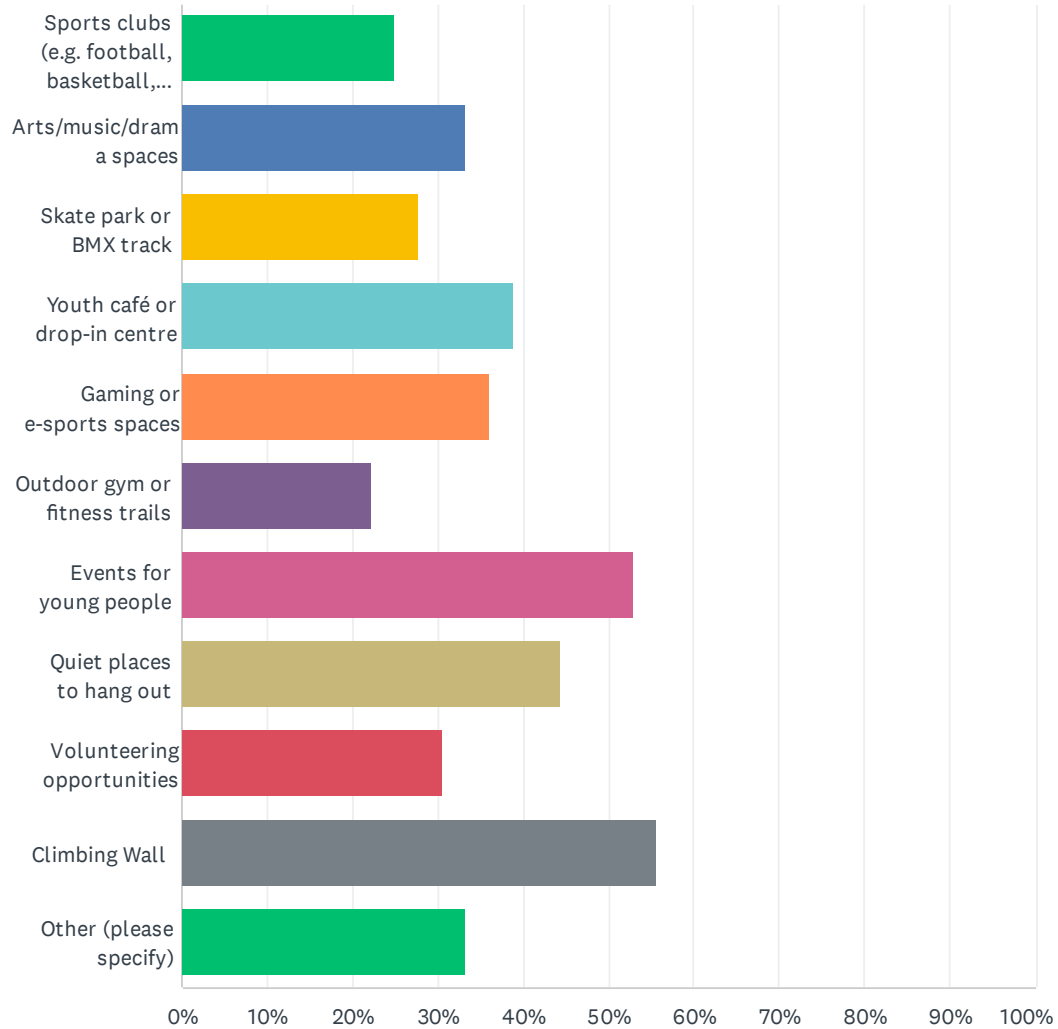
Answered: 37 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	8.11%	3
A few times a week	32.43%	12
Once a week	21.62%	8
Rarely	27.03%	10
Never	10.81%	4
TOTAL		37

Q10 What kinds of activities or places would you like more of in Congleton? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 36 Skipped: 14

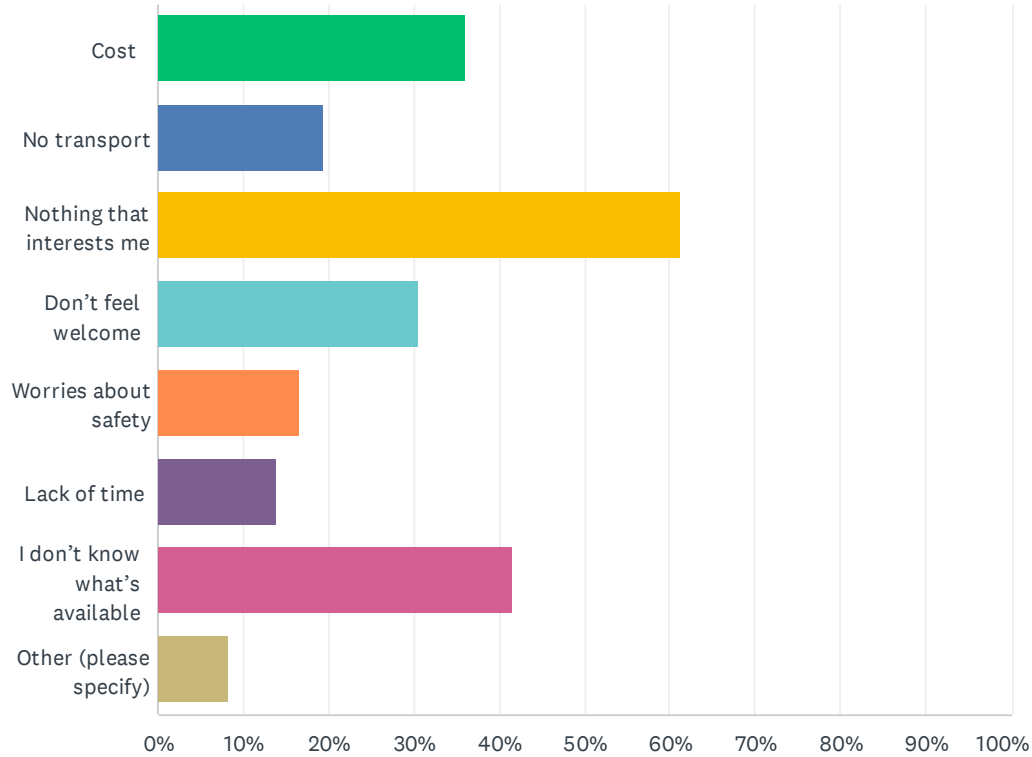


Youth Council Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sports clubs (e.g. football, basketball, boxing)	25.00%	9
Arts/music/drama spaces	33.33%	12
Skate park or BMX track	27.78%	10
Youth café or drop-in centre	38.89%	14
Gaming or e-sports spaces	36.11%	13
Outdoor gym or fitness trails	22.22%	8
Events for young people	52.78%	19
Quiet places to hang out	44.44%	16
Volunteering opportunities	30.56%	11
Climbing Wall	55.56%	20
Other (please specify)	33.33%	12
Total Respondents: 36		

Q11 What stops you from taking part in activities or going out more? (Tick all that apply)

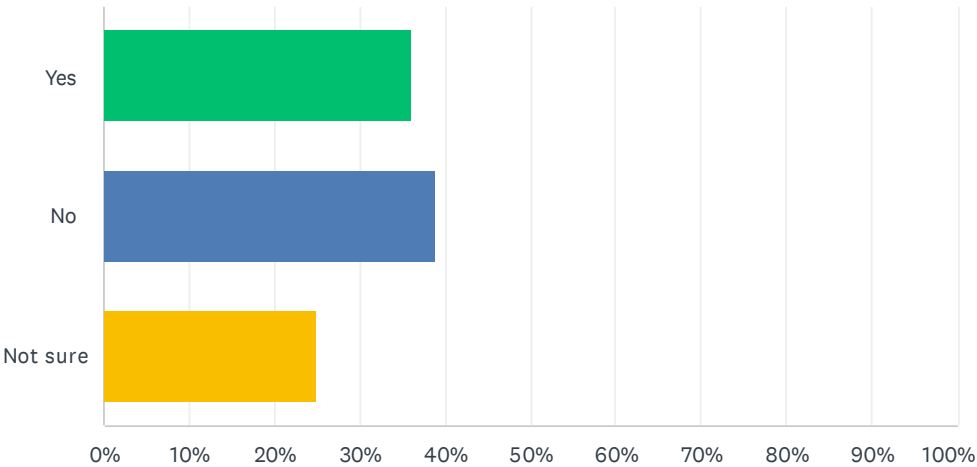
Answered: 36 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cost	36.11%	13
No transport	19.44%	7
Nothing that interests me	61.11%	22
Don't feel welcome	30.56%	11
Worries about safety	16.67%	6
Lack of time	13.89%	5
I don't know what's available	41.67%	15
Other (please specify)	8.33%	3
Total Respondents: 36		

Q12 If you needed support with your mental health or wellbeing, would you know where to go?

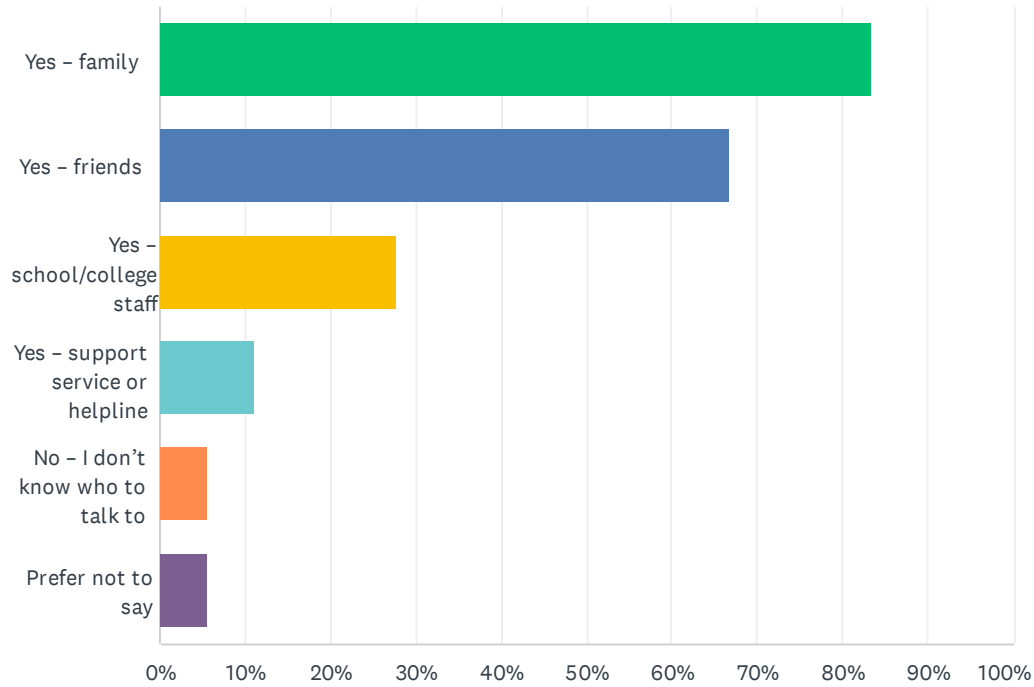
Answered: 36 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		36.11%	13
No		38.89%	14
Not sure		25.00%	9
TOTAL			36

Q13 Do you feel you can talk to someone if you're feeling down or worried? (Tick all that apply)

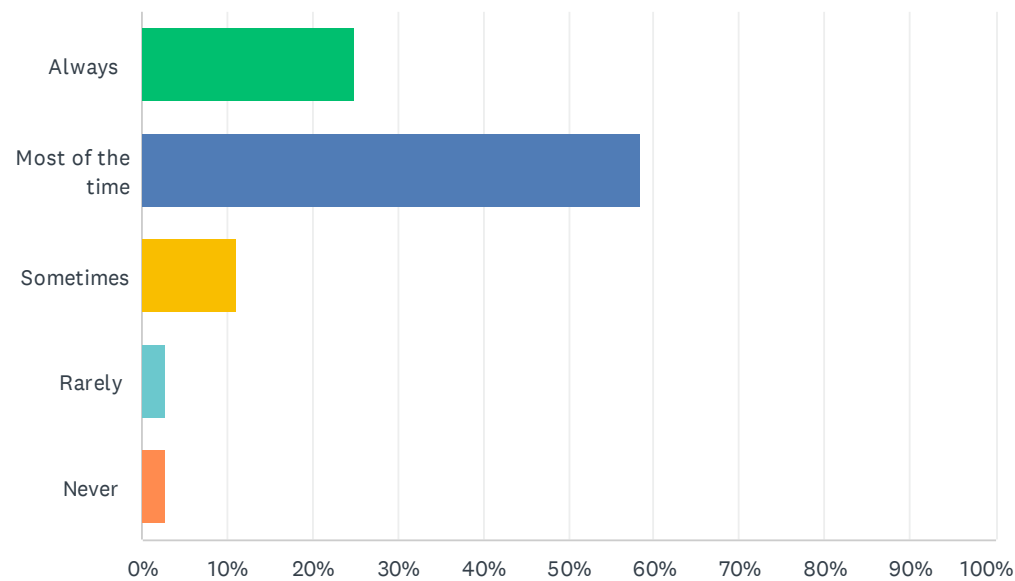
Answered: 36 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes – family	83.33%	30
Yes – friends	66.67%	24
Yes – school/college staff	27.78%	10
Yes – support service or helpline	11.11%	4
No – I don't know who to talk to	5.56%	2
Prefer not to say	5.56%	2
Total Respondents: 36		

Q14 Do you feel safe in Congleton during the day?

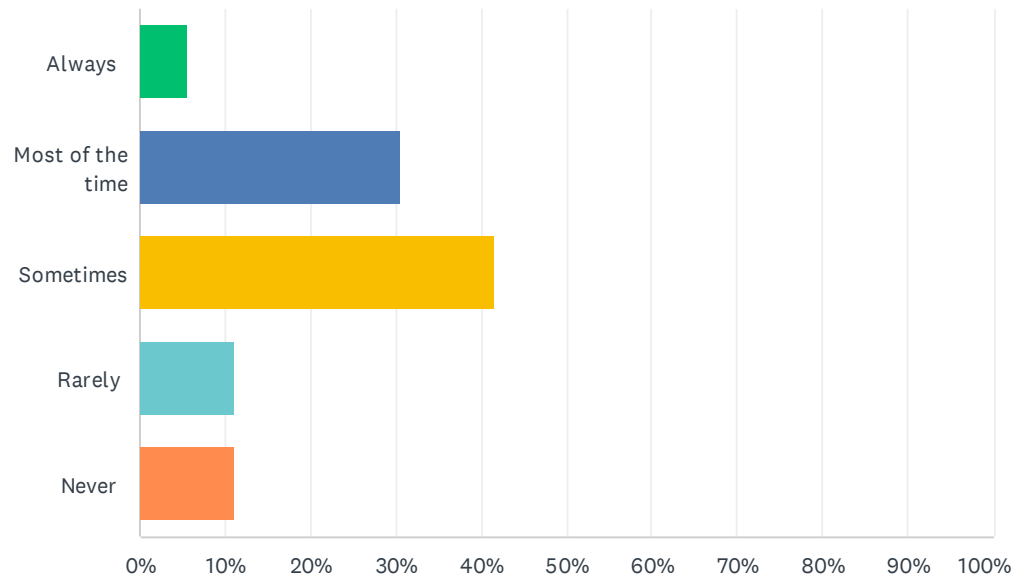
Answered: 36 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Always	25.00%	9
Most of the time	58.33%	21
Sometimes	11.11%	4
Rarely	2.78%	1
Never	2.78%	1
TOTAL		36

Q15 Do you feel safe in Congleton at night?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 14



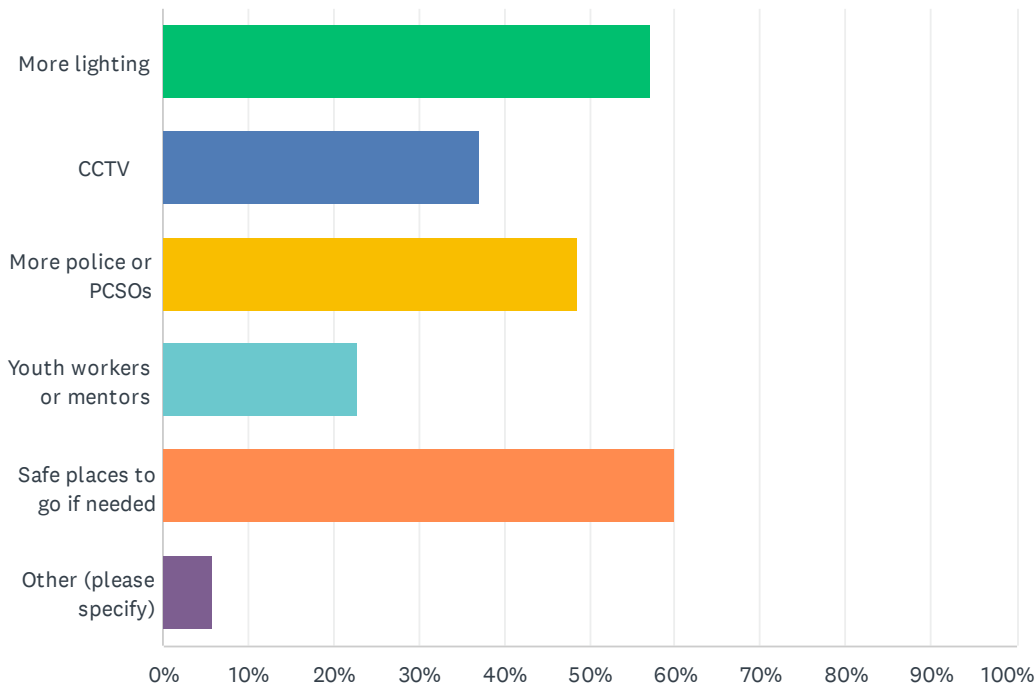
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Always	5.56%	2
Most of the time	30.56%	11
Sometimes	41.67%	15
Rarely	11.11%	4
Never	11.11%	4
TOTAL		36

Q16 Are there places in Congleton where you feel unsafe? If so, please tell us where and why:

Answered: 19 Skipped: 31

Q17 What would help you feel safer? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 35 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More lighting	57.14%	20
CCTV	37.14%	13
More police or PCSOs	48.57%	17
Youth workers or mentors	22.86%	8
Safe places to go if needed	60.00%	21
Other (please specify)	5.71%	2
Total Respondents: 35		

Q18 What is the one thing you would most like to see improved for young people in Congleton?

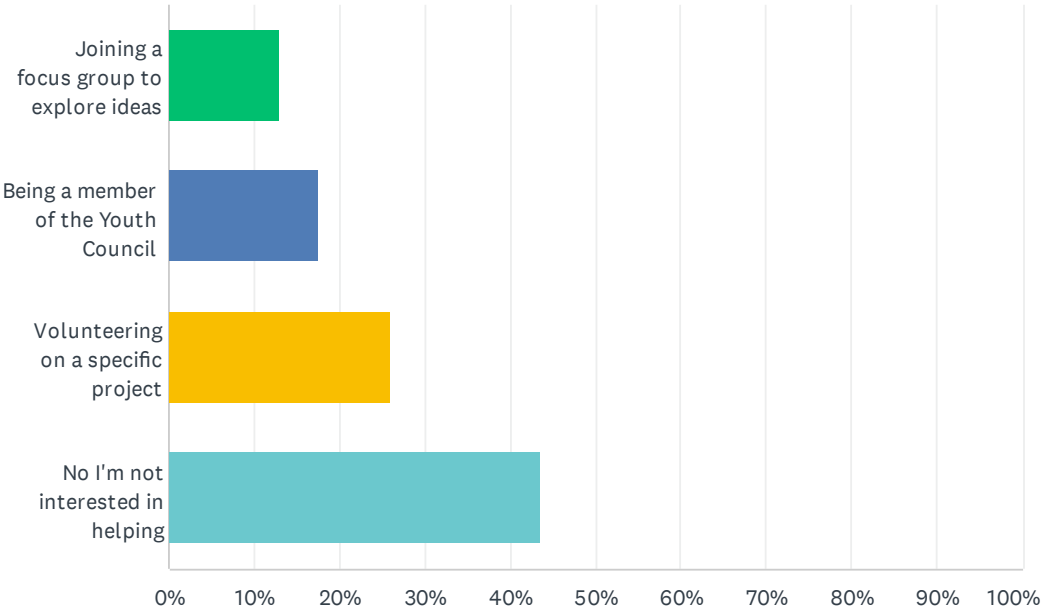
Answered: 23 Skipped: 27

Q19 If you had the chance to run a project or activity for young people in the area, what would it be?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 31

Q20 Would you like to get more involved in making Congleton better for young people? Are you interested in: (tick all that apply)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Joining a focus group to explore ideas	13.04%	3
Being a member of the Youth Council	17.39%	4
Volunteering on a specific project	26.09%	6
No I'm not interested in helping	43.48%	10
TOTAL		23

Q21 Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your voice matters! Please leave your email and phone number if you want to get involved in a new Youth Council for Congleton.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 39

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	11
Email	100.00%	11
Phone Number	72.73%	8

Comments -

Things to do

More things to do shops etc

More places to go and have fun that are well advertised and aimed

More facilities for young people in general

More places where I can spend time with my friends.

Shorter waiting lists for events, groups and activities

Safe youth activities

Somewhere to go where people don't moan at the kids of Congleton as we are all seen as the bad ones

Activities

Something for people to socialise that isn't alcohol centred.

1. Pump track similar to the one in Kidsgrove. 2. somewhere where we can play football that actually has football nets. That's why we don't play at Back Lane and why people get into CHS to play on their 3G

Energy and Food sustainability, Restoring nature that past generation have neglected, Political and Philosophy education.

Trampoline facilities

Gaming cafe or pump track

A hang out a dry safe free space

I don't know, I don't like being in charge of things like that.

Something creative.



Congleton Youth Council

Initial Workshop and Outputs

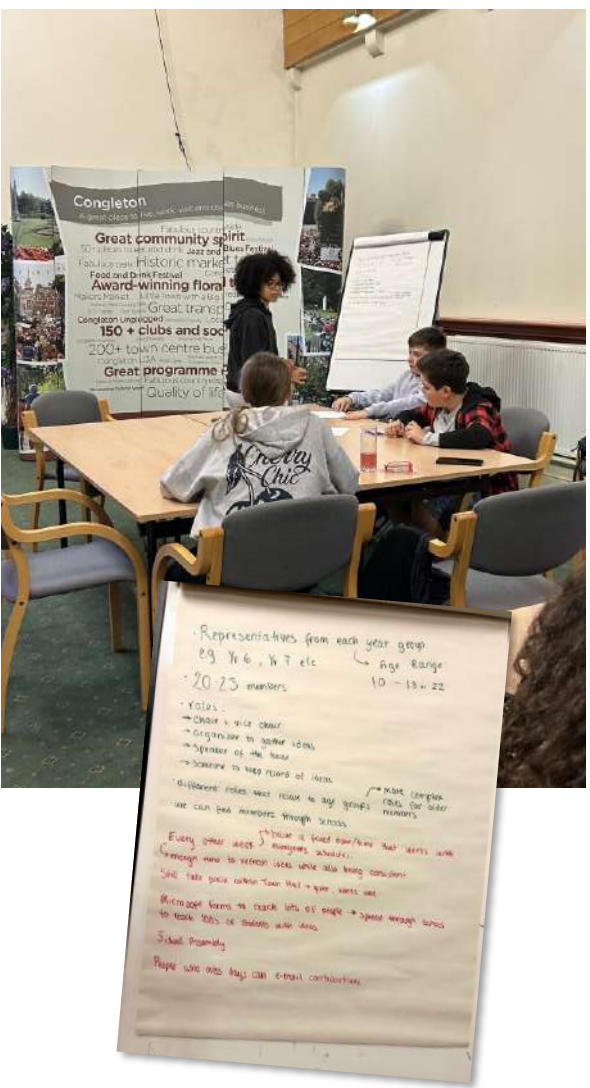
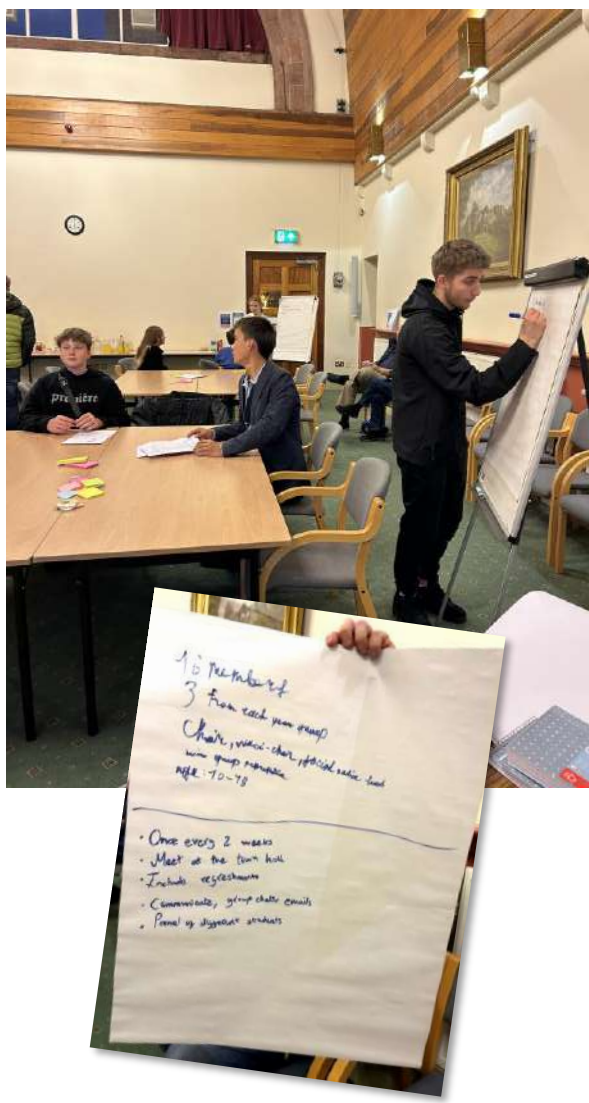
21st October 2025

How should we set a Youth Council up?

When, where and how to meet and share ideas?



The 4 teams shared their ideas on how to set up a Youth Council



Here's the ideas from the 4 teams

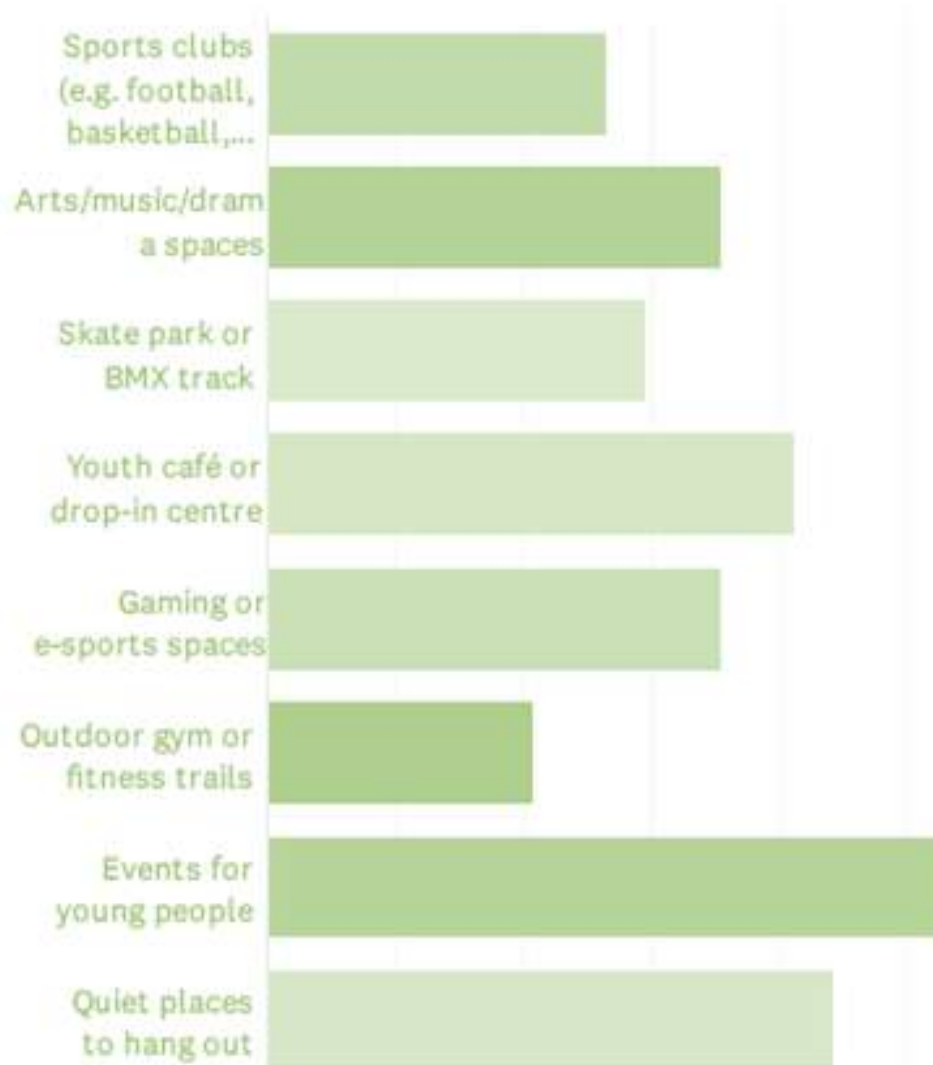
Question	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
How many members?	20-25	15-20	15 or more	16
What roles?	Chair, Vice, organiser to gather ideas, speaker, someone to keep records, different per age group	Chair, Vice , social media manager, councillor, speaker	Speakers, writers, organisers, fundraisers and one head person, 1 from each year group	Chair, Vice, social media lead
What age should the members be?	Each year group, 10-18	Years 7 to 13 (11-18)	Yr 6-13 – 3 or 4/year (10-18) Maybe older group Yr 13+	3 from each year group (10-18)
Where should we find them?	Schools	Teachers talk about it at school, posters	Schools, youth, scouts, clubs in Congleton	Schools
How often should it meet	Every other week	Every 2 weeks – Sundays?	Every other week, 2 hours with break	Every 2 weeks
Where to meet?	Town Hall	Town Hall	Coffee shop, park, town	Town Hall – with refreshments
How to communicate?	School assembly, MS Forms	Social media, surveys	Social media ads, flyers, posters	Group chat, email
Set up a Youth Panel?	Yes	Yes	Yes – some people can't sit in meetings	Yes – different students

General Consensus on Organisation

How many members?	15-25
What roles?	Chair, Vice Chair, Social Media Manager, Fundraising Manager, Speaker (Spokesperson), Writer (Secretary)
What age should the members be?	Years 6 or 7 to 13, ages 10-18
Where should we find them?	Schools, youth groups, clubs, posters, social media
How often should it meet	Every 2 weeks
Where to meet?	In Town Hall (with refreshments) or café/park
How to communicate?	Social media, Chat group, Email
Set up a Youth Panel?	Yes

Q10 What kinds of activities or places would you like more of in Congleton? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 34 Skipped: 13



Initial Ideas and Survey Results

What did young people tell us?

Scouts: What do young people need/want in Congleton?

We asked the Scouts what activities, clubs and pastimes they would like – here are the top 10

- Water Park
- Football field – astroturf
- Amusement Arcade
- Skate Park / Pump Track
- Cinema
- Under 18's nightclub
- Music Festival
- Ski slope
- Sports event – 'Congleton Olympics'
- Theme Park – 'Alton Towers'



Rangers: What do young people need/want in Congleton?

We asked the Rangers what activities, clubs and pastimes they would like – here are the top 10

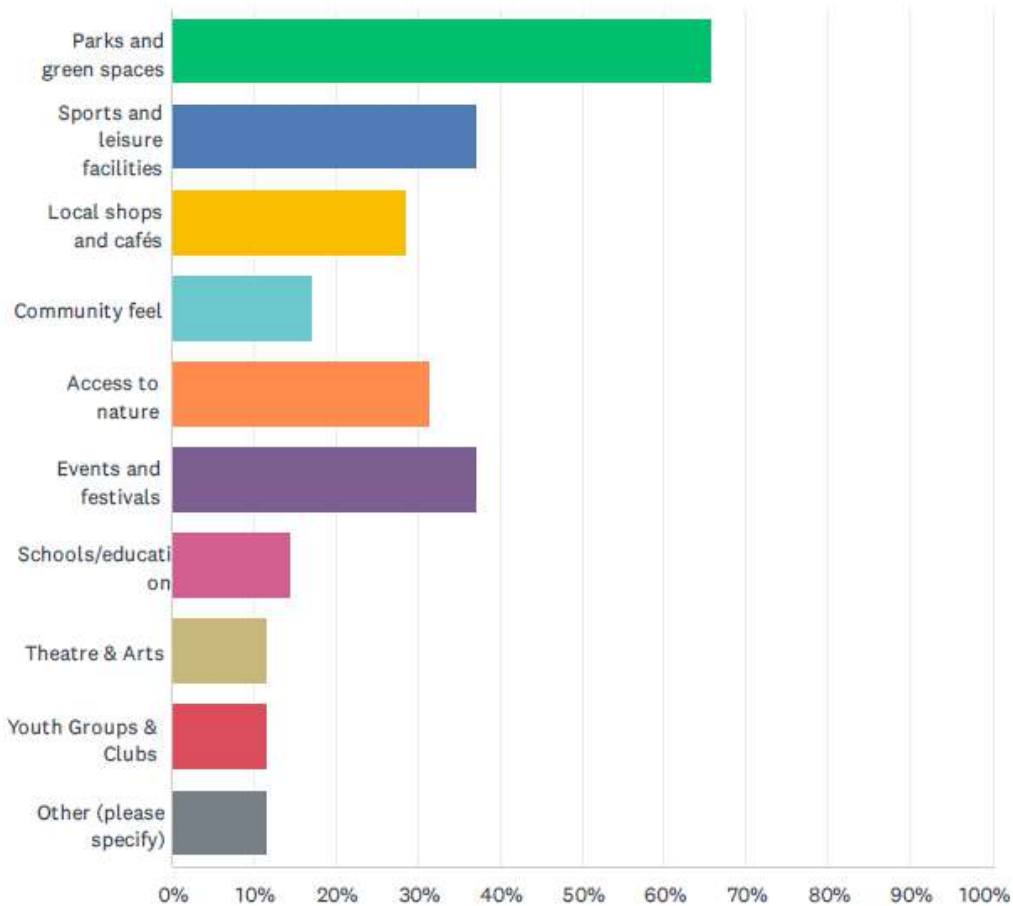
- Arcade
- Cinema
- Skate Park
- Water Park
- Bingo
- Trampolining
- Public transport – more trains/buses
- Ice Rinks
- Bowling Alley
- Driving Test Centre



**From the Survey, our
Parks, green spaces,
sports, nature and
events are the
favourite things in
Congleton today**

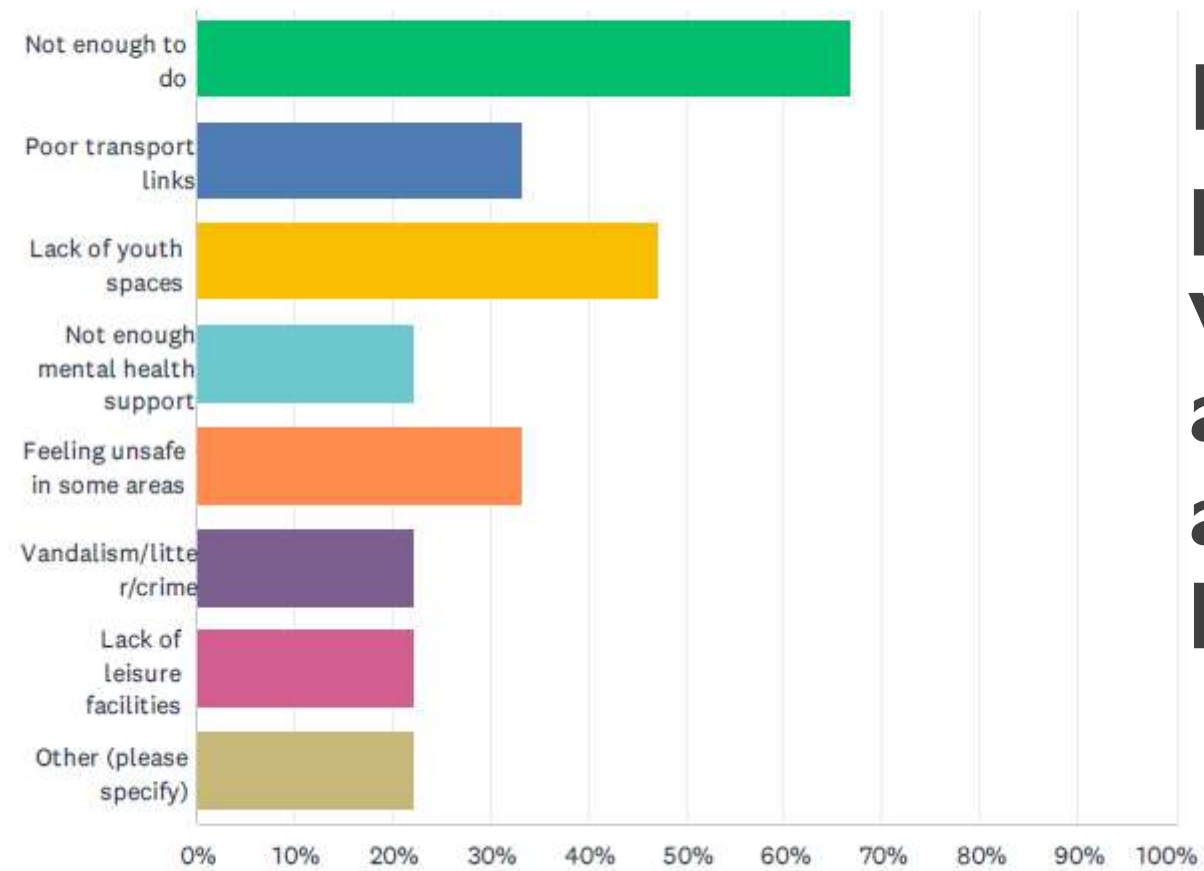
Q7 What do you like most about living in Congleton? (Tick all that apply.)

Answered: 35 Skipped: 12



Q8 What do you not like or think could be better in Congleton?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 11



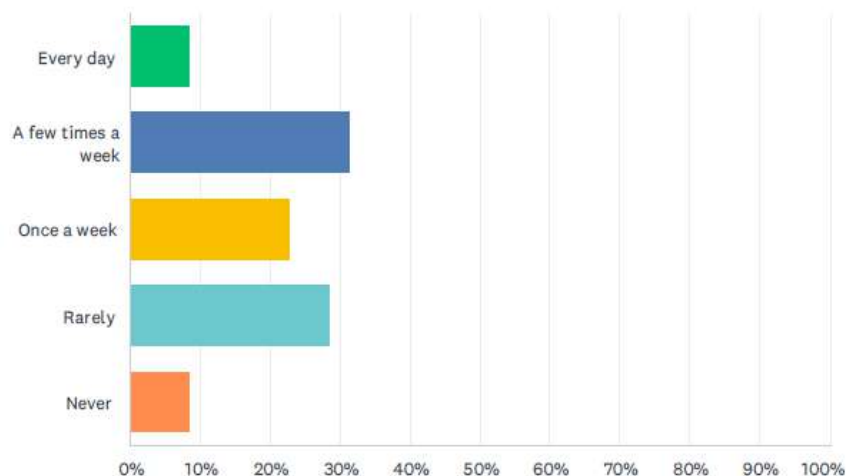
Not enough to do or places to hang out, as well as poor transport and safety concerns, are on the ‘could be better’ list.

**Most respondents are active,
with less than 10% doing
nothing outside school/work...**

**...cost, transport, nothing of
interest and lack of knowledge
are causes of non-participation**

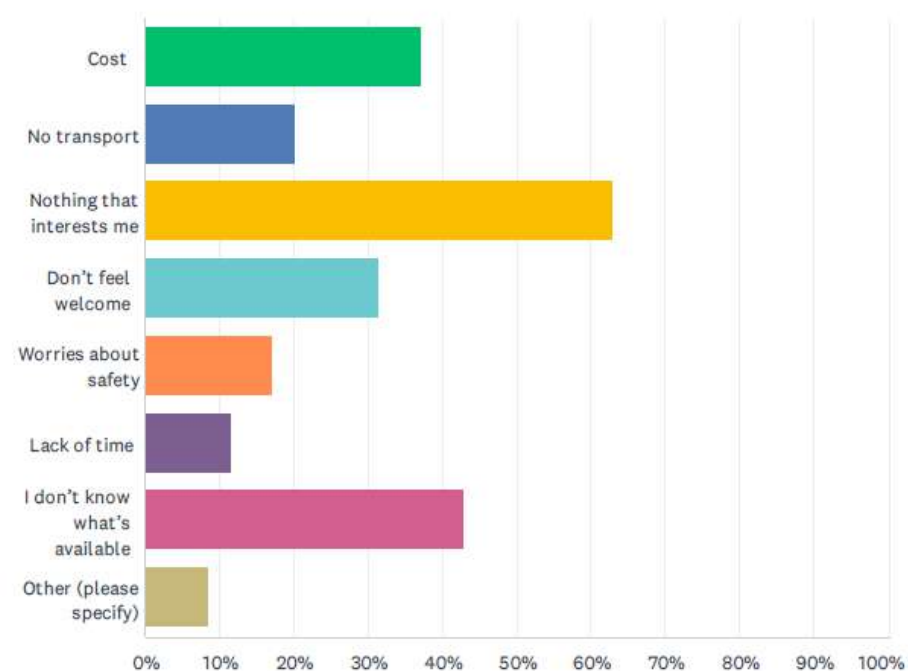
Q9 How often do you take part in activities outside school/college/work?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 12



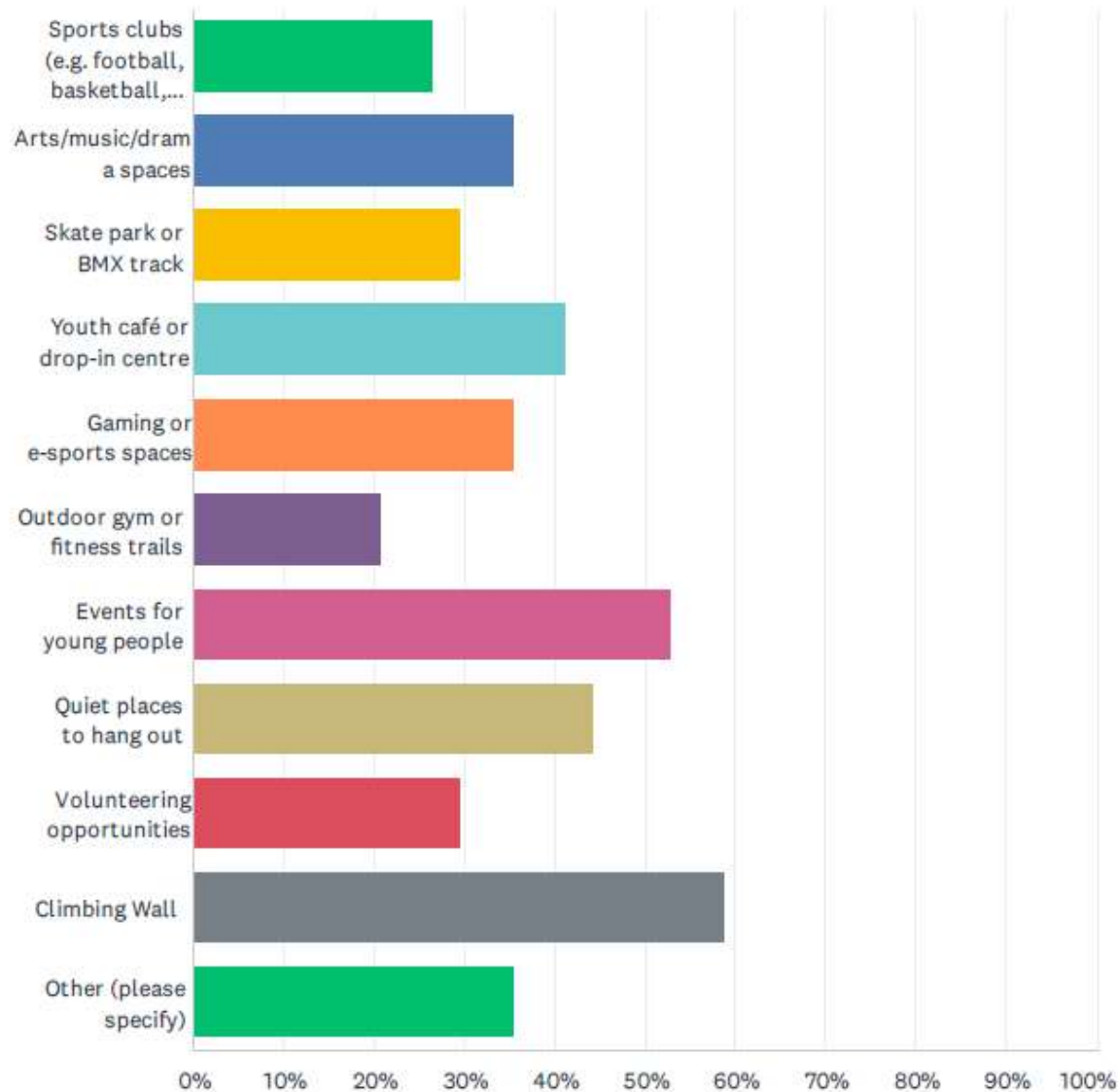
Q11 What stops you from taking part in activities or going out more? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 35 Skipped: 12



Q10 What kinds of activities or places would you like more of in Congleton? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 34 Skipped: 13



The top requests for new activities/facilities were:

- Climbing wall
- Events for young people
- Places to hang out
- Youth café/drop in centre

Let's prioritise for Congleton!

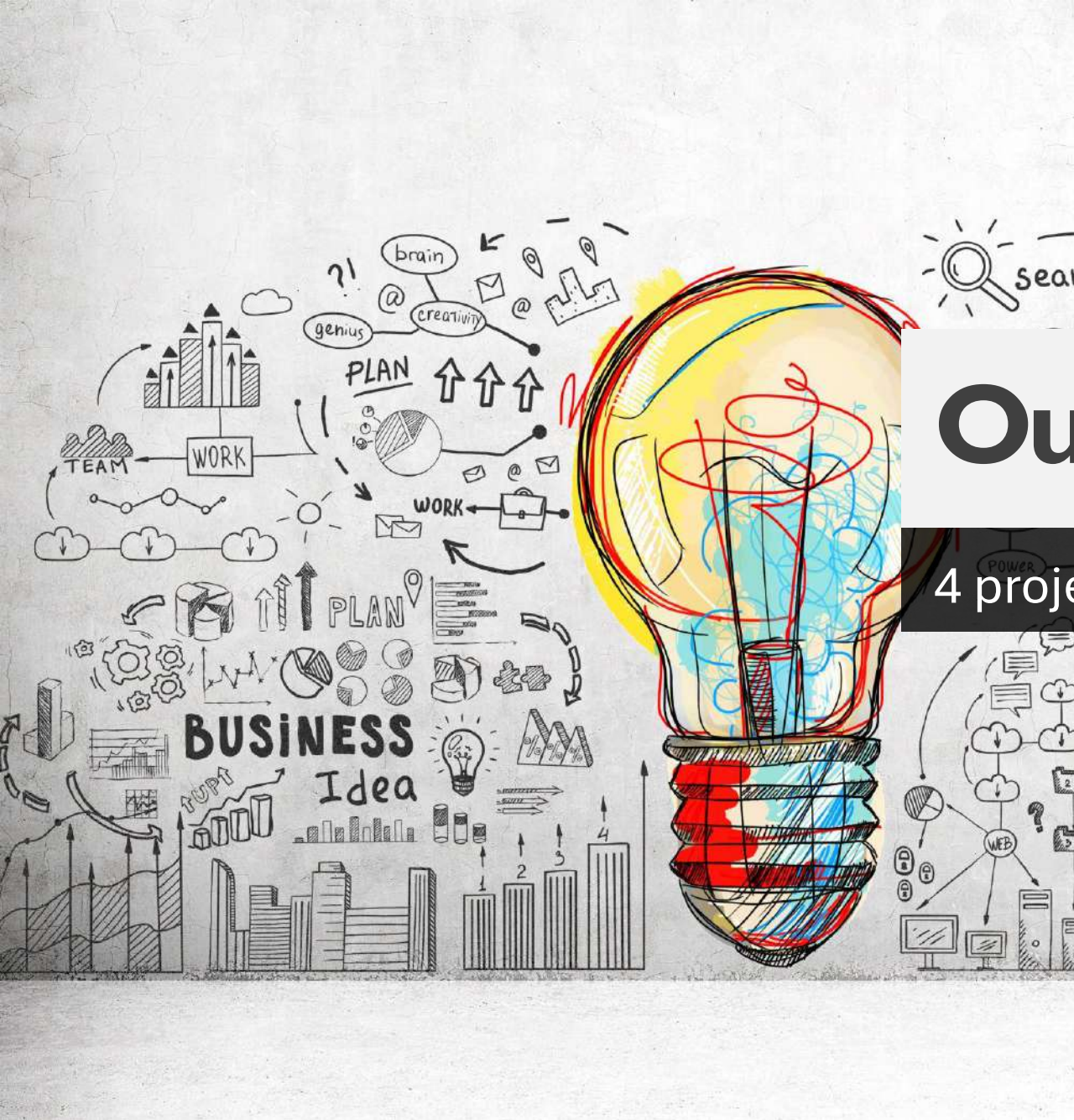
- Look at the list of ideas that we have put together
- You have 3 Votes – place each of your stickers next to one of the ideas
- Choose one ‘big idea’ and one ‘quick win’, plus one more

Our votes - ranking the ideas

- ● ● Water Park ★
- Football field – astroturf
- Amusement Arcade
- Pump Track
- Cinema
- ● Under 18's nightclub
- Music Festival
- Ski slope
- ● Sports event – 'Olympics'
- Theme Park – 'Alton Towers'
- Skate Park
- Ice Rink
- ● Events ★
- Bowling Alley
- Driving Test Centre
- Climbing wall
- Bingo
- ● ● ● ● Trampolining
- Arts spaces
- Music gigs
- ● ● ● ● Youth café / drop in ★
- ● ● ● Gaming / e-sports ★
- ● Outdoor gym
- Quiet places to hang out
- ● Volunteering opportunities



★ = chosen by the group to develop in more detail



Our ideas

4 projects to start us off

Name: Wild Water

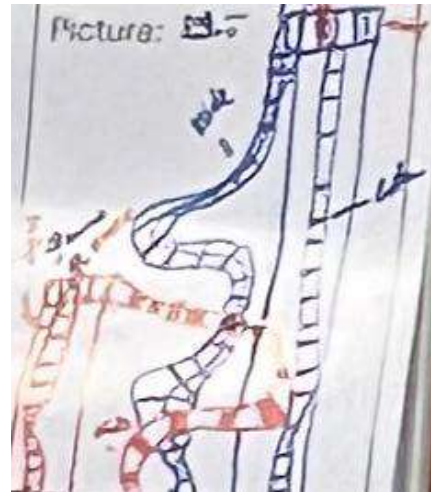
Description:

A waterpark in Congleton, in Congleton underground.

Components:

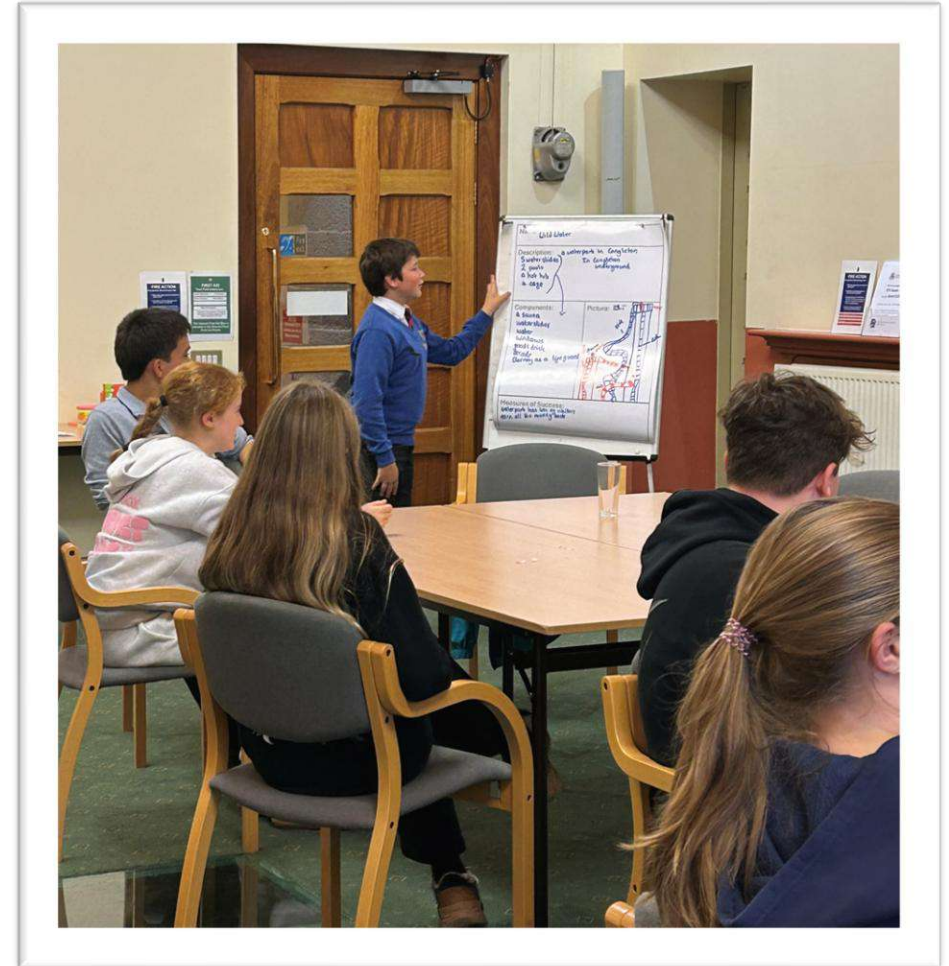
- 5 waterslides
- 2 pools
- A hot tub
- A cage
- A sauna
- Waterslides
- Water
- Windows
- Food and drink
- Arcade
- Barney as a lifeguard!

Picture:



Measures of Success:

- Waterpark has lots of visitors
- Will earn all the money back





Name: Event – Halloween Town Hall Terrors

Description:

- Very interactive, scary acting
- A costume making competition judged by the Youth Council
- A town hall event: take elements from horror movies to create stalls for people to take part in.
- Range: some for younger children, others for teens in the early evening.
- Pumpkin carving, apple bobbing, dart board & face painting.

Components:

- Flyers & posters to help spread the word
- Daneside theatre actors dressed up
- Town Hall to host event
- Volunteers to bring stalls to life

Picture:



Measures of Success:

Very lively Halloween for kids who may not trick or treat.

Name: The Congleton Coffee House

Description:

A café for young people that offers affordable products and hang out spot for the youth of Congleton during the day and night.

Components:

- Co-ordinated seating
- Open plan/modern layout
- Congleton crest as logo
- Congleton bear holding coffee mug outside
- LED lights at night
- TV area
- Study area

Picture:



Measures of Success:

Amount of people
100 customers a day





Name: CG e-sports (Congleton Gaming e-sports)

Description:

Include the center in with a café

A center for young people to socialize & play e-sports.

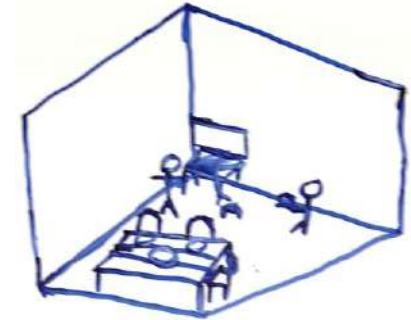
A center where people can enjoy food and beverages.

People can spend time with friends/families.

Components:

- Tables
- Food and drink
- PS5'S
- TV'S
- VR
- Consoles

Picture:



Measures of Success:

Create posters/channels

1 hour - £4-£5

Purchase VIP access



Next Steps

We will:



Organise the first
Youth Council
Meeting

Look for funding for
our big idea(s)



Communicate to the
world (Congleton)
what we are doing

Congleton Town Council

Youth Council Constitution

Who we are:

The Congleton Youth Council ('Youth Council') is a group of 15–20 young people who represent the views of young people in Congleton and run youth-led projects that benefit the town.

Purpose

- To work in conjunction with the Town Council, to give the young people of Congleton a voice and opportunity to deliver community-based projects.
- To develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Membership

- Aged 10–18 when elected.
- Must live in, go to school in, or belong to an organisation in Congleton.
- Members are elected each year.
- Young people aged 18–24 who have served on the Youth Committee may be elected as Alumni Members. (no voting rights).

Leadership Roles

To be voted on annually:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Social Media Manager Lead
- Fundraising Manager and Activity Lead

Meetings

- At least one meeting per month or at a schedule agreed by the Youth Council.
- Extra meetings may happen for projects.
- Youth Councillors must attend at least 4 meetings per year.
- A Youth Councillor may be removed if they miss three consecutive meetings without good reason.

- The Youth Council can invite one or more councillors to attend meetings as appropriate.

Projects

- Every year, we create a Project Plan based on what matters to young people.

Voting & Decisions

- One vote per Youth Councillor. The quorum for decision-making is five (5) Youth Councillors.
- Decisions require a simple majority.
- The Chair or Vice Chair has the deciding vote if it's a tie.
- The Youth Council may co-opt other young people to advise on specific issues. (no voting rights).
- The Youth Council Chair or Vice is invited to provide a report and/ or ask for support at Council committee meetings.

Equality & Behaviour

- Everyone is treated equally.
- No discrimination.
- Be respectful and let others speak.

Adults & Support

- Town Councillors and CTC officers support us but do not vote. Admin support is provided by a CTC officer.
- They can only step in if something breaks the law or council rules.
- The Youth Council can meet in a room of the Town Hall

Other Rules

- We are non-party political – no party politics.
- Changes to this constitution need a vote and Town Council approval.
- If the committee closes, all work and resources return to the Town Council.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	27 November 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	15 Congleton Partnership Update		
Background	<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>Events held in 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Volunteering – 11th March • Health and Wellbeing Fayre – 18th March • VE Day Celebrations – 8th May • Green Fayre – 27th September • Partnership Sponsored ‘Know Your Memory’ Event – 17th November <p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>Partnership AGM – 25th November</p> <p>The AGM will be a chance to meet new members who have joined over the last year, these include:</p> <p>Choice Support, Genesis Dance Troupe, Vale Allotments, Springboard, Wild Spirit Woods, The William Dean Trust, Congleton Rugby Union Football Club, Congleton Street Pastors, Congleton Pride, Congleton Rotary Club, New Life Church, Wild Spirit Woods, Swans, So Cheshire and CHOC Care Community.</p> <p>No Tier Snooker Society Christmas Lunch – 8th December</p> <p>Dementia Friends/Senior Forum continues to support the No Tier Snooker Society. The group supports those with Early-stage dementia, and carers also come along to enjoy refreshments while their loved one plays snooker.</p> <p>A fundraiser event has been organised on 8th December, ‘Christmas Lunch with Steve Davis’ at Pecks Restaurant, which has sold out.</p> <p>Christmas Tea Party – 17th December 12:30 pm, Congleton Town Hall.</p> <p>Senior members of our community will be invited to an ‘afternoon tea’ event, with live singer Rich Hazlewood. Local care homes and community groups will be invited, and transport can be provided if required. Plus Dane has kindly sponsored £350 towards the event.</p>		

	<p><u>Congleton Sustainability Group (CSG)</u></p> <p>CSG held its AGM on the 18th November 2025. The group thanked outgoing chair Heather Seddon for chairing the group since 2022. One of the many achievements was securing the future of Vale Allotments. Heather Pearce is the new chair of CSG.</p> <p>Partnership/CSG Awarded Healthy Neighbourhood Grant</p> <p>Working with Changing Lives Together and CHOC care community, we have secured funding to continue the Telephone befriending scheme, and expand the service with a monthly in-person meeting called a Warm Welcome group.</p> <p>The telephone befriending scheme has run in Congleton over the past 4 years. 196 residents in the Congleton area have benefited from the project through either using the service or volunteering. See Appendix 1 for the Final report when the project ended in September 2025.</p> <p>A new SLA agreement will be drawn up with Changing Lives Together, we expect the project to start in January 2026.</p> <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce loneliness and isolation among older residents in Congleton. Measurement: Baseline and follow-up wellbeing questionnaires at 6 and 12 months • Expand volunteer capacity and community engagement. Measurement: Volunteer recruitment and engagement logs. • Provide meaningful, regular social connections through in-person sessions. Measurement: Attendance records and session feedback forms. • Improve access to services for residents facing transport, digital, or mobility barriers. Measurement: Referral tracking, transport support usage logs, and participant surveys. • Measurement: Self-reported healthcare usage and input from CHOC and Social Prescribers.
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.



Buddy & Befriending

Congleton Partnership

Fourth year - Fourth Quarter Report

July 2025-Sept 2025

Summary

As the project comes to an end, we're proud to reflect on the strong connections and positive impact we've built within the Congleton community. This quarter, we continued to raise awareness through regular social media promotion and monthly newsletters to our referrers, helping to keep our service visible and accessible to those who might benefit most.

Referral numbers have been slightly lower this quarter; however, this trend reflects the pattern seen across all areas of Cheshire rather than being specific to Congleton. At the same time, we've seen increased engagement in our face-to-face Warm Welcome groups, highlighting the growing value of in-person connection and community support.

We're pleased to have come very close to achieving our annual matching target, just one short which demonstrates the commitment of our team and the effectiveness of our matching process. Across Cheshire, clients continue to be matched promptly, often within five working days, reflecting the responsiveness and quality of our service.

Volunteer sign-ups have also been slower this quarter, consistent with trends across the county. Despite this, we remain encouraged by the continued interest we've received and are deeply grateful to all those who have given their time to support others through the project.

Although we will no longer be actively seeking new clients, all existing clients will continue to receive ongoing support to ensure continuity of care and connection. We would like to thank yourselves, partners, referrers, and volunteers for their continued collaboration and commitment throughout the project. Together, we've made a lasting difference in our communities.

Overall clients in Congleton benefitting	Overall volunteers in Congleton Benefitting	Total residents Benefitting
53	50	103

Client Quotes:

xxxx said "I love Friday chats with Kirsty. I can't thank you enough for matching me with Kirsty as she is a breath of fresh air."

xxxx said her mobility is even worse now but Kirsty really gives her a lift every week.

6 Month follow up with xxxx who said she absolutely loves her calls with Cherrie and said "I really wouldn't know what to do without her", she also said what a "wonderful thing it is that we do helping people who would otherwise be so lonely".



12- month evaluation, completed.

"Thank you so much for checking in on me and making sure I was okay these past months. Calls from Caroline are a real tonic and services like yours are a godsend!"

Volunteer Quotes:

"What a lovely gentleman, I could have chatted all afternoon with him we got on so well. I think this might be the start of a lovely phone friendship".

"Thank you, these calls have really given me a purpose and really cheer me up"

Fiona said she loves her weekly calls with xxxx. Fiona told us that she only wishes she had *"got in touch sooner as since volunteering with you it has had such a positive effect and I feel useful again"*. Fiona is a wheelchair user and has lost touch with a lot of her contacts over the years and this has really been a great experience for her helping others while reducing her own isolation.

4 year round up

Overall Referrals	Overall volunteers	Overall Matches
79	117	73

So far, **196 residents in the Congleton area have benefited** from the project through either using our services or volunteering—an encouraging reflection of the positive impact we're making locally.

Agreed Targets From SLA

1. To actively promote the Buddying & Befriending Scheme across the Congleton area to increase awareness of the service to potential referral sources and clients.
2. To recruit 15 volunteer Buddies and Befrienders to support Congleton residents
3. To match an additional 18 clients in the Congleton Town area referred into the Scheme with a Volunteer Befriender over and above 2024 baseline figures.

Overall Referrals Target	Referrals This Quarter	Referrals Achieved to date
18	2	13

Overall Matches Target	Matches Achieved This Quarter	Matches Achieved to date
18	4	17

Overall Volunteer Sign-Up Target	Volunteer Sign-Up This Quarter	Volunteer Sign-ups to date
15	2	13

Photos from the last 4 years

