



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford**

22nd January 2026

Dear Councillor,

Community Committee – Thursday 29th January 2026

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Communities Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 29th January 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

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

Tel: 01260 270350

Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



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 27th November 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 Campaign 2025 (Enclosed)

To receive a campaign report on white ribbon activities during white ribbon day and 16 Days of Activism. Followed by a short update from the chair.

9. Community Safety Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 15th January 2026 and receive a short update from the Chair.

10. 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 November 2025 to 22nd January 2026.

11. Youth Council Update (Verbal Update)

To receive a verbal update from the newly appointed chair of the Youth Council.

12. Christmas Lights Switch-on Report 2025 and Plans for 2026 event (Enclosed)

To note a report from Events Manager Rachel McCarthy on the Christmas Lights Switch-on event and the planned changes for the 2026 event.

13. Congleton Partnership Update (Enclosed)

To receive a report from Congleton Partnership on activities for 2026.

13.1. No Tier Snooker Society June Showcase Event (Enclosed)

To receive a report on the No Tier Snooker event taking place in Congleton Town Hall to raise awareness of frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and early-onset dementia.

14. Speed Indication Device (Enclosed)

To consider a request to purchase a second Speed Indication Device to monitor traffic speed on Macclesfield Road.

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.



Congleton Town Council

Title	Community Committee
Date of Meeting Time	27 th November 2025 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	Agenda Papers for the Community Committee – 27th November 2025

Attendance

Committee Members	Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair) Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair) Cllr Dave Brown Cllr Emma Hall <i>left at 8:10 pm</i> Cllr Amanda Martin Cllr Susan Mead Cllr Richard Walton Cllr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor) Cllr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer) Cathy Dean (Communities Manager) Debbie Coxon (Communications & Civic Manager)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	0

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mark Edwardson and Cllr Shaun Radcliffe. And Sgt Karl Tatlock.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/21/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 18th September 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Dave Brown, Emma Halland Sally Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest in items relating to Cheshire East. Cllr Robert Brittian for item 7 relating to the toy appeal. Cllrs Richard Walton, Suzy Firkin, Amanda Martin, Glen Williams, Kay Wesley for the item relating to Congleton Partnership.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. Urgent Items

Cllr Williams highlighted that Cheshire Police is conducting an internal consultation to save £13 million over the next four years by reducing PCSOs and redistributing warranted police officers into neighbourhood policing teams. It's towns like Congleton that will suffer the most if this goes ahead. PCSOs build trust with members of the community, and aren't tied up with legal procedures after arrests in the same way that warranted police officers are. Although not a public consultation, could the Chief Officer write to Cheshire Police and express the council's concerns?

Action – Chief Officer to write to Cheshire Police for more information and check standing orders to confirm the correct procedure for urgent items. Officers will add this to the next Community Committee agenda for discussion with a Cheshire Constabulary representative.

6. Cheshire Police

There was no representation from Cheshire Police; a written report is attached in Appendix 1.

7. Committee Updates

CO/22/2526 resolved to note the report and recommend to the council that the Health & Wellbeing working group be reinstated to discuss items such as the SDAS and proposed funding from central government for health centres. The group was a good link between various services in the town.

8. White Ribbon Working Group

CO/23/2526 resolved to approve the minutes of the White Ribbon Working Group meeting held on the 24th September 2025.

8.1 White Ribbon Day

Councillors noted the verbal update.

9. Community Safety Working Group

CO/24/2526 resolved to approve the minutes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 6th November 2025.

9.1 The Congleton Code

CO/25/2526 resolved to adopt, consult the public on and then promote the 'Congleton Code'. With the amendment, 'to protect children' changed to 'protect everyone'.

10. Equal Access Advisory Group

CO/26/2526 resolved to accept minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting on 18th November 2025.

11. Communications Update

CO/27/2526 resolved 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

Councillors noted the report.

13. Cheshire East Council's Local Transport Plan

CO/28/2526 resolved to:

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 Task & Finish Group to provide ongoing input as the Local Transport Plan Strategy and Investment Framework, and subsequently the Congleton Transport Development Plan, are developed.

Action – Chief Officer to contact bus operators/transport department to discuss bus plans for the Tall Ash farm development. It's Cllr Hollands' belief that a bus stop was planned to serve the new estate, despite best efforts, Cllr Holland can't seem to get commitment from Cheshire East departments.

14. Youth Council Update

CO/29/2526 resolved to:

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.

15. Congleton Partnership Update

Councillors noted the report.

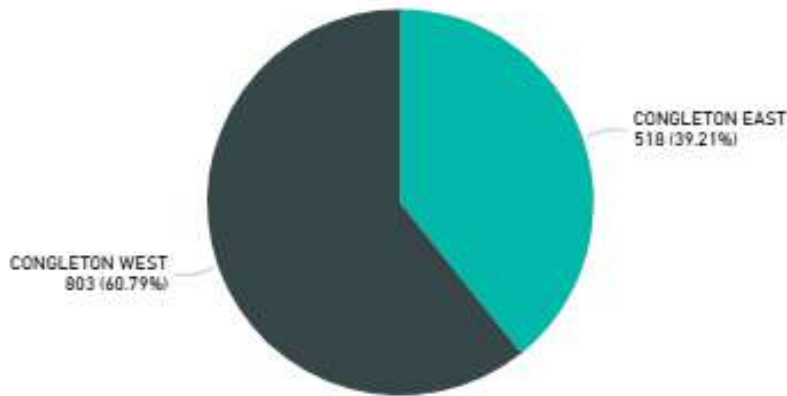
Total number of incidents between July to September 2025:

Violence/Harassment	258	19.53%
Domestic Incident - Between Adults	186	14.08%
Concern For Safety	147	11.13%
Suspicious Activity	115	8.71%
Police Generated	91	6.89%
Road Related Traffic Offence	53	4.01%
ASB - Nuisance	36	2.73%
Missing Person	32	2.42%
Bail Breaches/Wanted Person	30	2.27%
Message to Pass/OOF Enquiries	28	2.12%
RTC - Damage Only	28	2.12%
Complaints Against Police	26	1.97%
Sexual Offences	25	1.89%
Highway Disruption	24	1.82%
Theft Other	22	1.67%
Criminal Damage	21	1.59%
Abandoned Phone Call	20	1.51%
Drugs	17	1.29%
Total	1321	100.00%

RTC - Injury	17	1.29%
Advice/Directions/Admin	15	1.14%
Burglary - Residential	10	0.76%
Fraud	10	0.76%
ASB - Personal	9	0.68%
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	9	0.68%
Sudden Death	7	0.53%
Alarm - Activation	6	0.45%
Alarm - False Activation	6	0.45%
Crime Not Verified	6	0.45%
PNC Markers	6	0.45%
Police Vehicle Recovery	6	0.45%
Property Lost/Found	6	0.45%
Shoplifting	6	0.45%
Police Installed Alarm	5	0.38%
Prevent Potential Breach of the Peace	5	0.38%
ASB - Environmental	4	0.30%
Warrant Crown Court	3	0.23%
Total	1321	100.00%

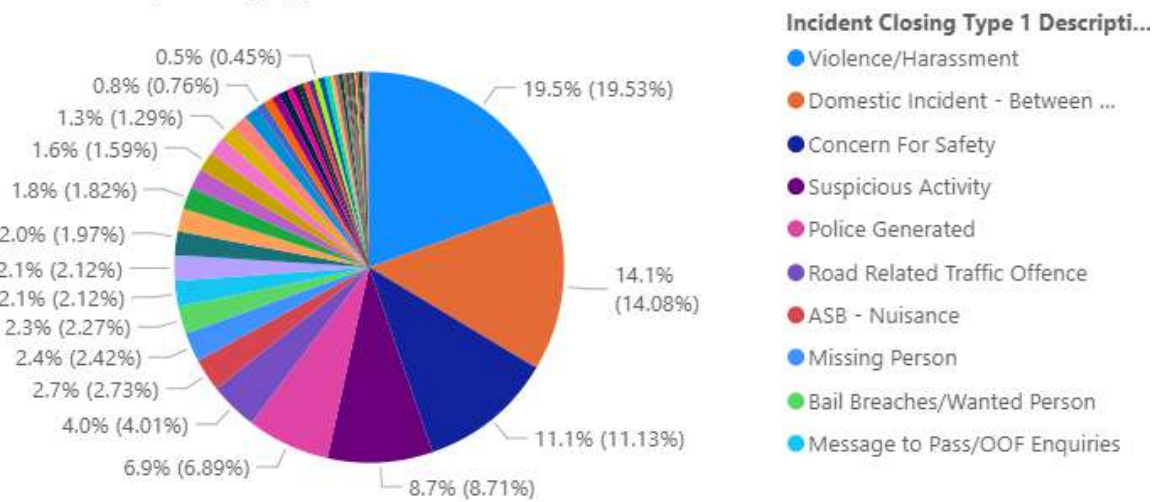
Audible Only Alarm	2	0.15%
Domestic Animal Concern	2	0.15%
Firearms Involved Crime	2	0.15%
Pre-Planned Events	2	0.15%
Robbery	2	0.15%
Suspicious Activity - Cash Vans in Transit	2	0.15%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2	0.15%
Burglary - Business/Commercial	1	0.08%
Civil Disputes	1	0.08%
Collapse/Illness/Injury/Trapped	1	0.08%
Crime Related Incident	1	0.08%
Domestic Incident - Involving a Juvenile	1	0.08%
Found Stolen Vehicle	1	0.08%
Hoax Call	1	0.08%
Industrial Accident	1	0.08%
Intelligence Information	1	0.08%
Other Notifiable Crime	1	0.08%
Suspicious Package	1	0.08%
Total	1321	100.00%

Locations



Type Chart

% of Incidents by Closing Type



Breakdown per month:

Month Year	Total
September 2025	442
August 2025	438
July 2025	441
Total	1,321

Number of incidents that've been crimed:

Month Year	Recorded Crime
Sep 2025	144
Aug 2025	152
Jul 2025	166
Total	462

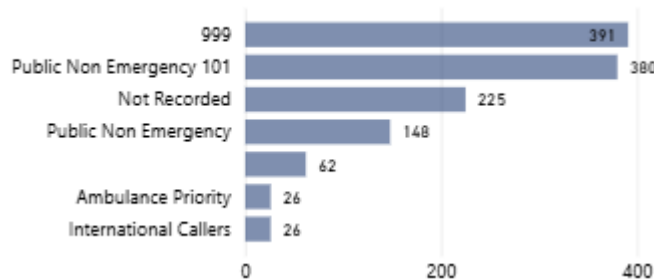
July to September '24 comparison with July to September '25

Data in this table is based on a rolling 24 calendar month period, up to the end of the last full month

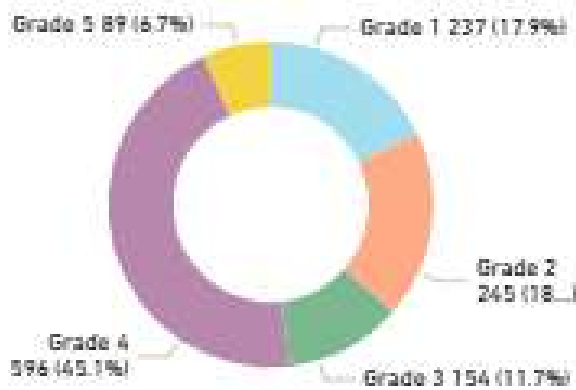
Home Office Group	Comparative 12 Month Period	Rolling 12 Month Period	% Change
VIOLENCE / PERSON	262	270	3.1 %
PUBLIC ORDER	78	88	12.8 %
THEFT / STOLEN GOODS	72	61	-15.3 %
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	38	39	2.6 %
BURGLARY	24	23	-4.2 %
DRUG OFFENCES	24	21	-12.5 %
SEXUAL OFFENCES	23	26	13.0 %
VEHICLE OFFENCES	19	17	-10.5 %
OTHER OFFENCES	15	14	-6.7 %
POSSESSION / WEAPONS	5	10	100.0 %
ROBBERY	3	2	-33.3 %
Total	563	571	1.4 %

How these incidents were reported:

Incidents by Call Origin



No. of Incidents by Current Grade



Current Re... Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	7		
REPORT TITLE	Updates Paper		
Background	<p>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.</p>		
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 3 businesses have been recognised, congratulations to Swan Brides, Congleton Hearing Centre and Congleton Dental Centre for receiving the award and a visit from the Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Brittain.</p> <p>CO/10/2425 – Disability Welcome Awards</p> <p>Disability Welcome Scheme leaflet is to be reorganised into new sections: Legal Requirements, Silver, and Gold, with a colour-coded system. 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>Congratulations to Feast, Card Factory, and Superdrug, who all achieved Silver status. Certificates and presentations to follow.</p> <p>Update on Improvements to Same-Day Access Services in Congleton (Provided by CHOC-PCN)</p> <p>Why we made changes</p> <p>Before November 2025, Paramedic Practitioners and Advanced Nursing staff worked across different GP practices on varying days, which led to inconsistent availability of ARRS appointments for patients.</p> <p>By bringing these clinicians into a single dedicated team, we can now offer a fair and consistent number of same-day appointments across all Congleton practices every weekday.</p> <p>Where the service is based</p> <p>We explored rotating the service between practices, but this wasn't possible due to room availability. Readesmoor GP Practice is currently the only site able to provide the</p>		

	<p>space needed for the team to work safely and effectively. We recognise this may mean some patients need directions, and practices are helping with this.</p> <p>Who is in the team</p> <p>The Same Day Access team includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Paramedic Practitioners • 1 Advanced Clinical Practitioner (our latest addition who joined us this month) • 4 Advanced Nurse Practitioners <p>These clinicians are highly skilled and able to assess, diagnose, and treat a wide range of conditions.</p> <p>What this means for patients</p> <p>Since launching on 5 November 2025, the team has delivered over 2,000 appointments for Congleton patients. Appointment availability is shared fairly between practices based on their patient list sizes, so no practice gains or loses out.</p> <p>GPs have told us the service is helping free up time and increase capacity across the week, which ultimately benefits patients.</p> <p>What happens next</p> <p>We’re now gathering feedback from both clinicians and patients to help us continue improving the service. A short voluntary survey will soon be available for anyone attending the Same Day Access Service.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council’s NSPCC Congleton Toy Appeal Completed.</p> <p>The Toy Appeal was successfully delivered, with over 600 toys donated to support 203 children from 81 families in Congleton, including children in emergency care. The town council coordinated the drop-off points, deliveries to Plus Dane, and all press, marketing, and social media communications. Plus Dane Housing managed the referrals, toy allocation, and distribution. Thanks are also extended to Rotary Congleton for its £1,000 donation. The town council continues to be a long-standing partner of the appeal.</p> <p>Congleton Code of Conduct</p> <p>CO/25/2526 - Resolved to adopt, consult the public on and then promote the ‘Congleton Code’. With the amendment, ‘to protect children’ changed to ‘protect everyone’.</p> <p>The design has now been finalised and is attached in Appendix 1. We will now move forward with promoting this to the wider community.</p>
PROPOSALS	To note this report.



The Congleton Code

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



Keep everyone safe
No vehicles 10am-4pm



No posters or stickers
It costs to get them down!



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



**Leave room for prams
and wheelchairs**
Don't block paths!



**Control & clean up
after your dog**



**Use the bins
or take your litter home**



**Be considerate
if making a noise**
Busking, preaching or
protesting? Move around



**Don't give cash,
give food/drink**
Rough Sleepers team:
0300 123 5017





**WORKING TOGETHER TO
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**White Ribbon Day 2025
Activities in Congleton**

Our Congleton White Ribbon Purpose:

“Strive to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and abuse in Congleton”

We know that this means we must engage men to speak out against violence and negative behaviours



The theme for White Ribbon Day 2025 - #WeSpeakUp

A blue rectangular graphic with the text "WE SPEAK UP" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The word "WE" is on the top line, and "SPEAK UP" is on the bottom line. The letter "U" in "UP" is stylized with an upward-pointing arrow integrated into its vertical stem.

What we did for Congleton White Ribbon Day 2025:

- 'Growing Up Wired' evening for parents
- Outdoor awareness campaign
- Town centre stall
- White Ribbon 'Voices for Change' webinar
- Ambassador letters to Chronicle
- White Ribbon pub tours
- School workshops
- Our flagship video updated for #WeSpeakUp
- Participation in national campaign
- YouTube Channel
- Press coverage
- Social media and online
- Results



Congleton
Town Council



**WORKING TOGETHER TO
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

We ran a 'Growing Up Wired' evening for parents, in response to the drama 'Adolescence'

Goal: to provide parents with tools to help their young people; feedback was very positive, with requests for more such events

[Watch the event again here](#)

Youth Mental Health Experts



Police – Online Safety



Young People



White Ribbon Ambassadors





Congleton Town Council

25th November is White Ribbon Day

This White Ribbon Day, we encourage Congleton people to **Speak Up** and help create a world where everyone is safe, equal and respected. Every time we ignore something that doesn't feel right, we miss a chance to set a better example.

WE SPEAK UP 

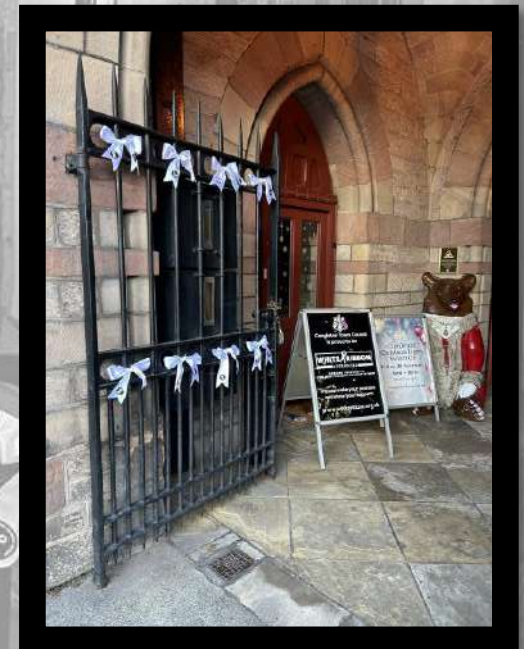
Make your White Ribbon Promise at www.whiteribbon.org.uk

WHITE RIBBON
ACCREDITED

WORKING TOGETHER TO
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

White Ribbon Day: 25th November 2025 | #WeSpeakUp

Outdoor Awareness
 White Ribbons on lampposts and the Town Hall gates, the White Ribbon flag flying, an A board in the town hall, posters around town/in CIC, and a banner on the roundabout





White Ribbon Stall in town centre

White Ribbon 'Voices for Change' Webinar



- 3 international thought-leaders – Dr Jackson Katz (US), Prof Michael Flood (Aus) and Michael Kaufman (Can) gave a talk on how male advocacy and men's support for gender equality has changed over the past 3 decades.
- We hosted this event in the Town Hall and Councillors, Officers and local business people attended and discussed what it means for Congleton



White Ribbon Ambassadors wrote to the Congleton Chronicle

Speak up over abuse of women

Dear Sir, — This year's White Ribbon Day was on Tuesday and the theme was We Speak Up. The aim of the UK Charity White Ribbon is to prevent violence against women and girls by addressing the root causes of men's violence against women. These include negative attitudes, behaviours, and harmful expressions of masculinity. We campaign to prevent violence against women and girls by encouraging active allyship from men and boys. White Ribbon continues to engage with men and boys through events, education and initiatives around Congleton; most violence against women is committed by men and it is men who need to address this. This violence can take many forms and although behaviours and words may seem harmless; normalising them leads to more extreme outcomes. We Speak Up is about not letting sexism slide — putting women and girls at risk. Sexist

jokes, catcalling, staring, and comments are serious because they can lead to violence and abuse. For White Ribbon Day 2025, we encouraged you to speak up and create a world where women and girls are safe, equal, and respected. When you're with family, friends and colleagues, if something does not feel right, speak up; every time we ignore, we miss an opportunity to be part of the solution. I have been a White Ribbon ambassador since 2021 and strongly believe we can make a difference through raising awareness, conversations and encouragement. White Ribbon Day provides focus on the challenges and gaining more commitment through men and boys taking personal responsibility. You find us on Facebook — "White Ribbon Congleton". — Yours faithfully, JONATHAN DAKIN White Ribbon ambassador, Congleton

Dear Sir, — As a White Ribbon ambassador, and after celebrating White Ribbon Day on Tuesday, I urge all Congletonians to speak up together against violence towards women and girls. Recent national statistics make sobering reading. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), for the year ending March 2023, there were 798,000 sexual assaults in the UK. This equates to nearly 2,200 per day. In terms of the victims of these crimes, 86% were female and 14% male, while the perpetrators were 98% male. Sadly, many of the victims knew their attackers. Furthermore, it is estimated that over their lives one in four women will be sexually assaulted. Translating these national figures into a local context helps bring home the scale of the challenge. In Congleton this would suggest around 1,260 women in our community will experience abuse, assault, or harassment in a year, that is over three women per day in our town alone facing such crimes. Over the last year, our local White Ribbon group has not simply raised the alarm; we have been actively working to prevent these crimes. Our efforts have included:

MIKE WESLEY White Ribbon ambassador.

and girls. Together, by being alert, being prepared to listen, being supportive of survivors, and refusing to condone or remain silent about abusive behaviour, we can reduce these crimes and build a safer, more respectful town for everyone. — Yours faithfully,

Staying silent is not an option

Dear Sir, — The annual White Ribbon Day was on Tuesday. The White Ribbon campaign is about tackling male violence towards women and Congleton Town Council is an accredited White Ribbon organisation. A small group of town councillors, council officers, and — like me — members of the public have been working over the past five years to draw attention to the problem of male violence towards women. We have used various methods including market stalls, talks to several town groups and workshops in schools. However, despite admirable success, we are a small group and the problem remains stubbornly persistent. Reports of men's abuse of women are commonplace in our media and the statistics on abuse are dire. Only last week on national radio, a group of women who had become so concerned about the rising incidence of attacks on women on trains were seeking to have women-only carriages reintroduced. How sad that is. That said, the White Ribbon theme for the coming year, We Speak Up allows all men to become involved by inviting them to speak up about things that might seem minor and harmless but which can lead to violence and abuse. These include cat-calling, sexist jokes and banter, and disrespectful comments. The aim is for us men to use our voices to speak up and create a world where everyone is able to feel "safe, equal and respected". We are reminded that "every time we ignore something that doesn't feel right, we miss a chance to set a better example". Staying silent is really not an option, so this year, and henceforth, I will be speaking up. I hope the men reading this will join me because together we can make a difference. — Yours faithfully, PETER MUNRO White Ribbon ambassador.

Speak up for White Ribbon theme

Dear Sir, — This White Ribbon Day, I want to say thank you to all the men who speak up against sexism, harassment, and abuse. We have an epidemic of sexual violence in this country. In a recent Cheshire East survey, nearly 90% of women said they do not feel safe on our streets at night; 98% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by men, so it is vital that men lead the charge in dismantling the culture that leads to this crime. Congleton Town Council was the first in Cheshire to become White Ribbon accredited, and others, including Crewe, Winsford and Macclesfield, have followed suit. The National Association of Local Councils is also now a White Ribbon Accredited organization, and is rolling it out across the country. Thank you to my council colleagues — councillors and staff — who promote White Ribbon

and uphold the values of respect and equality. Thank you to our (male) Congleton White Ribbon ambassadors, who speak up in schools, businesses and in public, encouraging everyone, especially men and boys, to make their White Ribbon promise. Thank you to our (female) White Ribbon champions, who work hard to get the message out there. Thank you to my business, Kanga Health, and others in town who are White Ribbon supporter organisations, and to the ambassadors in them who promote a positive culture at work. Thank you to my husband and four sons who put into practice calling out others if they see behaviours that are not right, taking that difficult step beyond just "being one of the good guys" into actually talking about this to other men, and helping to bring about change. Thanks to all the men and boys in Congleton who do the same. On 25th November and beyond, I hope everyone in our lovely town will take on board the White Ribbon theme for this year, which is We Speak Up — to call out poor behaviours, sexism and harassment. This is a vital step to prevent violence against women and girls and all gender-based violence. — Yours faithfully, (COUN) KAY WESLEY White Ribbon champion, Chair, Community Committee, Congleton Town Council.

Take the White Ribbon promise

Dear Sir, — November 25th is White Ribbon Day — a day when men and boys across the world are asked to stand up, speak up and take responsibility for ending male violence against women and girls. As chair of the White Ribbon Working Group at Congleton Town Council I am immensely proud of the work our local group does to support survivors, to educate young people and to challenge attitudes that allow abuse to flourish. This year's national theme, "We Speak Up", is a timely reminder that small acts — calling out a sexist joke, supporting someone who challenges harassment, or refusing to let harmful behaviour pass — actually make a difference. White Ribbon UK is the leading charity in England and Wales engaging men and boys to prevent men's violence against women and girls. Their work focuses on changing the root causes of that violence — harmful attitudes, rigid gender norms and damaging expressions of masculinity — so that our communities are safer for everyone. As a town council we are proud to be White Ribbon accredited and to play our part in

(COUN) RICHARD WALTON Chair, White Ribbon Working Group.

The scale of the problem is stark. Recent research and reporting shows that violent crimes against women increased significantly in recent years, between 2020 and 2023 violent crimes against women rose by around 19%, with more than 700,000 incidents reported in 2023 — that's over 2,000 every day, 86 every hour. Sexual offences, including domestic abuse and rape, have risen sharply too. These are not distant statistics — they are our daughters, sisters, partners, neighbours and colleagues. We cannot accept these numbers as normal.

White Ribbon Day is also an invitation: a clear, practical step that every man can take. The White Ribbon promise is brief, direct and powerful. The promise reads: "I promise to never tolerate, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women."

I ask the men of Congleton — fathers, sons, brothers, colleagues and friends — to consider making this pledge. Wearing a white ribbon and making the promise is not an accusation: it is a commitment to reflect on our behaviour, to speak up when we hear or see demeaning or dangerous behaviour, and to stand with those affected by abuse. The national White Ribbon campaign encourages actions large and small — from sharing why you speak up on social media with "We Speak Up" to having honest conversations in work places, pubs, clubs and schools.

For those wondering what "speaking up" looks like in every-day life, the campaign gives practical examples: removing yourself from group chats where sexist comments are made; backing up others who call something out; and refusing to laugh along when language or behaviour demeans someone. These are simple but effective choices that change culture over time.

If you want to make the promise, you can do so online via White Ribbon UK's Make the Promise page — and if you're in an organisation, school or workplace, please consider becoming a White Ribbon supporter: we can help with resources, posters and activities to make your commitment visible across Congleton. As a local group we are ready to support events, visits to schools, and conversations with employers and sports clubs.

Finally, to anyone who may feel unsure or put off by the idea of "speaking up": change rarely happens by grand gestures. It happens when ordinary people act consistently and together. For men that means listening to women's experiences, challenging harmful behaviour among mates and colleagues, and being prepared to stand on the right side of this issue even when it's uncomfortable. As White Ribbon so clearly puts it, letting sexism slide — jokes, cat-calling, staring or dismissive comments — puts women and girls at risk. On 25th November, please join us in saying that this town will not stand for it. — Yours faithfully,

White Ribbon Pub Tours

Several pubs took beer mats and posters, bar staff made their white ribbon promise, and we had some good conversations with regulars



Partnering with local High Schools

We have run a workshop with Eaton Bank and have one booked for CHS



Community Partnership Award
White Ribbon Allyship Award

White Ribbon Group
Harriet W

This year, the students at Congleton High School led their own series of assemblies about White Ribbon. CHS named one of their school awards the White Ribbon Allyship Award, and named the White Ribbon Group their Community Partner of the year



We ran a Primary School workshop and have 2 more schools booked in; theme is 'what is fair / not fair?'

WHITE RIBBON
ACCREDITED
Primary School KS2 Workshop
BUILDING GENDER EQUALITY

Here's what we will do

- Talk about fairness and what is unfair to girls, boys or everyone.
- Discuss gender stereotypes and why they are harmful.
- Find ways to stand up to gender stereotypes and celebrate individuality.

That's not fair!

Unfair on girls, boys, or everyone!

Jade, a girl, wants to be a chef but doesn't think she can because her friend said only men are chefs.
Unfair on GIRLS: she thinks she can't choose the job she wants to do

Aaron, a boy, wants to go to Art Club but his Dad says no, he should go to football instead.
Unfair on BOYS: he can't pursue his own interests

Gender Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are unfair 'rules' that tell us how to be a boy or how to be a girl. Some examples:

- Girls can't be computer scientists.
- Girls aren't good at sports.
- Boys who play with a doll are called 'sissy boys'.
- Boys should behave and look strong.
- Girls shouldn't play with toy soldiers.
- Girls should look like others.

Did you know that the following are men:

- 65% of members of parliament.
- 96% of large company bosses.
- 85% of Hollywood movie directors.
- 65% of newspaper editors.
- 76% of video games developers.
- In video games, male characters on average do TWICE AS MUCH TALKING as female characters.

Why are gender stereotypes harmful?

...Because people are treated unfairly

- People aren't free to do the things, games or jobs they want to do, or their own interests.
- People think that things are people that look different, or that they're less valuable or important.
- Confidence that people are prepared to look 'gender appropriate' to look strong and do the things they want to do, or their own interests.
- When we are expected to do things we don't want to do, or that we're not good at, we can feel less confident and less likely to try.
- When we are expected to do things we don't want to do, or that we're not good at, we can feel less confident and less likely to try.

People who don't 'fit' the stereotypes, can't...

- Be themselves
- Do the things they love
- Reach their potential

We should challenge gender stereotypes!

We should all feel free to choose how we behave, dress, speak, what our hobbies are and our jobs in the future.

Standing up to gender stereotypes

- Great friends like us for who we are and make us feel safe.
- Let's stand up to gender stereotypes and help everyone celebrate their individuality!

Standing up to gender stereotypes
Workshop



We updated the Congleton White Ribbon Film

We partnered with Prickly Peach Films in 2024 and produced a highly-polished and thought-provoking film featuring a wide variety of local people including police and fire service, students, teachers, businesses and politicians...



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL IS

WHITE RIBBON
ACCREDITED

WORKING TOGETHER TO
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WE SPEAK UP



whiteribbon.org.uk/wespeakup

For 2025 we updated this film and reissued it with the #WeSpeakUp theme

We joined NALC's national campaign, and did a WR presentation to the Young Councillors' Network

The screenshot shows the NALC website with a navigation bar containing 'Campaigns', 'Support', 'Resources', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large purple banner with the text 'WE SPEAK UP' in white, where the 'U' in 'UP' is replaced by an upward-pointing arrow. Below the banner, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Resources > White Ribbon Day: Standing up against violence and shining a light on parish and town councils'. A blog post is displayed with the title 'WHITE RIBBON DAY: STANDING UP AGAINST VIOLENCE AND SHINING A LIGHT ON PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS' and the author 'Inés Mitchell Rodriguez, communications officer at the National Association of Local Councils'. The post text explains that White Ribbon Day is marked annually on 25 November to promote the White Ribbon movement, which is a globally recognised symbol of ending men's violence against women and girls. It also mentions that this year's theme is 'We Speak Up', encouraging more men to use their voices and speak out to create a world where everyone is respected and safe. The post concludes by stating that White Ribbon UK's work is preventative, intersectional, and collaborative, focusing on intervening before harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls take hold.

The screenshot shows a newsletter or email update from NALC. It features a purple header with the 'WE SPEAK UP' logo and the text 'Included in your membership'. Below the header, there are two main sections. The first section, dated 26 Nov 2025, is titled 'WHITE RIBBON DAY: STANDING UP AGAINST VIOLENCE AND SHINING A LIGHT ON PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS' and includes a sub-headline 'This White Ribbon Day, we are encouraging more parish and town councils to get involved with the...'. The second section, dated 18 Nov 2025, is titled 'NALC URGES PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS TO ENCOURAGE MPS TO ATTEND WHITE RIBBON DAY PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION' and includes a sub-headline 'NALC are urging parish and town councils to encourage MPs to attend White Ribbon Day parliamentary...'. The newsletter also includes a 'News' section at the bottom.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Congleton Town Council, dated 27 November at 18:32. The post text reads: 'The National Association of Local Councils is White Ribbon Accredited and it is showcasing Congleton as one of the town councils speaking up against gender-based violence. #WeSpeakUp #WhiteRibbon'. The post includes a large image of many white and orange hands, symbolizing the White Ribbon movement. Below the image, there is a link to 'UNWOMEN.ORG' and a section titled '16 Days of Activism 2025: End digital violence against all women and girls' with the sub-text '1 in 3 women is affected by violence. Join the 16 Days of Activism this year to call on governm...'. The post also has a 'Like' button and a 'Comment' button.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the National Association of Local Councils, dated 5 December 2025 at 12:25. The post text reads: 'It was great having Cllr Kay Wesley come to our Young Councillors Network earlier this week to speak about the work that Congleton Town Council are doing to mark #WhiteRibbonDay and promote the White Ribbon Movement throughout the year, inspiring more councils to get involved.' Below the text is a large image showing a group of people at a community event, with a banner that reads 'Hundreds of local people have now made their White Ribbon Promise'. The image also shows a man playing a guitar and a woman holding a sign. The post has a 'Like' button and a 'Comment' button.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the National Association of Local Councils, dated 28 November 2025. The post text reads: 'Congleton Town Council share how they are marking #WhiteRibbonDay this year and how they work to prevent violence against women and girls all year round #16DaysOfActivism'. Below the text is a video thumbnail showing a man in a dark jacket speaking. The post has a 'Like' button and a 'Comment' button.

YouTube shorts

Our White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions each made a short film explaining one aspect of our White Ribbon programme, from schools' workshops to public awareness and our activities as a Council.

Manual All Videos Shorts

White Ribbon Day 2025 #WeSpeakUp
by Congleton Town
Playlist · Public · 10 videos · 15 views
This White Ribbon Day, #WeSpeakUp against sexism, violence against women and girls, and all forms of...more

▶ Play all

1. Cllr Richard Walton - Why get White Ribbon Accreditation
Congleton Town · 93 views · 1 month ago
2. David McGifford - how Congleton Town Council spreads the White Ribbon message
Congleton Town · 179 views · 1 month ago
3. Jonathan Dakin - White Ribbon for schools, clubs and businesses
Congleton Town · 97 views · 1 month ago
4. Mike Wesley - awareness of White Ribbon Day
Congleton Town · 17 views · 1 month ago
5. Kay Wesley - DA and SV stats and survivors
Congleton Town · 44 views · 1 month ago
6. WR Robert Hemsley - stamping out spiking in Congleton
Congleton Town · 69 views · 1 month ago
7. WR Heather Pearce - Growing Up Wired Event for Parents
Congleton Town · 120 views · 1 month ago
8. Peter Munro - the impact of White Ribbon impact and gratitude
Congleton Town · 28 views · 1 month ago
9. Richard Walton - thank you for supporting White Ribbon
Congleton Town · 229 views · 1 month ago



#WhiteRibbonDay

WE SPEAK UP

to create a world where everyone is safe, equal and respected,
by supporting families....



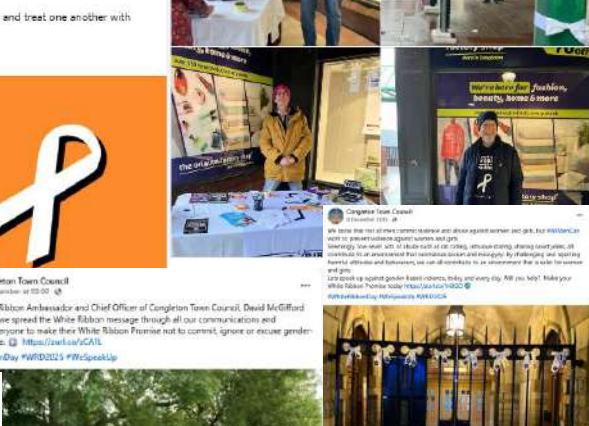
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Make your White Ribbon Promise at whiteribbon.org.uk

#WeSpeakUp
#WhiteRibbonDay

Social Media and online

We had a 'takeover' of our website and social media spaces on White Ribbon Day, and posted throughout the '16 days of activism'



The campaign reached a large audience



Print media covered an audience of more than

40,000



Our posts were seen

29,082

times



1964 interactions

with our content

> 100

Congleton people made their
White Ribbon Promise



Our content was shared

42 times



> 1103

Watches of our
White Ribbon Videos

Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 15th January 2026 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Rachel McCarthy, Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Glen Williams, Cllr Richard Walton, Sgt Karl Tatlock, Linda Webber, Cllr Robert Brittain, Claire Dougherty, Cllr Sally Holland, PC Dave Stoddard

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Jim Adams, Cathy Dean, Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Laura Woodrow-Hirst
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 6th November 2025 were accepted as correct.
3. **REMINDER THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS STAY IN THE MEETING AND ARE NOT DISCUSSED OUTSIDE OF THE ROOM**
4. **Action Log**
 1. **ANPR Update**

We are still waiting for a response from Richard Christopherson regarding actions from the gates and new signage. We will ask for a meeting update asap. **RMc**
 2. **Code of Conduct review**

Sent for design to L&J print, it's been simplified after feedback from councillors and the group. **RMc**
 3. **Dane Housing**

Invite Dane Housing to every meeting – Claire Dougherty, Tenant Enforcement Officer. Anti-social behaviour, drug raids, and they work very closely with PCSOs, the redundancies would impact Dane Housing significantly, as they remedy issues, domestic abuse, and can install alarms, Ring doorbells etc. **RMc**
 4. **PCSOs**

A paper drafted by Robert and Kay for support and to keep them all, this will be sent to the councillors next week for review. 18 million savings are required.
5. **Police update on Crime (Sgt Karl Tatlock)**
Report to follow
6. **Police Priorities for Congleton Beat Team**

Dave Stoddard is the newly appointed Problem Solving Officer. Dave has been appointed to look after areas of concern, nuisance calls. Crewe and Macclesfield already have a PSO. Off-road bikes are a target, looking at problem areas and how they can be reduced, looking at repeat offenders, drug dealers, and ASB. The leisure centre, bowling green in the park, and the night time economy are a priority. Christmas was quiet as it was also very well policed, Karl also made sure that his team were allocated to Congleton.

Hotspots

Richard has highlighted Highcroft Avenue for drug dealers, generally in the early afternoon. Vale Walk has active dealing, and Daven Park, just off Townsend Road. Karl mentioned that the E-bikes are generally coming from Biddulph along the tracks.

Flats above The Tanning Shop on Mill Street, this would be a good idea to get them checked for fire regulations, also there is lots of rubbish left out the front of the building as they are not supplied with wheelie bins, these properties are owned by Mr Lan.

7. CEC ASB Team
Report to follow

8. Street Pastors Update

Report attached

Linda hopes to receive the funding to continue the great work in Congleton.

9. AOB

The speed indicator is broken on Park Lane, Rachel will ask Cathy Dean who to contact. The traffic in the pedestrian area is crazy, far too much and also at night time, this is extremely dangerous.

Karl Tatlock will be leaving Congleton and returning to Crewe. Vicky Welch could be Karl's replacement.

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 19th March 3 pm

Congleton Street Pastor Update
Congleton Town Council Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 15 January 2026

September to December 2025

Helped or observed to safety 21

Helped sober up 8

Bottles and cans binned 16

Glasses returned to establishments 14

Broken glass swept up 10

Water 14

Flip flops 12

First Aid 2

Emotional support 10

Homeless – before Christmas 3 but now only 1 plus dog

 Sleeping bag/warm clothing/meals as required

Referred to other agencies 2

Directions 10

Rota December 2025 to February 2026

We are covering 8 Saturdays this quarter and were also on duty New Years Eve. Patrols were restricted due to illness and changed work shifts but hoping to increase to 10 next quarter.

Linda Webber
Co-ordinator

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29 January 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Communications Update		
Background	This paper has been prepared to give committee members an update on the communications activities that took place since the last committee.		
Details	<p>Social Media Overview</p> <p>Facebook Followers: 6.9K Instagram Followers: 1.3K. No longer posting on X as not compatible with CTC Equality & Inclusion policy.</p> <p>The dashboard displays six key social media metrics over a period from October 21st to January 9th. Each metric includes a current value, a percentage change, and a line chart showing trends over time. All metrics show a significant peak around November 10th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views: 846.2K, down 0.4% Viewers: 189.0K Content interactions: 11.3K, up 149% Link clicks: 1.4K, down 32.1% Visits: 10.4K, down 5.2% Follows: 418, up 47.2% 		

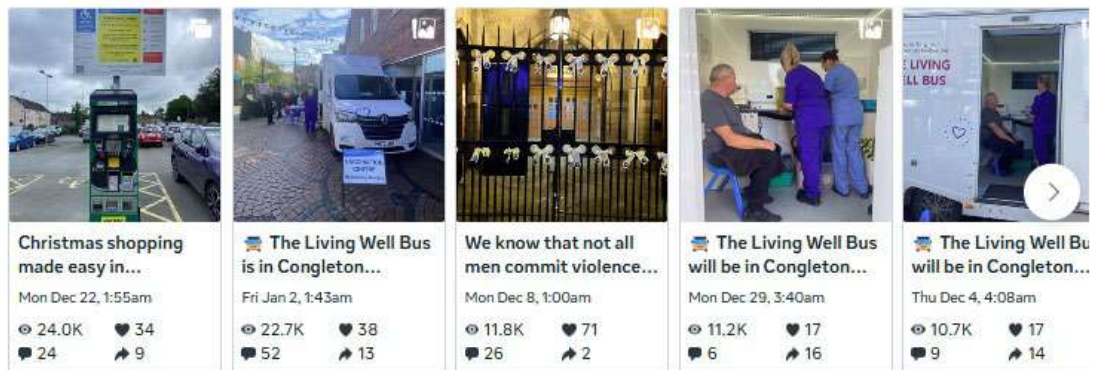
Facebook Performance Overview

Views	Viewers	Interactions	Clicks	Visits	Follows
846K	189K	11.K	1K	10K	418

Social media posts issued: 131 (excluding shared posts). Avg 2 per day

Top 5 FB Posts:

No 1 post: 24K views, 34 reactions, 24 comments, 9 shares



CTC social posts are usually shared to:

Congleton Chat's Back 33.7K members
 Congleton News & Views 21.8K members

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

- 22 Nov: Taylor Swift Tribute, Town Hall
- 25 Nov: White Ribbon Day (16-day campaign)
- 28 Nov: Christmas Switch-On
- Dec: Christmas Window Competition

Stakeholder Events Supported

- Sunday Trains petition
- NSPCC Toy Appeal
- Congleton Santa
- Community Projects, Lantern Making Workshops
- Rotary Tree of Life
- East Cheshire Hospice Tree Appeal

	<p>New publications</p> <p>Bear Necessities Winter 2026</p> <p>Press Releases: 18</p> <p>Radio Interviews: 0</p> <p>Other Editorial:</p> <p>Effective Directories- DPS in x2 editions (each circl. 51,700k)</p> <p>Congleton Chronicle Christmas Feature</p>
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 Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29 January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	12		
REPORT TITLE	Congleton Christmas Switch-on Report		
Background	<p>Christmas Lights Switch-on is an annual event by Congleton Town Council; the event has followed a similar format for the last four years. The purpose of this report is to outline the challenges faced by CTC staff during the 2025 Christmas Switch-On event, and to provide context for the proposed changes for the 2026 event.</p> <p>Format of the event held in '25.</p> <p>Road closures have been in effect on Mill Street, Swan Bank, High Street, the Moody Street entrance off High Street, and the upper entrance to Market Street. These arrangements have been in place for the past three years.</p> <p>The event operated from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Market stalls were located within the pedestrian area, along Swan Bank and High Street.</p> <p>The main stage was positioned at the lower end of Moody Street, with a community stage at the top of Swan Bank showcasing performances from local schools and choirs.</p> <p>Street entertainment included stilt walkers, a giant “Elf on the Shelf,” Stormtroopers, and comedy elves. The Town Hall was open throughout the event and hosted a children’s zone, including Santa’s grotto.</p>		
The Plan	<p>1. Christmas Lights</p> <p>Decorating the Town: The Town Council owns the lights to decorate the town. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three across street road catenary lights, (‘Merry Christmas Congleton’ light needs to be repaired) • 24 lamp-post lights with two different designs • Icicle lighting for the pedestrian area and Little Street • Lights for the front of the Town Hall • Main large Christmas Tree Lights <p>The colour scheme is silver and gold. The lights are all LED. The pedestrian area's icicle lighting requires replacement, and the four trees within the pedestrian area for the 2026 Christmas season. Rachel is currently obtaining quotes for</p>		

300m of lighting and the trees.

In addition to the festive lighting, local shops are encouraged to purchase small Christmas trees to be installed above their premises. This scheme operates similarly to the hanging baskets programme. Participating businesses cover the cost of the tree, provide the lighting and electricity supply, and pay an additional £10 fee to CTC for installation and removal. Typically, approximately 90 trees are installed above shops each year.

For 2026, a revised approach to the installation of Christmas trees within the town centre is being explored. The current use of small individual trees is highly time-consuming, as each requires separate lighting installation for individual businesses. In addition, updated health and safety requirements mean ladders can no longer be used, as in previous years.

For the 2025 event, installation and removal were undertaken using a cherry picker supplied by PME Maintenance, at a cost of £800 for installation and £800 for removal.

To address these issues, the option of using artificial pre-lit trees is being investigated, either through hire or purchase from a specialist supplier. This would significantly reduce installation and de-rig time, eliminate the need for working at height, and improve operational efficiency.

Artificial pre-lit trees would also provide a consistent, high-quality appearance across the town centre and offer a more sustainable solution through reuse over multiple years.

Further details, including cost comparisons, will be reported once supplier options have been fully assessed.

[. Festive - Christmas Trees - Plantscape festive display providers](#)

2. Main Tree - PME Maintenance Ltd has provided the tree, as per the Christmas contract, which is due for renewal this year.

3. Switch-on Event 2026

- The proposed date for the 2026 Christmas Lights Switch-on is Friday 27 November, with the lights scheduled to be illuminated at 6:00pm.
- Revised road closures are proposed for 2026 to improve traffic flow and reduce disruption. Mill Street and Swan Bank will remain open. Closures will include the lower section of Canal Street from the Chapel Street junction, Lawton Street up to the junction with Bank Street (near Congleton Oatcakes), and Kinsey Street.
- The main stage will again be located at the bottom of Moody Street, as this location has proven successful. A community stage will be

	<p>positioned at the bottom of the Canal Street entrance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa’s grotto will be located in the Town Hall, alongside the children’s zone, following the success of this arrangement in previous years. Children’s fairground rides will be situated in the Fairground car park. • The pedestrian area will not host CTC-organised stalls in 2026 due to previous conflicts with four local businesses. A varied programme of street and stage entertainment will be booked. • The traditional lantern parade will continue to form a key part of the event. Congleton Community Projects will again deliver lantern-making workshops throughout November, with CTC supporting accessible workshops through ticketing via TicketSource and use of the Town Hall as a venue. The parade remains highly successful and well attended. <p>4. Christmas Window Dressing Competition - 1st, 2nd and 3rd certificates awarded with small cash prizes of £30, £20 and £10; other businesses were allocated certificates of Highly Commended and Commended.</p> <p>The Christmas Team for 2025 was made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTC staff x 10 • Councillors x 7 • Volunteers x 14 • Rotary x 6
<p>Problems</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the 2025 event involved a number of difficult and, at times, unsafe situations for staff, largely due to conflict with local businesses and members of the public. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two businesses located within the pedestrianised area raised concerns with CTC staff regarding stall placement. Five members of staff were approached on this matter. The business owners felt stalls were obstructing their businesses’ frontages. Staff interactions continued, and it became challenging in nature. • In addition, two businesses on the High Street, which had not booked or paid for designated gazebo spaces, expressed concerns to three CTC staff members. These were related to the proximity of a fairground ride located approximately 20 feet away and the impact on the outlook from their premises. There was no obstruction to access or frontage, and the attraction was generating increased footfall and family engagement in the area. The basis for these concerns was not fully clear. • Following the conclusion of the event, while staff were undertaking litter picking and maintaining road closures to ensure public safety during stall breakdown, a serious incident occurred. A vehicle unlawfully entered the closed road, deliberately moved traffic cones, and drove towards a member of staff, who had to jump out of the way to avoid being struck. The driver

	<p>then proceeded to verbally abuse another staff member. This incident posed a significant risk to staff safety.</p> <p>We are sharing these incidents to ensure a full understanding of the pressures and risks faced by CTC staff during the 2025 event. The proposed changes to road closures for the 2026 Christmas Switch-On are intended to reduce conflict, improve safety, and create a more controlled environment for staff, businesses, and the public alike.</p> <p>We hope this provides clarity on the reasoning behind the proposed changes and helps foster understanding of the operational challenges involved in delivering large-scale town centre events safely.</p> <p>The Congleton Lights Switch-on typically attracts several thousand visitors to the town centre, supporting local businesses and providing an evening of low-cost entertainment for families. The success of the event relies on the cooperation of the whole community, with businesses, residents, and organisers working together and demonstrating a spirit of compromise.</p>
Financial	<p>The event is funded by the Town Council, which sets aside a budget for the event. Further funding can be obtained through sponsorship and funds from the sales of the shop front trees. The spend to date for the Lights Switch on event is £14,255. The Town Council has a budget of £6,000, which is put towards the event, and the remainder is raised through sponsorship of £3,800 stall fees and Christmas trees.</p>
Equality and Diversity	<p>We aim to make the event accessible, with quiet zones, accessible toilets, and a live-stream of the main stage available inside the Town Hall, plus an inclusive area inside The Space. Work will continue with the Equal Access Advisory group to make improvements.</p>
Decision Requested	<p>To note the report and agree to the changes proposed above for the 2026 event.</p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29th January 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 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 in 2026</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Fayre – 17th March • No Tier Snooker Society – 14th June • Green Fayre – 26th September • Christmas Tea Dance date TBC <p><u>Partnership AGM</u></p> <p>A successful Partnership AGM was held in Nov '25. The remaining positions on the oversight groups have now been filled. Kate Fallon – representing CARE communities, Jeremy Lee – representing Congleton Rugby Club, Abby Smith – representing Congleton Pride and Stewart Price – representing Congleton Rotary.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Partnership Officer join the meetings of CARE communities to represent volunteering and community support for mobilising projects.</p> <p>The minutes of the AGM are included in Appendix 1. In the minutes is a list of ideas/projects that were requested in a brainstorming session that the oversight group will work through.</p> <p><u>Aims for 2026</u></p> <p>Deliver a programme of 4 membership events themed around a subject such as funding, arts and culture, accessibility etc</p> <p>Relaunch the Partnership website to reflect new members and direction, which forms a wider goal of improving communications and promoting the Partnership.</p>		

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.

Meeting Minutes: Congleton Partnership AGM

Date: 25th November 2025 **Time:** 5:30 pm **Location:** Congleton Town Hall

In attendance: Peter Aston (Chair), Glen Williams (Vice Chair), Cathy Dean (Officer), David McGifford (Chief Officer), Richard Walton (Oversight), Amanda Martin (Oversight), Suzy Firkin (Senior Forum & Oversight), Vic Brown (Oversight), Jonny Gribbon (Cheshire East), Kate Fallon (CHOC), Ian Carter (No Tier Snooker), Kay Wesley (Bromley Farm Hub Group), Paul Bernardi, Jeremy Lea (Congleton Rugby Club), Sam Ruck (Visyon), Linda Webber (Street Pastor), Simon Bamford & Amanda (Wild Spirit Woods), Ruth Benson (Trees for Congleton), Patti Pinto (William Dean Trust), Stewart Price, Simon Fallis (Congleton Rotary), Brian Rogers (Rode Hall Silver Band), Paul Nixon (Refugees Welcome), Aoife Middlemass (CVS), Pete Marsden & Lesley Turner (Changing Lives Together).

Apologies: Adele Cook (Cheshire Learning Partnership CIC), Jo Money (Community Projects), Helen van der Veken (East Cheshire Eye Society), Lesley Turner (Bromley Farm Hub).

1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Chair Peter Aston opened the 19th Partnership Annual General Meeting by welcoming everyone with a round of introductions.</p>
2.	<p><u>Partnership Overview 24-25</u></p> <p>Peter gave a summary of the projects & events that had taken place over the last year.</p> <p>Events Over the Last Year</p> <p>Following the adoption of the new Constitution at the AGM on 10 September 2024, Congleton Partnership continued to strengthen its role in supporting community engagement, collaboration and wellbeing across the town. Over the past year, a diverse programme of events was delivered, reflecting the refreshed direction of the Partnership and its commitment to bringing organisations and residents together.</p> <p>Our first community event under the new structure—the Meet the Funders Event held on 19 November 2024—proved highly successful. With more than 80 attendees, the event offered local groups the opportunity to connect directly with funding bodies, gain guidance on applications and explore new routes to support their work.</p> <p>In early December, the Christmas Tea Dance brought festive cheer to residents on 4 December. With entertainment provided by Andrew Bell, the event welcomed guests from local care homes and residents from West Heath, Mossley and Buglawton. The afternoon offered companionship, music and celebration for some of our most isolated community members.</p>

Working in partnership with Congleton Volunteer Action, we held **Discover Volunteering** on 11 March 2025 at Congleton Town Hall. The event shone a spotlight on the many volunteering opportunities across the town, introduced the work of CVA and celebrated the invaluable contribution of our volunteer community—the “Congleton Crew.”

On 18 March 2025, we delivered the **Health and Wellbeing Fayre** at Congleton Town Hall, with more than 40 exhibitors taking part. This wide-ranging event showcased the breadth of health, wellbeing and support services available locally, covering everything from fitness and mental health to community groups and specialist care.

We also marked the **80th anniversary of VE Day** on 8 May 2025 in partnership with Congleton Town Council. Inspired by national guidance from the VE Day 80 campaign, we hosted a fish-and-chip or 1940s-themed lunch for local care home residents and individuals who may otherwise have spent the day alone, ensuring the anniversary was observed with dignity, gratitude and a strong sense of shared community.

Later in the year, the **6th annual Green Fayre** took place on 27 September 2025, bringing together around 30 stallholders representing local businesses, groups and environmental organisations. The Fayre provided an accessible way for residents to explore sustainability issues and discover practical, local solutions to help care for our environment.

Projects supported over the last year

Congleton Volunteer Action - CVA, led by Alison Wright, continued to provide a personalised approach to volunteering in Congleton. With support from Cheshire East and Creative Champions funding, the project expanded its ad hoc volunteering offer and supported events such as the Food & Drink Festival. CVA attracted a steady flow of new volunteers and opportunities through partner organisations, social media, and referrals, and began working with Cheshire East on potential volunteer involvement in hospital discharge support.

Case Study

CVA successfully supported a neurodiverse young person who had struggled to find a suitable role. After several trials, they were matched with The Bath House, where supportive mentoring helped them flourish. They have since progressed into paid employment in landscaping.

[Appendix 1 CVC report from Alison Wright.](#)

Christmas Hampers - £1000 grant from Plus Dane and £300 Partnership funds allowed us to create 130 Christmas Hampers for people receiving Old Saw Mill meals.

No Tier Snooker Society – The Partnership helped to support Ian in his quest to set up a group for those diagnosed with early-onset dementia. Supported by Diane Ritherdon, our Dementia Friends ambassador.

Buddy and Befriending telephone scheme with Changing Lives – in total a 196 Congleton residents have been supported.

Congleton Hydro & Solar – New solar installations have been completed on local buildings, Astbury Golf Club, Havannah Primary Club and Daneside Theatre, all of which are performing to plan. Congleton Hydro at Havannah has recently reached another milestone: 900 MWh. The team are actively looking at new sites to install more hydro's with planning permission granted for Congleton Park.

Congleton Repair Café – now has a new home at the Masonic Hall and continues to run monthly sessions.

Dementia Friends – Diane continues her work, and a new edition of the Young at Heart Leaflet has been produced.

Defibs – an 11th Defib has been installed at the Rams Head in Congleton in partnership with Congleton Lions.

Community Transport – The Partnership continues to operate community transport with New Life Church. Successful application to the Flourish fund, awarded £8200 for driver training to increase our pool of volunteer drivers for Partnership buses (D1 Category is a license requirement to drive a 17-seater.)

Grants Supported

Partnership provides admin and marketing support for 2 grant programmes –

Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund – a yearly fund distributing around £2000-4000 to local groups and good causes.

Congleton Hydro & Solar Community Trust – a bi-annual fund which distributes around £10,000 each year to local groups and good causes with an environmental focus.

Future Plans

The next event is the Christmas Tea Party on 17th December.

The Partnership working with CHOC has been successful in the Healthy Neighbourhood Grant to continue and expand the Buddy and Befriending service, the telephone scheme will continue, and a new warm welcome group will be set up in 2026.

The annual Health & Wellbeing Fayre returns on the 17th March at Congleton Town Hall.

Redesign/Relaunch Partnership website.

Action – Provide a list of new member organisations which have joined the partnership over the last year, as well as legacy members/groups.

Included in Appendix 2.

<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Member Updates</u></p> <p>Vic Brown shared an update on a new Community TV channel. https://www.youtube.com/@CongletonCommunityTV</p> <p>Richard Walton shared an update on the white ribbon campaign. https://vimeo.com/1138921825 #WeSpeakUp</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Ideas session:</u></p> <p>What do you want from Congleton Partnership?</p> <p>Project Ideas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Archive / Museum Resources • I remember...feature community TV • Community Transport Scheme – expanding minibus • Biodiversity Bear Trail (Linking Biodiversity sites) <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get residents to grow trees into saplings for planting by Trees for Congleton. • Trees for Congleton / CTC biodiversity sites invite schools to take part • Appearing Nature – Response to the local museum's disappearing project. • Environmental Fund – establish an annual environmental fund so that biodiversity and other enhancements can be properly planned. • Pride in our local green spaces, ‘friends’ groups for areas, give the spaces names. • Youth rewilders group – lots of work to increase the diversity of local green spaces <p>Locations/Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse of Vétérans Café • Mainly Networking – shared interests, rural site where various events can take place • Youth Cafe Location (Town Hall ?) • Reuse Warehouse/Library of Things • Meet the geek – Geek retreat • Homework / Study drop-in • Storage space – eg furniture • Sports Facilities <p>Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleed Kits – Support similar to defibs <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Concerts Showcase • Clonta Education Trust – bringing live music to a younger audience

	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Sleeping – what can be done about rough sleepers around the town? • Work carried out to cover all priorities from the neighbourhood partnership meeting, which are mental health, Social Isolation, Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking and Transport. • Clarity on how to ask for support from the Partnership
<p>4.</p>	<p>Business of the AGM</p> <p>Accepted the minutes dated 10.09.24 as an accurate record of the meeting. No outstanding actions.</p> <p>No new proposals were put forward. Roles remain as:</p> <p>Chair: Peter Aston</p> <p>Vice Chair: Glen Williams</p> <p>Oversight Group</p> <p>As agreed in the constitution, the Oversight Group consists of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair (Peter Aston) 2. Vice Chair (Glen Williams) 3. CTC (Richard Walton) 4. CTC (Amanda Martin) 5. Parish Council (Vic Brown) 6. Suzy Firkin (Chair of Senior Forum) 7. ? 8. ? 9. ? <p>The Partnership Officer & Chief Officer have no voting rights.</p> <p>The 4 positions available on the Oversight Group should be reflective of Congleton Interests, like business, sports, etc. S Firkin has expressed a wish to step down from the oversight committee.</p> <p>Nominations for the 4 remaining seats of the oversight group are invited to follow this meeting, the next oversight committee takes place on the 5th December which interested parties will be invited to attend.</p>

Presentation of Accounts.

Cathy Dean gave a summary of the financial state of the Partnership.

[View the summary sheet here in Appendix 3.](#)

Income & Balance carried forward = £ 46,605.00

Spend 2025 = £12,094.75

Allocated = £20,503.29

Unallocated = £14,000.96

Balance remaining = £34,510.25

Action – Clarify Partnership funding position

A.O.B

AGM closed at 7:15 pm

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th December 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13.1 No Tier Snooker Society		
Background	<p>No Tier Snooker provides a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals living with early-onset dementia or Frontotemporal Dementia. The founding group was started in January 2025 at Congleton Snooker Club by Ian Carter, meeting weekly on a Wednesday. The group has gone from strength to strength with around 30 regular members. Ian has been supported through Congleton Partnership and Dementia Friends lead Diane Rithderon. Congleton Town Council also approved a grant for the group in September 25.</p>		
Update	<p>Ian has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to raise the profile of the society, achieving outstanding success. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) has fully endorsed the initiative. Chris Lovell, Head of Coaching and Development and Training Manager, is supporting Ian in rolling out the No Tier Snooker programme to clubs across the country, with backing from professional snooker players, both past and present.</p> <p>While snooker is enjoyed for its recreational value, it also provides significant benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive stimulation – helping members remain mentally active • Social connection – reducing loneliness and isolation • Confidence and well-being – creating a positive, inclusive environment where individuals feel understood, valued, and supported <p>A second group is now opening at Congleton Snooker Club on Tuesday afternoons. Additional new groups are launching in Hazel Grove, with a further group due to open soon in Longton.</p> <p>Steve Davis MBE and Denis Taylor have agreed to become official ambassadors for the society. On 14 June, Congleton Town Hall will host a Snooker Showcase featuring a replay of the iconic 1985 World Championship final, including the famous re-spotted black ball. A full professional snooker table, complete with scoreboard, will be installed in the Town Hall.</p>		

	<p>This event promises to be a fantastic opportunity for Congleton, helping to raise awareness of FTD and early-onset dementia. The BBC has expressed interest in covering the event, providing an excellent platform to showcase Congleton Town Hall and the important work of the society.</p> <p>Ian has also had it confirmed that the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) has agreed in principle to hold an event in Congleton, to raise awareness of FTD and early-onset dementia and the role sports can play.</p> <p>For more information, visit - https://notiersnooker.co.uk/</p>
Financial Implications	None to Congleton Town Council. Congleton Partnership is sponsoring the room hire for the event. Any profits from the event will go to support the No Tier Snooker Society.
Environmental Implications	None.
Inclusivity Diversity Impact	Living with a life-altering diagnosis, participants can forget societal pigeonholing and be on an equal social tier for a couple of hours each week.
Decision Required	That Councillors note this report.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29 January 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean – Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Speed Indication Device		

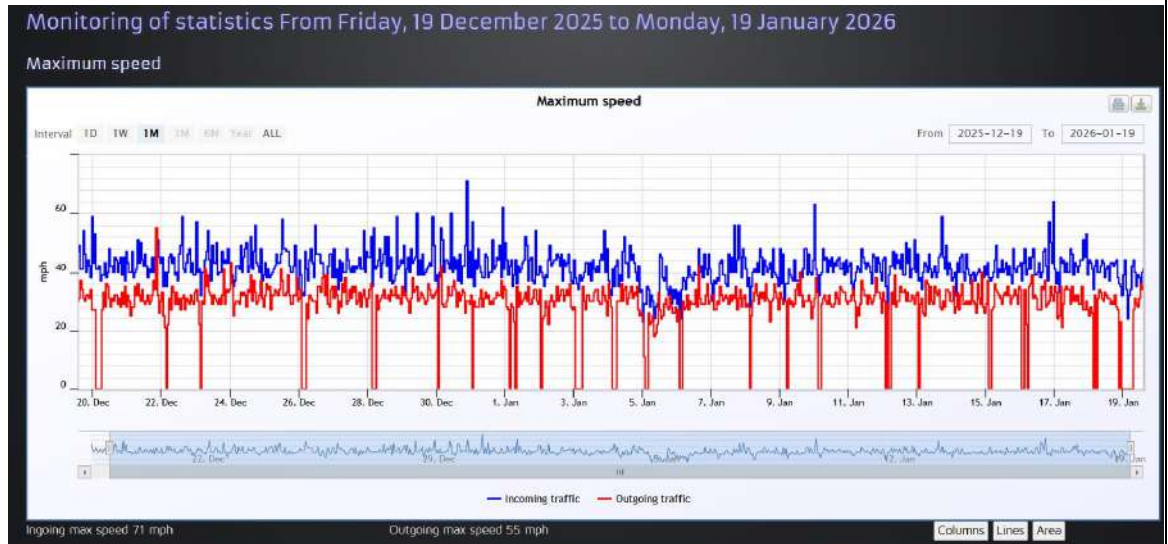
Background

Road Safety is a Cheshire East function, and speeding is a criminal offence dealt with by the Police, but Cheshire East Council no longer provides Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), as this responsibility has now been passed to Town and Parish Councils

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.

The SID was installed on Manchester Road on an existing pole via Streetscape on the 18th November 2025, with an expectation to move the SID to two new poles on Newcastle Road once installed.

Data from the last month is displayed below. The maximum speed recorded was 71mph, average speed is 25mph.



Summary

A resident has written to Congleton Town Council to raise concerns about speeding cars:

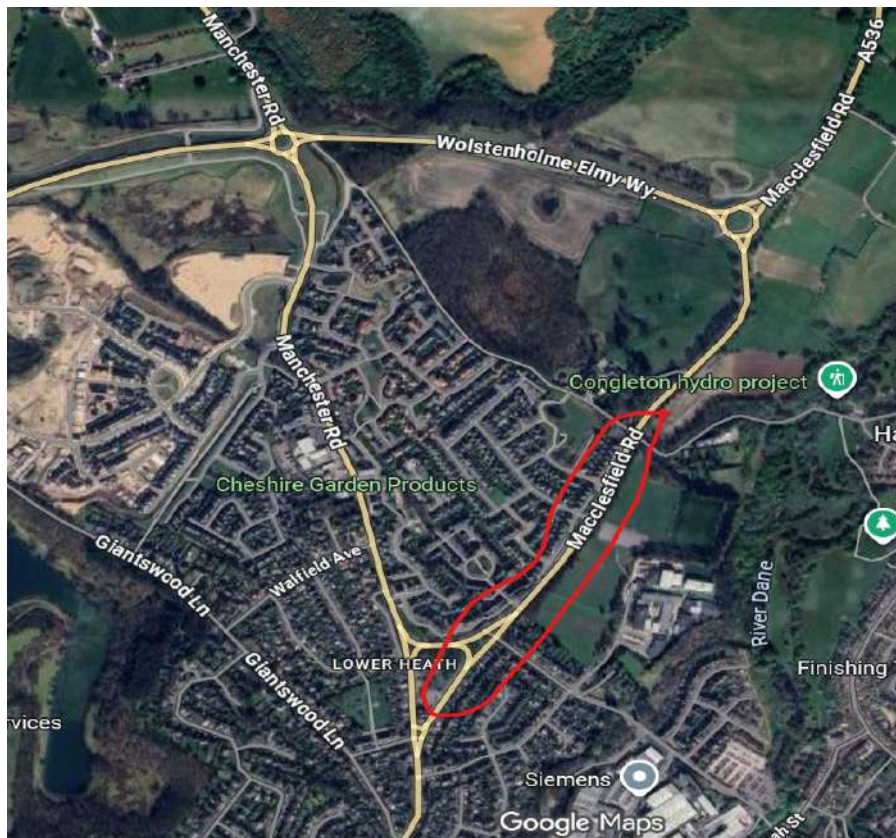
“Please can I ask that the traffic speed on Macclesfield Road in Congleton coming in from Eaton is monitored with a view to a speed camera being added just after the entrance to Jackson Road to finally deter and catch speeding cars.

Daytime and evening people constantly flout the 30mph limit and it’s enough. I have raised this in previous years and had some temporary warning signs and they never bothered beyond that.

I see Manchester Road has a sign which is going out of Congleton so I never understood why they haven’t been as bothered about the speed people are entering our town at.”

Cheshire East stated that on this stretch of road in recent years, “the 30mph speed limit along this section of road has been extended further east, and additional repeater signs and SLOW markings have been installed.”

A speed camera is out of Congleton Town Council's remit, but we can monitor speeds via a SID device.



A formal request can be made to the Cheshire East Road Safety Team to assess Macclesfield Road for the location of the SID, with a view to being able to move one device between Manchester Road, Macclesfield Road and the two poles on Newcastle Road (once installed).

	<p>Cllr Seddon has requested that Congleton Town Council consider purchasing a second device to monitor these locations. There is £1300 available in Traffic Calming reserves, and £1500 would need to be sourced from Capital Contingency.</p>
Financial Implications	<p>The capital cost to purchase a SID would be between £3500-£4500, with ongoing costs of data, installation and licensing depending on relocation of the device.</p> <p>Depending on the assessment of Macclesfield Road, there may be a cost of installation of a pole.</p>
Environmental Implications	<p>Solar-powered models are ideal for the environment. They minimise maintenance and keep operating costs low.</p>
Equality and Diversity	<p>The product is aimed at reducing speeds, which has positive benefits for all sectors of our community, but especially for pedestrians and cyclists. Eaton Bank Academy is in the immediate vicinity of Macclesfield Road, with many students having to cross this stretch of road.</p>
Decision Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make a formal request to the Cheshire East Road Safety Team to assess Macclesfield Road for the location of a SID. 2. Use the existing SID device to monitor this location, moving the device between 4 locations during a 12-month period. <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Recommend the purchase of a second solar-powered Speed Indicator Device (SID) with data-logging capability, within a budget of £3500. Instruct officers to source 3 quotes to ensure the best value to approve at full Council.