



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CiLCA**

29th January 2026

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 5th February 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Please note the Personnel Committee will follow this meeting at 8.00 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 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.

Please note this committee meeting is a Paperless Council unless otherwise requested.

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 Environment Committee held on the 4th December 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. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

5. 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 prior to the meeting.

6. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Accounts.

7.1 To receive an update on the In Bloom awards at national, regional and local levels. (Verbal)

8. Streetscape Management Accounts (Enclosed)

To receive the Streetscape Management account report.

9. Streetscape Update (Enclosed)

To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

10. Carbon Footprint Summary (Enclosed)

To receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council's Carbon Footprint.

11. Mobile Waste Service (Verbal Update)

1. To receive a verbal update from the Ward Councillor regarding the status of a mobile waste service in Congleton.
2. To advise on where there are operational Mobile Waste Services and how effective they are.

12. Peak Cluster Project Response (Enclosed)

Environmental Impact Assessment and Consultation Response.

13. Review of herbicide requirements for highway weed treatment (Enclosed)

To note the report outlining the method of highway weed treatment

To members of the Environment Committee

Cllrs: Suzy Firkin (Chair & Deputy Mayor), Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)
Suzie Akers Smith, Dawn Allen, Charles Booth, Dave Brown, Sally Ann Holland, Susan Mead, Heather Seddon, Glen Williams.

Ex Officio: Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor)

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



Congleton Town Council

Title	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting Time	4 th December 2025 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	Agenda Papers for Environment - 4th December 2025

Attendance

Committee Members	Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair and Deputy Mayor) Cllr Heather Pearce (Vice Chair) Cllr Dawn Allen Cllr Sally Ann Holland Cllr Susan Mead Cllr Heather Seddon Cllr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	0
Non-Committee Members	Cllr Robert Douglas
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer), Doug Christe (Streetscape Development Manager)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	0

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith, Charles Booth, and Robert Brittain (Mayor).

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

ENV/19/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Environment Committee minutes held on 2nd October 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations were received by Cllrs Heather Seddon, Sally Ann Holland on matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

There were no outstanding actions

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. Urgent Items

No urgent items

7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group

ENV/20/2526 resolved to receive the Floral In Bloom Management Account to 30th September 2025.

7.1 To receive an update on the In Bloom awards at the National, Regional and local levels.

ENV/21/2526 resolved to receive a verbal update from Cllr Glen Williams, who advised that Congleton won the Best Large Town for the North West in Bloom competition, as well as awards for 20-plus groups in Congleton. Cllr Williams gave thanks to all the volunteers and councillors who gave their support

8. Streetscape Management Accounts

ENV/22/2526 resolved to receive the Streetscape Management Accounts to 30th September 2025.

9. Streetscape Update

ENV/23/2526 resolved to receive the report as presented.

10. Carbon Footprint Summary

ENV/24/2526 resolved to receive updated carbon footprint figures to the end of Quarter 2, September 2025.

11. Town Hall Environmental Project

ENV/25/2526 resolved to receive the report as presented relating to the Improved, Greener, Community Facilities Fund Grant.

12. Mobile Waste Service

ENV/26/2526 resolved to receive a verbal update from Cllr Seddon, who advised that Congleton would be receiving a skip in the new year, locations to be confirmed.

13. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Item 14

ENV/27/2526 resolved to pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting due to Commercial sensitivities.

14. Streetscape Staffing Budget

ENV/28/2526 resolved to receive the update on the proposed Streetscape staffing budget as presented by the Chief Officer.

**Cllr Suzy Firkin
(Chair)**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5 th February 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Congleton In Bloom Working Group - Floral/In Bloom Management Accounts		
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 31 st December 2025, month 9, see Appendix 1.		
Updates	<p>These accounts in the appendix show information for month 9 of 2025-2026, which equates to 75% of the budget. Please refer to the summary for notes/comments. The main expenditure and income for plants and baskets are now complete for the year, with only a few costs yet to arrive.</p> <p>Income 238.5% of expected income at month 9, this is due to sponsorship income being received this year, which does not have an expected budget allocated, see Appendix for total income, this will balance down over the year.</p> <p>Expenditure 138.93% spend at month 9, Floral spends mainly take place at the start of the financial year due to the timings of the events, so it shows as an overspend early on in the year.</p> <p>The budget for 25-26 was increased by £2,000, which is to accommodate possible extra costs for the extra competition, Britain in Bloom. The annual expenditure for In Bloom covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanging basket plants and consumables.• In Bloom displays.• Sundries for local projects.• Travel expenses to the Competition Award ceremonies• Ticket costs to attend the Award Ceremonies.• Portfolio design and printing• Judging day expenses		
Decision Requested	To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Account to 31 st December 2025.		

Congleton Town Council
Management Accounts 2025-26
Floral/In Bloom
Dec-25

	OK
	Monitor
	Over/Under (Exp./Income)

Month 9
 Percentage 75.0%

Floral
Income

1180 Donations Received
 1195 Sponsorship Income
 1199 Misc Income: Hanging Baskets
 Total

ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M9	ACTUAL TO M9	£ VARIANCE OF M9 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M9 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M9 EXPECTED
0	-	- 237	237			
0	-	- 2,540	2,540			
-4,000	- 3,000	- 4,379	1,379	145.97%	109.5%	34.48%
-4,000	- 3,000	- 7,156	4,156	238.53%	178.9%	103.90%
Expenditure						
4011 Rates	172	129	162	33	125.58%	94.2% 19.19%
4162 General Expenditure	16,000	12,000	16,689	- 4,689	139.08%	104.3% 29.31%
Total	16,172	12,129	16,851	- 4,722	138.93%	104.2% 29.20%
Net Expenditure over income	12,172	9,129	9,695	- 566	106.20%	79.7% 4.65%

NOTES

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

Income from hanging basket sales.

Paid in Full for the year, paid for 5 roundabouts

Breakdown: TBC

Plants & Compost 11,791
 Judging Days 1,274
 General Competition 868
 General 716
 Awards Ceremony 845
 Thank You Evening at CTC 932
 Expenses 258
16,684

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5th February 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 Environment (including Streetscape Services) Management Accounts		
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 31 st December 2025, month 9, see Appendix 1.		
Updates	<p>These accounts in the appendix show information for month 9 of 2025-2026, which equates to 75% of the budget. Please refer to the summary for notes/comments.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 102.7% of month 9 budgets.• CEC Income: three quarters paid, External works showing as 110% as at month 9, further invoices due to be raised during January 2026. <p>Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 97.3% of Month 9 budgets.		
Decision Requested	To receive the Streetscape Management Accounts to 31 st December 2025.		

Congleton Town Council
Management Accounts 2025-26
STREETSCAPE

Dec-25

Month 9
 Percentage 75.0%

OK
Monitor
Over/Under (Exp./Income)

STREETSCAPE

	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M9	ACTUAL TO M9	£ VARIANCE OF M9 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M9 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M9 EXPECTED
4000 Staff Costs	651,186	488,390	461,740	26,650	94.5%	70.9%	-4.09%
4008 Training	3,200	2,400	0	2,400	0.0%	0.0%	-75.00%
4009 Protective Clothing\H & Safety	5,900	4,425	4,744	-319	107.2%	80.4%	5.41%
4013 Office rent	2,000	1,500	1,500	0	100.0%	75.0%	0.00%
4016 Cleaning Materials	8,000	6,000	2,513	3,487	41.9%	31.4%	-43.59%
4021 Telephone	1,175	881	431	450	48.9%	36.7%	-38.32%
4025 Insurance	10,369	7,777	10,043	-2,266	129.1%	96.9%	21.86%
4041 Property maintenance	1,500	1,125	291	834	25.9%	19.4%	-55.60%
4043 Horticultural etc Supplies	14,000	10,500	17,019	-6,519	162.1%	121.6%	46.56%
4047 Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc	12,800	9,600	12,725	-3,125	132.6%	99.4%	24.41%
4048 Vehicle fuel and oil	16,285	12,214	12,204	10	99.9%	74.9%	-0.06%
4049 Vehicle rental charges	81,000	60,750	68,866	-8,116	113.4%	85.0%	10.02%
4050 Street Cleansing	8,000	6,000	3,970	2,030	66.2%	49.6%	-25.38%
4152 Propagation Unit	2,500	1,875	805	1,070	42.9%	32.2%	-42.80%
4162 General expenditure	5,300	3,975	2,154	1,821	54.2%	40.6%	-34.36%
4168 Other Expenditure	0	0	0	0		0.0%	-75.00%
4951 Tfr from EMR			2,420				
6000 Central Overheads Reallocated	50,596	37,947	40,879	-2,932	107.7%	80.8%	5.79%
Streetscape Expenditure	873,811	655,358	637,464	15,474	97.3%	73.0%	-2.05%
3030 Purchases for recharging	0	0	570	-570		0.0%	0.00%
1165 CEC - Income	-427,199	-320,399	-328,601	8,202	102.6%	76.9%	177.56%
1167 External work income	-17,500	-13,125	-14,491	1,366	110.4%	82.8%	185.41%
1199 Miscellaneous	-900	-675	0	-675	0.0%	0.0%	75.00%
Streetscape Income	-445,599	-334,199	-343,092	8,893	102.7%	77.0%	177.66%
Net Expenditure over Income	428,212	321,159	294,942	23,797	91.8%	68.9%	-16.84%

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

Replenishment required

Full year for Zurich and Critical Illness paid to date.

Overspend approved by Council CTC/25/2526
 Less £2,420 used from EMR: Actual revenue spend £10,305 107%

Overspend approved at Council CTC/28/2526

No budget

Income Variance 100% Green, 75% to 99% Amber, 0%-75% Red
 3 quarters received, final invoice due to be paid January 2026

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee																																																																																																																																														
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5th February 2026	LOCATION			Congleton Town Hall																																																																																																																																										
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer																																																																																																																																														
AGENDA ITEM	9																																																																																																																																														
REPORT TITLE	Streetscape Services																																																																																																																																														
Update	<p><u>Streetscape Contract</u></p> <p>The current Streetscape Contract runs through to April 2027. We have entered into negotiations for an extension to that contract. With devolution being a subject Cheshire East is exploring, the reality is that more services will be passed down to Town and Parish Councils. For efficiency and environmental benefits, investment into new vehicles and equipment is key. When investing, there will be either finance agreements, leases or capital investment required. To enable this to happen, we need to seek a significantly longer contract than we currently have. This is to advise committee members that we are entering into dialogue with Cheshire East Council on this matter.</p> <p><u>Fly Tipping</u></p> <p>As well as noting the quantity of fly tips per month and annually, we are now calculating the cost for each specific fly tip over the course of a year. Below you will note the number of fly tips we have dealt with over the last year (2025), in comparison to previous years:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>16</td><td>30</td><td>20</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>25</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>32</td><td>24</td><td>14</td><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>10</td><td>12</td><td>19</td><td>10</td><td>19</td><td>24</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>5</td><td>40</td><td>22</td><td>11</td><td>11</td><td>24</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>June</td><td>4</td><td>22</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>26</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>July</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>19</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>5</td><td>18</td><td>10</td><td>26</td><td>19</td><td>18</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Sept</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>14</td><td>23</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>17</td><td>25</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>10</td><td>30</td><td>15</td><td>22</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>70</td><td>136</td><td>150</td><td>205</td><td>206</td><td>194</td><td>182</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Cost</td><td>£2324.16</td><td>£5380.52</td><td>£2481.45</td><td>£12,300.87</td><td>£ 15,360.76</td><td>£ 13,077.18</td><td>£11,834.74</td></tr> </tbody> </table>								2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan	4	4	4	16	30	20	17	Feb	10	2	10	11	25	7	5	Mar	4	0	32	24	14	8	7	Apr	10	12	19	10	19	24	14	May	5	40	22	11	11	24	20	June	4	22	2	8	26	20	21	July	8	21	0	13	9	19	23	Aug	5	18	10	26	19	18	22	Sept	6	6	14	23	13	9	14	Oct	5	3	10	8	21	17	13	Nov	4	4	17	25	4	6	10	Dec	5	4	10	30	15	22	6									Total	70	136	150	205	206	194	182									Total Cost	£2324.16	£5380.52	£2481.45	£12,300.87	£ 15,360.76	£ 13,077.18	£11,834.74
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	<p><u>Grit</u></p> <p>Following direction from Cheshire East Council we are having to work independently with regards to grit so will be ordering a pallet of bagged grit for emergencies</p> <p><u>Vehicle Graphics</u></p> <p>Should start to appear on the Streetscape Vans to help promote the work of the Council. The graphics have been ordered and will show the Town Crest, the name of the Town Council and be fitted during February 2026</p> <p><u>Members of the Streetscape team in work</u></p> <p>All staff are currently working – no long-term sick, one awaiting knee operation, we have seen absence across the go up due to winter flu virus during January.</p> <p>Approval has been given via the budget setting process to recruit 2 additional members of staff, 1 x Countryside Ranger and 1 x Flexi Streetscape operative both due to commence employment in the spring</p> <p><u>Litter Bin Replacement Plan</u></p> <div data-bbox="370 990 675 1290" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>We are looking to replace worn out and rotten bins across the town and have a standard covered litter bin that can accept bagged dog waste and general litter, also investigate options for recycling cans or similar in the main street.</p> <p><u>External works</u></p> <p>Contract agreed with Astbury Mere Trust, currently working with Holmes Chapel, Somerford PC and Astbury PC</p>
<p>Financial Considerations</p>	<p>Concerns over the financial impact of fly-tipping, as well as a probable increase in highway weed control on the streetscape budget lines. Ensuring that external contracts are cost-beneficial to the council.</p>
<p>Environmental Considerations</p>	<p>Consideration to be given to areas to be weed-sprayed and the specific type of chemicals used.</p>
<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>Where we undertake new, existing projects or activities, we will need to engage all sectors of the community, and we will look to ensure full inclusivity.</p>
<p>Decision Requested</p>	<p>To receive the report.</p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5th February 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Doug Christie- Streetscape Development Manager/Serena Van Schepdael- RFO		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Carbon Footprint Update		
Update	<p>Appendix A</p> <p>Up-to-date graphs and figures on the Town Council's Carbon Footprint. Our data is divided into the following areas of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall • Streetscape • Paddling Pool • Public Realm <p>The latest figures are shown as a graph in Appendix A. These figures are for the end of quarter 3, December 2025. See below for the latest summary.</p> <p><u>Utilities</u></p> <p>See Appendix B</p> <p>Our carbon emissions data is taken directly from our supplier. Absolute Emissions are total Emissions. We reduce our absolute emissions by opting into the Green Energy tariff; for information purposes, absolute emissions are included in the summary to highlight our savings. For the financial year 2024-2025, we were not opted into the Green Tariff, hence the spike in the net emissions; we are opted in again from April 2025.</p>		

LATEST SUMMARY

No further additions for this summary on Paddling Pool and Public Realm during quarter 3. Figures for Town Hall are looking lower due to us now being back on a Green Tarriff for Electricity, emission for Gas are historically higher during the winter months this will be indicated in the next summary. See Appendix A for the charts.

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Up to Month 9 2025-26
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,662	29,055
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183	40,296
Paddling Pool	9,560	8,055	0	3,695	5,945	5,832	7,738	9,752
Public Realm	8,096	6,922	6,459	14,112	8,592	9,739	16,376	11,940
TOTAL	174,565	163,566	107,188	126,035	128,064	120,761	154,959	91,042

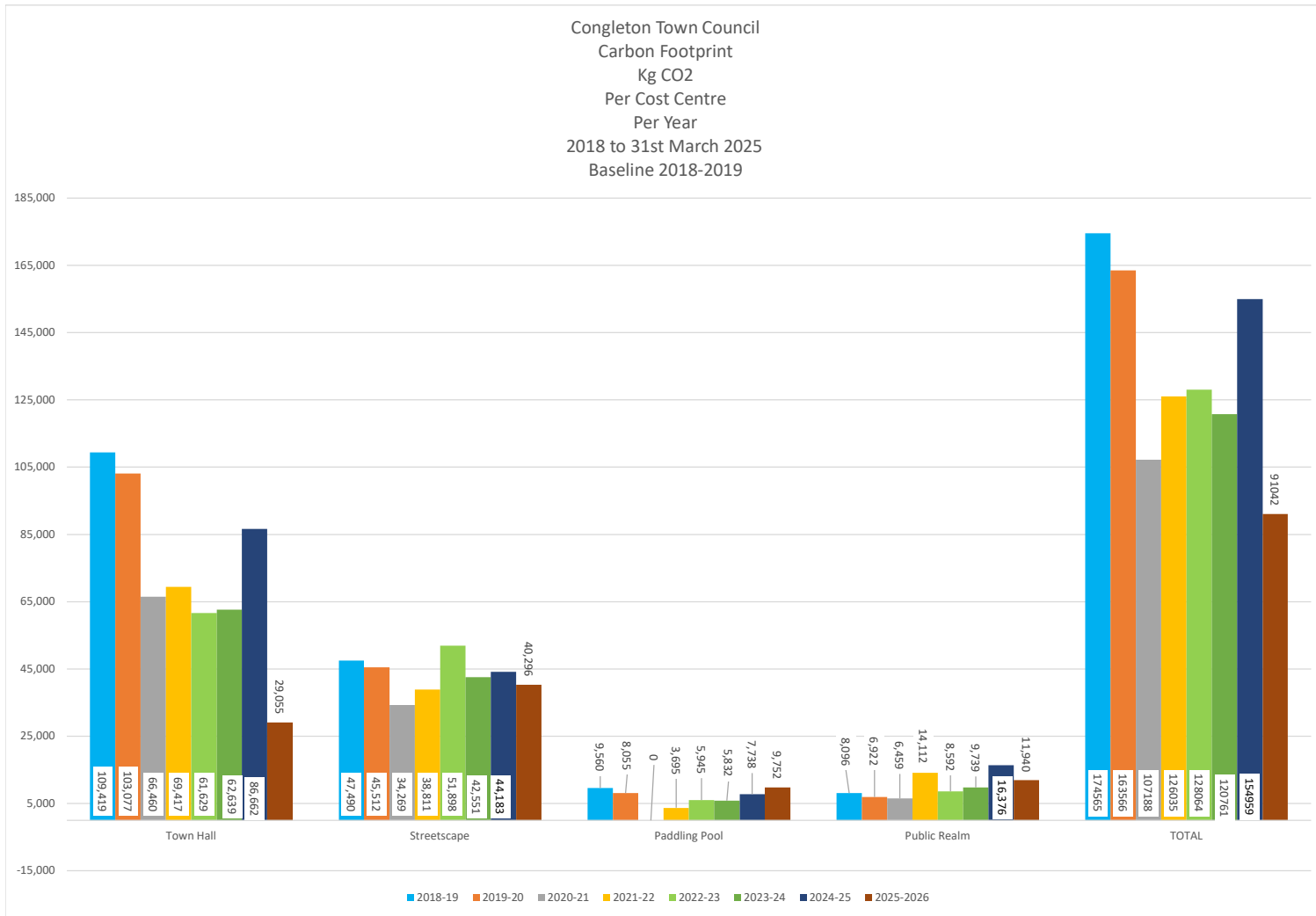
Methodology	<p>Fuel: Calculated on litres used, the equation is based on 2.31kg of CO2 per litre for Petrol and 2.54 kg for Diesel.</p> <p>Utilities: Gas & Electric data taken directly from the Energy Supplier based on usage. Water per 0.298 of CO2 per M³</p> <p>Plants/Compost/Chemicals: Currently using the original method of calculations based on £, for Plants, we are currently looking at other methods, including using the Plant Passport.</p>
Environmental	<p>Reducing carbon is key to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and its responsible Environmental Management approach.</p>
Equality	<p>The impact of Climate Change is predicted to affect the most vulnerable in society and those already living in poverty. The town council must show leadership in addressing climate change and decarbonising our assets and services where possible.</p>
Financial	<p>Driving down our carbon footprint will also have the benefit of reducing fuel and energy consumption, which will, in turn, save the council money in the long term. However, in some cases, investment in equipment and infrastructure may increase short-term costs, and the balance of these two opposing trends must be carefully assessed.</p>
Decision Requested	<p>To receive updated carbon footprint figures to the end of Quarter 3, December 2025.</p>

Congleton Town Council Carbon Footprint Summary

Appendix A

Up to Month 9

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,662	29,055
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183	40,296
Paddling Pool	9,560	8,055	0	3,695	5,945	5,832	7,738	9,752
Public Realm	8,096	6,922	6,459	14,112	8,592	9,739	16,376	11,940
TOTAL	174565	163566	107188	126035	128064	120761	154959	91042



Congleton Town Council

Carbon Footprint Summary: Utilities

Appendix B

ELECTRICITY

Net Carbon Emissions

Area	Green Tarriff							2025-2026
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
Town Hall	43607	32263	0	0	0	0	22613	0
Pool	5064	3655	0	0	0	0	2208	0
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	0
								0

ELECTRICITY

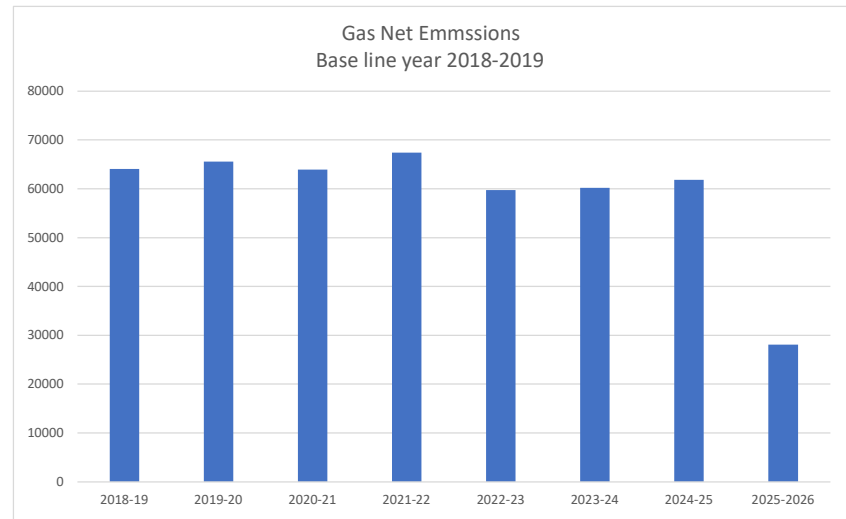
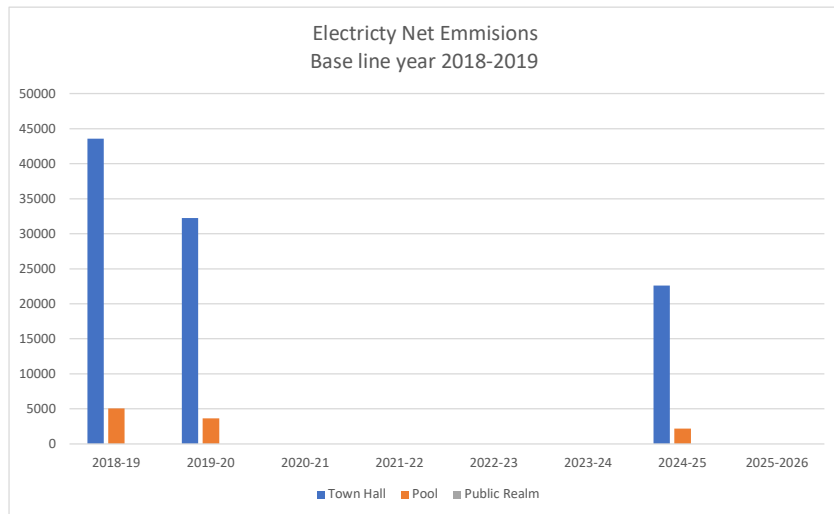
Absolute Carbon Emissions for information: To show savings

Area	Green Tarriff							2025-2026
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
Town Hall	43607	32263	26409	19755	21559	22179	22613	14,403
Pool	5064	3655	14	1125	1697	2251	2208	1,747
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	15

GAS

Net Carbon Emissions

Area	Green Tarriff							2025-2026
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
	64023	65568	63911	67400	59764	60209	61841	28,082



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5th February 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzy Firkin – Environment Committee Chair		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Item 12 Peak Cluster Projects – Environmental Impact Assessment and Consultation Response		
Background	<p>The UK’s cement and lime industry concentrated in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, produces about 40% of the nation’s cement supply. However, the manufacturing process releases significant amounts of carbon dioxide.</p> <p>To tackle this challenge, four leading cement and lime producers have joined together to deliver Peak Cluster. Using proven carbon capture technology, the project will capture CO₂ at source, compress it and transport is via a new pipeline to the coast and beyond to safe, permanent storage in the depleted Morecombe gas caverns.</p> <p>The project is a National Strategic Infrastructure Project and so does not go through the standard planning process. It must be granted consent for construction and operation by DESNZ. Peak Cluster therefore are required to submit a type of planning application called a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate who will then make their recommendation to DESNZ.</p> <p>A key requirement of this process is for extensive consultation with national and local stakeholders. Cheshire East, ourselves and most of our surrounding parishes are consultees.</p> <p>The proposed route for the pipeline has now been published, and it affects Congleton in as much as it passes through Timbersbrook and Key Green alongside the edge of The Cloud. It will also go under many of our main highways (Manchester, Macclesfield and Buxton Roads).</p> <p>To lay the 22.5cm (9-inch pipeline), a construction corridor of approx. 30m is required. This will be fenced and allow safe access and construction to dig the necessary trench. The trench itself will only be open for a couple of weeks, but the construction corridor will be present for about 6 months on each stretch of the pipeline. It will be like having a temporary access road but one that goes through an area of open countryside and will be visible from our most famous viewpoint The Cloud.</p> <p>Once complete, and re-naturalised, little will be visible and there is the opportunity for new tree planting and habitat improvement along the route to mitigate for any disturbance.</p> <p>The nearest Above Ground Installations (AGI) will be in the Gawsworth and Cranage areas, so outside our boundary. These are basically monitoring and inspection stations at junctions of the various pipelines.</p>		

	<p>As a consultee, we are currently being asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To comment on the Scoping Document for the Environmental Impact Assessment that will be a key component of the submission to the Planning Inspectorate. This response is required by 11th Feb. The document is extensive (557 pages) and to the untrained eye appears impressive and comprehensive. If we do not respond they will assume we have ‘no comment’ or we can formally respond ‘no comment’. Alternatively, I have identified that there is no allowance for hyper-local consultation at particularly sensitive areas. The nearest face to face meeting being in Middlewich. Given The Cloud is acknowledged as a key viewpoint from which the pipeline’s impact is to be assessed, we could request the need for a Timbersbrook forum/meeting to ensure the impact of the project on the relevant section is minimised. Respond to the full Phase 1 Consultation. This response is required by 27th February. This is where we can make detailed comment on the pipeline route, local disruption and impact on highways and communities. We can submit a response as a council or as individual councillors the feedback forms or online portal allow for either. We only need to respond to the section of the route that most impacts Congleton – this being Section 4 Holcim Cauldon capture facility to the Central Feeder AGI.
Environmental	The Peak Cluster Project is a decarbonisation project to reduce the carbon footprint and pollution generated by the Peak District based cement industry. During the construction phase there will be a visible environmental impact for some of our surrounding countryside but once the pipeline is complete and buried there will be little long-term damage and there will be an opportunity for BNG in some areas.
Equality	Securing the future of the cement industry guarantees the provision of jobs both at the cement works affected and on the pipeline work required. These jobs are important manufacturing and construction-based employment that are accessible across a wide range of socio-economic groups within Congleton and the surrounding area. As an NSIP equality, inclusion and social value will be closely monitored.
Financial	No financial impact for the Town Council beyond dissemination of information to councillors and residents.
Decision Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To decide upon the Council’s response to the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Document. Option 1: No Comment. Option 2: Submit a comment that calls for a specific local consultation opportunity for Timbersbrook. To decide on the Council’s response to the Phase 1 Consultation. Option 1: Council response agreed by Planning Committee to Section 4 of the Consultation Feedback document. Option 2: Councillors to make individual submissions to the Consultation.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee	
MEETING DATE AND TIME	5th February 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Doug Christie- Streetscape Development Manager	
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Review of herbicide requirements for highway weed treatment	
Update	<p>With the reduction in Highway weed treatment / spraying Congleton Town Council, in response to residents' comments, have undertaken to reduce the amount of weeds across the highways of Congleton</p> <p>Following the demonstration of a full EV quad bike and spray system, the total cost of the quad bike and spray system is circa £7,000. The cost of the weed spray for the whole of Congleton, three times a year, is being investigated. This proposal was brought to the council for the meeting on the 11th December 2025 and has been passed. The EV quad has been acquired and will be delivered with familiarisation training mid-February. Weed spraying will commence in spring 2026.</p> <p>For clarity the weed spraying will be focused on the kerb edges and footpaths adjacent to the highway.</p> <p>The product that will be used is called Nomix Enviro Herbicide Spray system using Control Droplet Application Herbicide product which is used by multiple local authorities including Cheshire East Council.</p>	
Environmental	Using the Nomix Dual Spray system reduces the use of herbicides against the traditional method of knapsack spraying	
Equality	This is a change in the method of weed spraying by utilising both a quad bike and on foot. The quad bike may open opportunities for new starters who may have some physical disabilities	
Financial	The budget for the introduction of this method of spraying has been approved as part of the 2026 -27 budget setting process and the quad bike has been paid for utilising the 2025-26 budgets	
Decision Requested	To receive the update on highway weed treatment	