

Please tell us about your organisation, its aims and the work you undertake. (in less than 200 words)

'Caffeine Connections' became the first monthly coffee afternoon in Congleton aimed at the LGBTIA+ community, providing a safe space for people to chat informally and make connections. This can often be the first point of contact of people of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies too, who often need support or friendship. Our volunteers, welcome friends old and new in the LGBTQIA+ community to enjoy free tea, coffee, cake & cookies on the last Wednesday of each month, between the hours of 2-5pm at the Trinity Methodist Church, Congleton

This vital local resource has been funded entirely, from inception, by one of our Congleton Pride volunteers. Unfortunately, due to a change in their employment situation, they are no longer able to offer this financial assistance. It is in with respect to this that we look for your support – a grant of £500, which is less than 42% of the annual operating costs of this group.

'Caffeine Connections' is the name of a monthly meeting wholly 'owned' on a not-for-profit basis by Congleton Pride, which is a registered charity.

3: COST DETAILS/ RESOURCES/ TIMETABLE

Project Title:	Caffeine Connections
Project Objectives:	To provide a monthly coffee afternoon in Congleton aimed at the LGBTIA+ community, providing a safe space for people to chat informally and make connections
Brief Project Description:	<p>Caffeine Connections provides a vital and welcoming space for Congleton's LGBTQIA+ community, fostering inclusion, mental well-being, and social cohesion. Held on the last Wednesday of each month, this coffee club is more than just a casual gathering- it is a lifeline for individuals who may otherwise feel isolated or lack safe spaces to express themselves freely. Social isolation is a significant issue for many within the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly older individuals, those in rural areas, or those who may not have supportive family networks. By offering a consistent, accessible, and friendly environment, Caffeine Connections helps build confidence, friendships, and a sense of belonging, which in turn improves mental health and overall well-being.</p> <p>The grant of £500 from would ensure that the groups modest operating costs, including venue hire and associated expenses, are fully covered for the year. This would allow Caffeine Connections to continue its important work without financial barriers, ensuring that no one is excluded due to cost.</p>
Total Cost of Project	£1199

Total contribution sought:	£500
Details of cost breakdown and budgets:	See below
What will the money be spent on?/ Resources needed:	Site Rent £360 pa Insurance £100 pa Consumables (Cakes, Coffee etc) £360 pa Purchase of new Barista Coffee Machine £299
Any ongoing costs:	£800 operating costs pa
Details of confirmed match funding, include source Cash/Grant: In kind:	We have just commenced our fund raising for 2026. A car boot sale is planned for Easter Sunday. We are holding a St Patrick's Day Quiz and will be fund raising at two Makers Markets. We are also holding a Quizz Night at Reuben Stubbs, with future events planned. Any shortfall in the project will be supported by Congleton Pride's Reserves
Estimated timescale of project from start to finish:	This application covers the 2026 Calendar year
4: POTENTIAL BENEFITS/ OUTPUTS	
What are the potential benefits/outputs to residents of Congleton	Supporting this initiative aligns with our Councils commitment to inclusivity and community support, demonstrating a proactive approach to promoting diversity and well-being within Congleton. By funding this group, Congleton Town Council would be investing in a more connected and supportive town, where all residents feel valued and included Additionally, the group encourages engagement with the wider community, strengthening Congleton's reputation as an inclusive and welcoming to all.
Are there similar services/ projects provided in the area	None
5: EVALUATION	
How will the project be evaluated and who will carry out the evaluation?	It is impossible to quantify the benefits to the overall community of the Congleton Pride movement, of which Caffeine Connections is part. However, our event is enjoyed by residents from birth to 80+. We insure the event for up to 4000 visitors on the day.

	That said, the Caffeine Connections coffee afternoons are regularly visited by 30 persons all aged 18+
Describe how you will promote the Town Council in your project.	We would be delighted to credit CTC on our website and on all literature relating to Caffeine Connections & Congleton Pride.
Please acknowledge you have read our Grant Application Criteria	Please see the Policy on our Grants page on our website: Grants - Congleton Town Council (congleton-tc.gov.uk) I/we have read the policy: YES / NO
Will you be attending the meeting to support your application	Date will be provided by the RFO YES/NO

Declaration

- I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation.
- I understand and agree that the application and supporting documents will be presented on a public agenda, and that any private information will be redacted.
- I certify that the information contained in this application is correct. If the information in the application changes, I will inform Congleton Town Council as soon as possible.
- I give permission for Congleton Town Council to retain this information electronically. The information in this form will be used for the administration of grant applications.
- I understand that Congleton Town Council will use any personal information I have provided for the purposes described under the Data Protection Statement which can be found [Constitution - Congleton Town Council \(congleton-tc.gov.uk\)](http://congleton-tc.gov.uk)
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Signed: 	Date: 3.2.2026
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Please return your form and supporting documents to info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or post to RFO, Congleton Town Hall , Congleton Town Council,. High Street, Congleton , CW12 1BN