



# Congleton Town Council

<b>Title</b>	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Date of Meeting Time	19 March 2026 7:00 pm
Status	<b>Final Minutes</b>
Reference Documents	<a href="#">Agenda Papers for Planning – 19 March 2026</a>

## In Attendance

<b>Committee Members</b>	Cllr Amanda Martin (Chair) Cllr Suzie Akers Smith Cllr Mark Edwardson Cllr Rob Moreton Cllr Liz Wardlaw Cllr Kay Wesley
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor) Cllr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)
<b>Non-Committee Members</b>	Cllr Glen Williams
<b>Officers</b>	David McGifford (Chief Officer)
<b>Members of the Press</b>	0
<b>Members of the Public</b>	4

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Charles Booth (Vice Chair), Cllr David Brown, and Cllr Robert Douglas.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

**PLN/31/2526 resolved** to approve and sign the Planning Committee minutes held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 as a correct record.

### 3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations were received by Cllrs Rob Moreton and Liz Wardlaw on matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

#### **4. Outstanding Actions**

Resolving access at Morley Drive.

#### **5. Questions from Members of the Public**

A presentation was made by the new owner of the “boat on the Dane”, who advised of his development plans for the site, which were favourably received by the committee members.

#### **6. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items

#### **7. Planning Enforcement**

To receive any updates on enforcement matters.

##### **7.1 Astbury Place / Congleton Park**

There has been no further progress on this matter

##### **7.2 Section 106**

A written report was provided by Cllr R Douglas, see Appendix 1

#### **8. Planning Applications Section 1**

Planning application 26/0400 was brought forward to this section. Comments can be found in the Planning Applications section 2.

#### **9. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

A progress report was provided by the Chief Officer, and after seeking clarification, the position is as follows:

1. CTC need to make minor changes following the “Fact Check”.
2. Contact the graphic designer to make those amendments.
3. Forward to Cheshire East Council, who will take it through to the Referendum.

#### **10. Licensing Applications**

There were no licensing applications.

#### **11. Planning Applications Section 2**

PLN/32/2526 resolved to approve all starred items and comment no objection.

	<b>App Ref</b>	<b>Location Details</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	
1.	<a href="#">26/0255</a>	11 Richards Grove, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4WH	Felling of a lime tree designated T6 on the property of 11 Richards Grove.	<b>Objection</b> on grounds of insufficient evidence and no expert advice being provided
2.	<a href="#">26/0364</a>	4, Lakeside Newcastle Road, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4HL	Atlas Cedar - The broken branches should be cut back to suitable side branches where possible. The broken stumps should be cut back to the main limbs or stem where there is no branch to cut them back to. The lateral limbs that extend over the neighbour's garden should be shortened by 3-4 metres back to suitable side branches. I would also suggest that the long lateral which extends back over the garden towards the shed is also reduce by 3-4 metres.	No Objection
3*.	<a href="#">26/0366</a>	Land Between Manchester Road and Frank Kearton Avenue, Congleton,	Erection of plant machinery	No Objection
4.	<a href="#">26/0379</a>	43 Johnson Close, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3TQ	Crown thinning by approximately 20% to allow increased light through the canopy	No Objection

5.	<a href="#">26/0400</a>	15 Burslam Street, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3AF	Landscaping works to rear garden (retrospective application).	<b>Objection</b>  Increased invasion of privacy - level with bedroom windows Looking down into the lounge Overshadowing Loss of outlook Concern of the distance between the bedroom window and the platform being built
6*.	<a href="#">26/0436</a>	64 Chestnut Drive, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4UB	Two storey side extension with single storey rear extension and new porch. Garage to be demolished.	No Objection
7.	<a href="#">26/0544</a>	Marlfield Primary Academy, Waggs Road, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4BT	To crown raise 1x large Beech tree to approximately 6m above ground level and reduce any branches encroaching the building and neighbouring garden structure.	No Objection
8.	<a href="#">26/0579</a>	2 Bridge Street Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AY	Alterations to shop frontage to provide access to two separate Class E units.	No Objection
9*.	<a href="#">26/0586</a>	5 Copperhill Road, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3JG	Proposed First Floor Side and Single Storey Rear Extensions	No Objection
10*.	<a href="#">26/0611</a>	Copeland And Craddock Limited Greenfield Road,	Non-Material Amendment to approval 25/3215/FUL  <b>Note. Approved with conditions</b>	No Objection

		Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4PX		
11*.	<a href="#">26/0627</a>	11 Annan Close, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3RZ	Two-storey side extension and Porch addition	No Objection
12.	<a href="#">26/0655</a>	The Co- operative Food, 60 Bromley Road, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 1PY	New plant to replace existing in side yard. New ventilation. New external LED lighting to replace existing.	No Objection
13*.	<a href="#">26/0660</a>	John Morley Importers Limited Morley Drive, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3LF	Discharge of condition 12 on approval 24/2497C: Demolition of existing buildings and regeneration of site to provide a care home, 53 retirement living apartments and 14 houses.	No Objection
14*.	<a href="#">26/0699</a>	John Morley Importers Limited Morley Drive, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3LF	Non-material amendment to approved application 24/2497C - Demolition of existing buildings and regeneration of site to provide a care home, 53 retirement living apartments and 14 houses	No Objection
15.	<a href="#">26/0731</a>	196 Biddulph Road, Congleton,	Agricultural determination for the erection of a new building	No Objection

		Cheshire East, CW12 3LS		
16.	<a href="#">26/0806</a>	The Manse, 16 The Moorings, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3RF	T1 Oak remove 4 bottom limbs over grassed area, T2 Sycamore remove bottom limb over the grassed area crown lift to 4m and T3 Oak crown lift to 4m.	No Objection
17.	<a href="#">26/0827</a>	92 Park Lane, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3DD	T1 Birch (4060) - Crown lift to 4m above ground level including epicormic growth on stem and selective pruning to achieve approximately 2m clearance of the building. Reason - Clearance of the footpath, pedestrians and building	No Objection
			<b>Additional Planning Applications</b>	
18*.	<a href="#">26/0694</a>	20 Brooklands Road, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4LT	Single-storey side extension and fenestration changes.	No Objection
19*.	<a href="#">26/0870</a>	9 Sweet Briar Court, Astbury, Congleton	Proposed extension to rear of existing garage to form self-contained annexe accommodation	No Objection
20*.	<a href="#">26/0899</a>	6 Croft Close, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3SL	Proposed single storey rear extension.	No Objection

21.	<a href="#">26/0949</a>	19 Moody Street, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 4AN	Prior notification for the proposed change of use from existing offices to 1 dwelling	No Objection
22.	<a href="#">26/0917</a>	Big Fenton Farm Peover Lane, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3QH	Agricultural determination for a replacement agricultural building for Livestock housing and storage of machinery and equipment	No Objection
23.	<a href="#">24/4574</a>	Land At Broadhurst Lane, Congleton	Residential development of 22 dwellings, including highway improvements at the Broadhurst Lane Junction with the Clayton Bypass, estate roads, car parking, boundary treatments, landscaping, open space and other associated works and ancillary development.	<b>OBJECTION</b> As previous position of the Committee  A Biodiversity net gain “off-site” is not acceptable. Access via Broadhurst Lane is totally unsuitable due to being very narrow and creates a safety issue going onto and coming in from Clayton Bypass. Often Broadhurst Lane has large commercial vehicles accessing Dane Mill which blocks the road.

### Appendix 1

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING S106 – 19th MARCH 2026**

At our meeting in February 2026, I advised that I sent an F.O.I. in respect of a planning application for Forge Mill, which was wrongly allocated by Cheshire East as relating to Somerford, but in fact, relates to Congleton. Cheshire East loaded the incorrect S106 Agreement relating to Audlem on their planning portal for this particular planning application. Cheshire East has now sent me a copy of the correct S106 Agreement. I raised this F.O.I because this S106 Agreement showed that there was £ 17,000 of outstanding S106

monies in the October 2024 Financial Ward Analysis, but it did not appear at all in subsequent Financial Ward Analyses.

Cheshire East have advised that this agreement was superseded by a later agreement and that the developer paid all the outstanding debts of £ 17,000 during 2019. Therefore, the earlier S106 Agreement should not have appeared in the October 2024 Financial Ward Analysis. However, it was right to exclude the earlier agreement in the subsequent Financial Ward Analyses.

At our last meeting, I provided details of one of the developments on the Financial Ward Analysis relating to Somerford Parish, Planning Application No 13/2746C, with outstanding S106 monies totalling £ 1,121,015. Within that figure, there is a Highways Contribution totalling £ 775,000, which according to the S106 Agreement, should be spent on improvements to the A34 within Congleton and to Rood Hill.

There is also an outstanding sum of £ 145,000 to be used towards the provision of Quality Bus Stop Infrastructure, which Somerford Parish advises me has been erected, and improvements to bus service frequency.

When I passed this information across to the Congleton Chronicle, the Congleton Chronicle advised that they were already aware of a similar but later S106 Agreement, 16/5156C. I knew nothing about this later agreement because it had never appeared on any of the Financial Ward Analyses. The Congleton Chronicle and I concluded, rightly as it turned out, that the earlier S106 Agreement with outstanding S106 monies totalling £ 1,121,000 was invalid because it had been superseded by the later S106 Agreement.

This later S106 Agreement increased the Highways Contribution for the improvements to the A34 within Congleton and to Rood Hill from £ 775,000 to £ 850,000, but the Public Transport Contribution was reduced from £ 145,000 to £ 50,000.

The lead story of the Congleton Chronicle's edition dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 was that this sum of £ 850,000, originally earmarked to be spent on the A34 within Congleton and on Rood Hill, was instead spent on the new Wolstenholme Elmy Way Link Road.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Cheshire East Council confirmed that the earlier agreement with outstanding S106 monies totalling £ 1,121,015 was invalid because it had been superseded by the later agreement. Therefore, it should not have appeared on the S106 Financial Ward Analyses. Cheshire East also stated that all the monies owed under the later S106 Agreement, 16/5156C, had been received.

In their response of 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, Cheshire East Council also advised that there was another S106 Agreement for Somerford showing an outstanding sum of £ 68,000 that was invalid because it had also been superseded by a later agreement.

The following sums should not have been included in the last three S106 Financial Ward Analyses because they either never commenced or had been superseded by later S106 Agreements:

1. As reported in last month's report, £ 207,753.86 in respect of five developments in Congleton, which never commenced and should never have been included in the schedule.
2. The two S106 Agreements relating to Somerford, which are detailed above, totalling £ 1,189,015.00.

This means that for just Congleton and Somerford, the October 2024, April 2025 and October 2025 Financial Ward Analyses have reported a total of £ 1,396,768.86 of outstanding S106 monies that were not owed at all.

We have to ask what document is Cheshire East Council using to chase overdue debts. Clearly, they cannot be using the S106 Financial Ward Analyses, because surely they would have spotted that for Somerford, there was one agreement showing an outstanding debt of £ 1,121,015 that was invalid.

However, it does mean that Cheshire East Council is churning out Financial Ward Analyses every six months, which can only be described as GIGO, (Garbage In Garbage Out), because they are providing users with very poor information.

It also means that Cheshire East Council is merrily churning out every six months a report telling everyone that it is even more incompetent at collecting debts from developers than it actually is!!

Councillor Robert Douglas 17th March, 2026