



Congleton Town Council

Title	Community Committee
Date of Meeting Time	16 th April 2026 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	Agenda Papers for the Community Committee – 16th April 2026

Attendance

Committee Members	Clr Kay Wesley (Chair) Clr Sally Ann Holland (Vice Chair) Clr Dave Brown Clr Amanda Martin Clr Susan Mead Clr Shaun Radcliffe Clr Richard Walton Clr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	Clr Robert Brittain (Mayor) Clr Suzy Firkin (Deputy Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	Clr Robert Douglas
Officers	Cathy Dean (Communities Manager) Debbie Coxon (Marketing & Communications Manager)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	Police Officer Vicky Welch – (Congleton Neighbourhood Sergeant)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Mark Edwardson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/39/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 29th January 2026 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations of non-pecuniary interest were received from Cllrs Sally Holland and David Brown in relation to matters concerning Cheshire East, and from Cllr Glen Williams in respect of items 7, 13 and 14 regarding Congleton Partnership.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public

5. Urgent Items

No urgent items.

6. Cheshire Police

Police Sargent Vick Welch attended the meeting; crime statistics are attached in Appendix 1.

Members commented on the increased visibility of Officers in part due to initiatives like 'Bobby's on Bridge Street'. Please direct any questions to Vicky via email (vicky.welch@cheshire.police.uk). Increase in shoplifting reporting due to the ongoing work with local stores and shopkeepers, which is positive.

Action – Nuisance Parking causing a problem in certain hotspots around town; bring it to the Community Safety working group to compile a list of areas and a plan of action to tackle them.

It was agreed to change the order in which items were considered at the meeting; item 11 was brought forward.

11. Youth Council Update

Received a verbal update from the chair of the Youth Council.

7. Committee Updates

CO/40/2526 resolved to note the update report on actions from items discussed at the previous Community meeting.

8. Equal Access Advisory Group

CO/41/2526 resolved to receive the minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Group meeting held on 27th January 2026.

8.1 Equal Access Updates

CO/42/2526 resolved to:

1. Receive and note the report about the ongoing work of the Equal Access Group.
2. Agree that CTC should sign up as a Disability Confident (Committed) Employer.
3. Councillors volunteer for 'wheelchair day' later in 2026.
4. Councillors consider adding the Disability Confident Committed logo to email signatures.

9. Community Safety Working Group

CO/43/2526 resolved to receive the minutes of the Community Safety Working Group meeting held on the 19th March 2026 and receive a short update from the Chair.

10. Communications Update

CO/44/2526 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 23rd January 2026 to 8th April 2026.

12. Food and Drink Festival 2026

CO/45/2526 resolved to note a report from Events Manager Rachel McCarthy on the Food and Drink Festival 2026, planned for 7th June 2026.

13. UK Town of Culture 2028

CO/46/2526 resolved to receive a report on Congleton's Bid to be the UK Town of Culture 2028.

14. Civic Awards 2026

CO/47/2526 resolved to approve the edition of the Team category for Congleton Town Council's Civic Awards and an amendment to the eligibility criteria.

15. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Item 16

To consider passing 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.

16. Service Level Agreement Community Projects 26-27

CO/48/2526 resolved to agree to delegate authority to the Community Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Officer to agree on the funding to support the 2026-27 SLA for Congleton Community Projects, which will be no greater than the 2025-26 sum of £10,000. This may require Council approval, dependent upon the proposed amount. The next council meeting is on the 7th May 2026. In addition, resolved to approve an interim payment of £1660 to Community Projects while discussions take place.

Congleton stats:

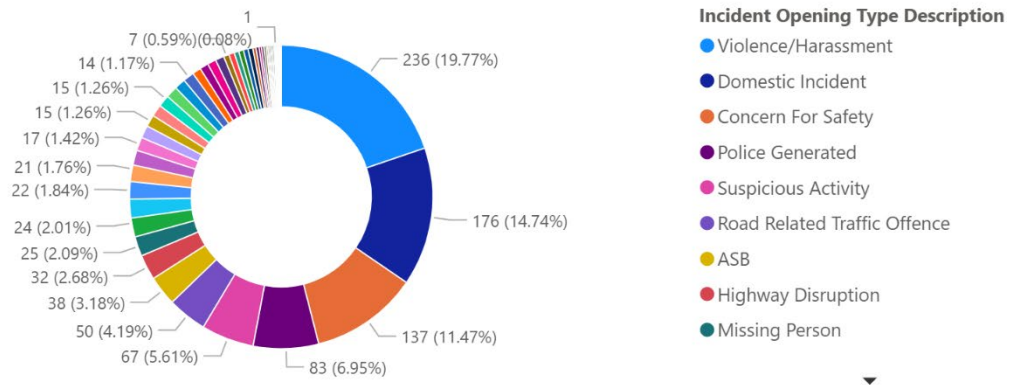
January – March

Total number of incidents:

Opening Type	Total	%
Violence/Harassment	236	19.8%
Domestic Incident	176	14.8%
Concern For Safety	137	11.5%
Police Generated	83	7.0%
Suspicious Activity	67	5.6%
Road Related Traffic Offence	50	4.2%
ASB	38	3.2%
Highway Disruption	32	2.7%
Missing Person	25	2.1%
Shoplifting	24	2.0%
Theft Other	24	2.0%
Complaints Against Police	22	1.8%
Sexual Offences	21	1.8%
Abandoned Police Call	10	1.0%
Total	1,193	100.0%

Visual | [Chart Tools] | Sort | Drill | New visual calculation

Count of Incident Reference Number and %GT Count of Incident Reference Number by Incident Opening Type Description

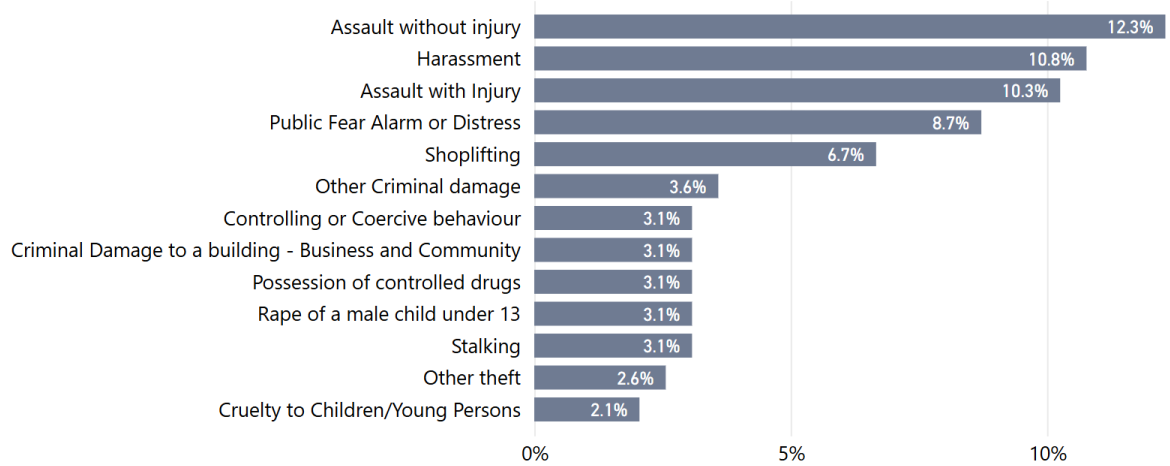


Breakdown per month:

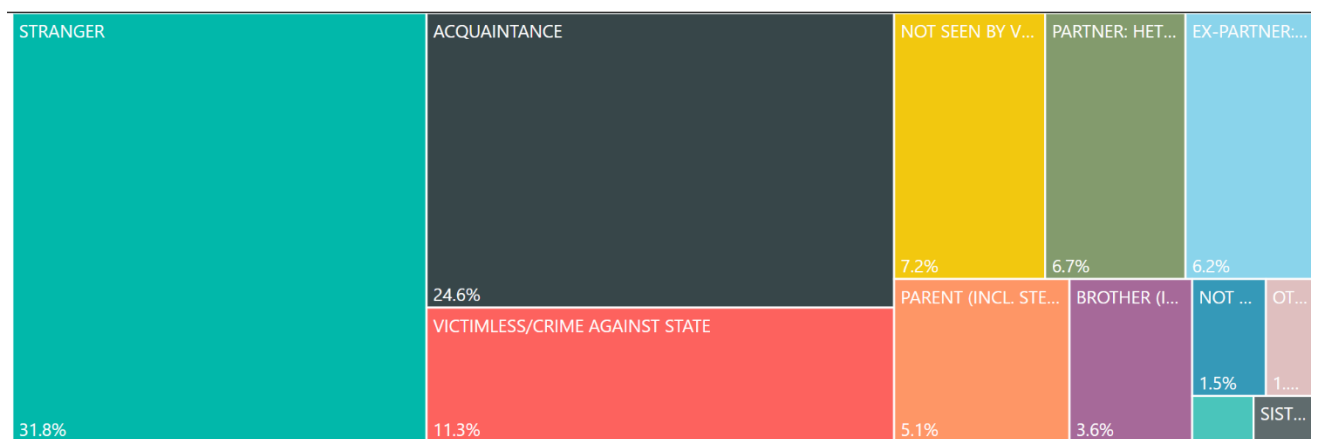
Month Year	Total
March 2026	417
February 2026	358
January 2026	418
Total	1,193

Number of incidents crimed:

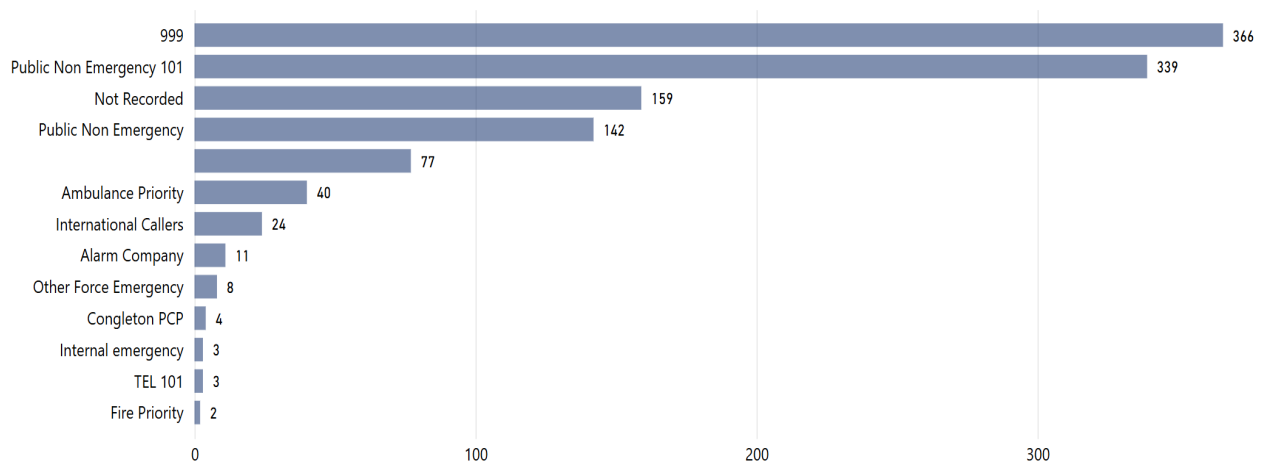
Month Year	Recorded Crime
Feb 2026	157
Jan 2026	181
Mar 2026	190
Total	528



Relationship between reporting person and suspect



How these incidents were reported



Sandbach for comparison

Opening Type	Total	%
Highway Disruption	147	13.5%
Domestic Incident	124	11.4%
Violence/Harassment	119	11.0%
Road Related Traffic Offence	100	9.2%
Police Generated	88	8.1%
Concern For Safety	82	7.6%
Suspicious Activity	46	4.2%
PNC Markers	39	3.6%
ASB	38	3.5%
RTC	27	2.5%
Message to Pass/OOF Enquiries	24	2.2%
Missing Person	23	2.1%
RTC - Damage Only	20	1.8%
Control Offences	10	1.0%
Total	1,085	100.0%

Month Year	Recorded Crime
⊕ Jan 2026	93
⊕ Mar 2026	97
⊕ Feb 2026	98
Total	288

