

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16th April 2026 7pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 Food & Drink Festival 2026		
BACKGROUND	<p>The 16th Congleton Food and Drink Festival will take place on 7th June 2026.</p> <p>Over 70 vendors are already booked.</p> <p>Road closures on the pedestrian area, High Street, Mill Street and Swan Bank Stalls, gazebos and street food trailers across the entire site.</p> <p>Entertainment includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilt walkers and two other street entertainers • DJ Chris M booth • Music gazebo with three different bands to entertain <p>Information and lost child point located in the information centre located at the town hall.</p> <p>Portable toilets are located at the bus station where the previous toilets used to be.</p> <p>Road blockades are in place at every entry point to reduce the risk of rogue vehicles.</p> <p>Town Hall - Plans for 2026 include making better use of the Town Hall, potentially by creating a kids' zone or soft play area. The space also offers valuable shelter in case of rain and has generated interest from visitors wanting to look around, making it a great opportunity to promote room hire. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's zone (Mark Events arranging) • Face painter booked • Astbury Darlings soft play • Cake making and pizza making • Arts and crafts area, food related. <p>Volunteers</p> <p>The event could not run without a team of volunteers, councillors are encouraged to help support the event, please contact Rachel if you can volunteer on the day.</p>		
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	<p>£10,000 budget</p> <p>Sponsorship letters sent out, £2000 already received from local business sponsors.</p>		

<p>EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p>Diverse Participation: Invite participants from different cultural, ethnic, age, religious, disability, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds. Involve community groups, faith groups, schools, charities, and local businesses.</p> <p>Representative Hosts/Performers: Ensure the people performing represent the diversity of the town, to make all community members feel included.</p> <p>Physical Accessibility: Ensure the event is wheelchair accessible and has accessible toilets and clear signage.</p> <p>Sensory Considerations: Quiet zones or “sensory-friendly” area for people with autism or sensory processing needs, located at TMC The Space.</p> <p>Visual and Audio Aids: Use clear, contrasting signage; ensure audio announcements are loud and clear for people with visual impairments.</p> <p>Accessible Formats: Promote the event in multiple formats (e.g., Easy Read, large print.)</p> <p>Safe and Family-Friendly Timing: The event time is suitable for families, older people, and others who may not feel safe travelling at night.</p> <p>Anti-Discrimination Measures: Code of Conduct: Promote a zero-tolerance policy on hate speech, racism, harassment, or exclusion.</p> <p>Steward Training: Train volunteers and staff in equality, diversity, and how to handle complaints or incidents respectfully and appropriately.</p> <p>Free or Low-Cost Activities: Event is free to attend and includes free entertainment so that those on low incomes can participate.</p>
<p>Environmental Consideration</p>	<p>All vendors are asked to take rubbish home and use eco-friendly packaging. We will aim to provide separate bins for recycling and general waste. The aim is to attract vendors within a 30-mile radius where possible.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>To note the report and request for councillors to volunteer at the event.</p>