

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16th April 2026 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Mayor’s Civic Awards		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	<p>On 29th August 2024, the Community Committee resolved that “The Chief Officer/Deputy Chief Officer works with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Community and Environment to help design the Civic Awards Scheme and present this as a policy for approval at the next Full Council meeting.”</p> <p>CTC/40/2425 - Resolved to approve the Civic Awards, which will be held at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2025 and reviewed afterwards.</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is to propose two amendments to the awards scheme.</p>		
THIS PROPOSAL	<p>The introduction of the first Mayor Civic awards in 2025 was positively received and celebrated the great community spirit that Congleton is known for.</p> <p>The 7 award categories approved at council last year are:</p> <p>Community Involvement Award – This award recognises someone who plays a key role or takes significant responsibility in a community effort. This could include organising community events, improving facilities for a neighbourhood, supporting a charity in their own time, or offering help to individuals in need.</p> <p>Young Volunteer Award– This award is for a young person (under 25) who actively contributes to the community on an ongoing basis, whether as part of a group or individually. It could be someone who directly helps others, joins in with groups to improve the area, or supports events and activities.</p> <p>Art and Culture Award– This award recognises an individual who dedicates their time to music, art, dance, crafts, or heritage activities that benefit the community. This could include someone running a theatre group, organising an art exhibition, creating new history trails, or putting together a music festival, among other contributions.</p> <p>Environment Award – This award honours an individual who dedicates their time to conservation, sustainability, biodiversity, or the enhancement of our green spaces. This could include efforts such as establishing a recycling initiative, leading a carbon emissions reduction project, delivering active travel initiatives, or organising gardening and planting projects.</p> <p>Wellbeing Award – This award recognises an individual who supports the health, fitness, or overall wellbeing of others. This could include someone who leads a sports team, establishes a peer support group, provides one-to-one support to vulnerable people, or contributes to local health initiatives.</p>		

	<p>Good Neighbour Award – This award celebrates an individual who volunteers in a local, personal way, such as shopping for elderly or disabled neighbours, cleaning and weeding their street, or organising street parties and community gatherings.</p> <p>Unsung Hero Award – This special award is presented at the discretion of the judging panel. It is not open for direct nomination. Instead, one of the nominees for another award, who has worked tirelessly and selflessly without seeking recognition, may be honoured with this award for their significant and ongoing efforts.</p> <p>The original proposal was to recognise individuals only, as groups and businesses are already covered by other awards, such as those run by the Chamber and Retail/Hospitality awards. However, this approach fails to recognise the valuable contribution of volunteer groups in the town, which collectively do a significant amount of important work.</p> <p>Congleton Town Council proposes to add a Team award:</p> <p>Team Award – Recognises a voluntary team or group of people who work together to deliver a community effort. This could include organising community events, improving the environment, supporting vulnerable people, or improving facilities for a neighbourhood.</p> <p>The second amendment concerns the principle “A resident can only win a maximum of one award in a five-year period.”</p> <p>After reviewing other council award schemes, a 5-year blanket restriction is unusually long and arguably counterproductive; it prevents recognition of different contributions and discourages repeat high-impact volunteers.</p> <p>Common practise indicates awards will not normally be given for the same contribution or within the same category in consecutive years. This does allow for nominations in other categories, or some councils leave it up to the judges' discretion.</p> <p>Can the committee consider the proposal to remove the time limit and category restriction? The principle would read like this:</p> <p>“Previous recipients of a Mayor’s Civic Award may be nominated again; however, awards will not normally be given for the same contribution or within the same category in consecutive years. The panel may exercise discretion in exceptional circumstances.”</p>
<p>Environmental Considerations</p>	<p>This scheme includes rewarding local people for their environmental projects and contributions and highlights the importance of this work. All awards will require a sustainable approach, and prizes should be made with sustainable materials.</p>
<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>These awards will help reward those who support the more vulnerable in our community, which promotes equality, and all awards will require an inclusive approach. These awards should encourage more people to come forward and volunteer, which is good for our community overall.</p>

Financial Considerations	These two amendments will not incur any further costs.
PROPOSAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve the addition of the team award category.2. To approve the removal of the five-year restriction on receiving an award and to adopt the revised guidance reflecting this change in principle as noted above.