

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	18th June 2026 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cathy Dean, Communities Committee		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 Congleton Gymnastics Club		
BACKGROUND	<p>Congleton does not have a standalone gymnastics club; most gymnasts have to travel to Sandbach, Macclesfield or Crewe for training. The main ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbach Gymnastics – one of the largest and longest-established clubs in Cheshire, operating since the mid-1980s from a purpose-built 20,000 sq. ft facility. • Silk Gymnastics Club Ltd – a well-established club based in Macclesfield offering recreational, advanced and competition classes. • Macclesfield Gymnastics, Gymnastics Club, Gymnastics Classes – based at Macclesfield Leisure Centre and offering gymnastics sessions locally. • Crewe & Nantwich Gymnastics – another sizeable Cheshire club with a dedicated gymnastics centre. • LS Gymnastics Crewe Academy – a newer gymnastics academy in Crewe. 		
	<p>Erica Roebuck, a previous Team GB gymnast, has contacted the council with a vision for a new inclusive community gymnastics club based in Congleton.</p> <p>“We aim to create a safe, positive, and accessible environment where children and young people of all abilities can participate in gymnastics, develop confidence, improve physical and mental well-being, and become part of a supportive local community. We are passionate about providing opportunities for both recreational participation and competitive development, while ensuring inclusivity remains at the heart of everything we do.</p> <p>As a new club, we are currently exploring opportunities for support that could help bring this project to life and create a long-term community asset for Congleton and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>We would be extremely grateful for any guidance, introductions, or assistance regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential local authority or community funding opportunities • Sports development grants and grassroots funding schemes • Assistance in identifying suitable premises or facilities • Planning and community use support • Introductions to local businesses or organisations interested in sponsorship • Opportunities to approach new housing developments and developers for community grants or Section 106/community investment funding • Equipment sponsorship and partnership opportunities 		

	<p>Our long-term vision is to build a sustainable gymnastics academy that supports children’s health, confidence, inclusion, and aspirations while contributing positively to the local community.</p> <p>As the club develops, there is significant potential to create local employment opportunities through coaching, administration and facility management roles. We would also aim to establish pathways for young people interested in careers within sport by offering volunteering opportunities, mentoring and apprenticeships in sports coaching and community development. This would allow local young people to gain recognised qualifications and valuable work experience without needing to leave the area.”</p> <p>Erica initially got a positive response from Everybody Leisure at Congleton Leisure Centre, as that seems to be the ideal location (As a gym club is run in Macclesfield Leisure Centre), but that was turned down due to a lack of storage space.</p>
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	None to the council. An application could be made for a CTC grant through the Finance and Policy Committee, if desired.
EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS	<p>Local gymnastics provision would help ensure that children and young people in Congleton have the same opportunities as those in neighbouring towns. Requiring families to travel to Sandbach, Macclesfield or Crewe can create barriers due to the cost of travel, time commitments and limited access to transport.</p> <p>Providing activities locally would improve access for all families, particularly those on lower incomes, and support greater participation in sport, physical activity and wellbeing. It would help ensure that children are not disadvantaged by where they live or their family's circumstances.</p> <p>A dedicated facility would enable us to provide daytime provision for SEND schools, specialist groups and the growing home-educated community. Many of these children currently have limited access to structured physical activity programmes that are specifically designed to support their individual needs.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	Providing gymnastics sessions within Congleton would reduce the need for families to travel to neighbouring towns for training. This could help lower vehicle journeys, reduce carbon emissions and support the council's commitment to encouraging sustainable local services. Delivering activities closer to where people live also promotes more efficient use of local facilities and resources.
DECISION	To discuss and note the report.