

Congleton Partnership Report May 2023

- Increased social innovation in the Community
- Communities are better connected
- Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services
- Decreased Demand on public services

	Projects/Events	Outcomes	Measure	Date	Details
	Community Health and Wellbeing Fayre	Bring together the best the community has to offer to support local people with their health and well-being. Communities are better connected Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services	Strengthening local connections Health & Wellbeing	29 th March '23	40 exhibitors are booked in. We attracted 200 visitors a year, held a scam awareness workshop, 2 defib training workshop and a staying active talk. More great feedback from all who attended.
	Dementia Friendly Congleton	Continuing to advance our Dementia Friendly – Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services Increased social innovation in the Community	Health & Wellbeing Socialising Reduce Social Isolation Strengthening local connections Joint project with the Lions.	Ongoing	Winter edition of the Young at Heart Leaflet was produced in December. 3 Dementia Friends awareness session's have been held since January 23. 2 more requests have been received for Dementia buddy scheme.

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	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>Senior Forum</p>	<p>Lifesaving Defibrillators to be installed in and around the town, joint project with Congleton Lions.</p> <p>Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services</p> <p>Decreased demand on public services</p> <p>Befriending and telephone buddy scheme launched with service provider Changing Lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recruit 17 volunteer Buddies and Befrienders to support Congleton residents To match an additional 20 clients in the Congleton Town area referred into the Scheme with a Volunteer Befriender In addition to the above targets, aim to achieve 2021 baseline figures of 15 further clients matched. <p>Increased social innovation in the Community. Communities are better connected.</p>	<p>£2350 matched funds with Lions.</p> <p>Reducing social isolation</p> <p>Matching volunteers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Launched OCT '21</p> <p>Second year funded until Oct 23.</p>	<p>6th Defib installed at St Johns Community Centre. 7th defibrillator has been installed at West Heath Shopping centre.</p> <p>Purchased a 8th Defib for placement at Bowling club in Mossley area of Congleton. Waiting for installation date. All matched funded with the lions.</p> <p>Also organising another training session at West Heath Shopping Cente.</p> <p>12 referrals to date (Apr '23) 12 matches. 16 volunteer sign-ups.</p> <p>Good feedback from Social Prescribers – they would love to extend the scheme to include in-person.</p>

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		<p>Looking to expand the Congleton Talking Newspaper, ongoing. (Joint project)</p> <p>Senior forum sent out a survey to find out what people want in the town, and 28 replies to the survey. Planning on developing the next big project.</p>	CP £400 Joint project with CTC		
	Old Saw Mill Meals	<p>Delivery service of meals on wheels to isolated residents grew out of covid and now delivers over 60 meals each week. Also evolved into a buddy/befriending scheme.</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community</p> <p>Communities are better connected</p> <p>Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services</p> <p>Decreased Demand on public services</p>	<p>Buddy and Befriending</p> <p>Matching Volunteers</p>	Ongoing	<p>Due to the success of the buddy/befriending, we have adopted the AMI volunteer system from Cheshire East and received £17500 in grant funding to develop our volunteer program.</p> <p>AMI system has had some teething problems so we have been promised by October it should be up much better.</p>
	Congleton Play Day	<p>Joint project with Community Projects.</p> <p>On Tuesday, August 15th, Congleton Town Centre will be hosting another Play Day in the Pedestrian Area from 10 am-3 pm. The day is</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>CP funding £350</p>	15 th August	<p>The event has been organised by Congleton Community Projects and will also be promoting the Congleton Play Areas leaflet which shows where all 12 designated play areas are to be found as well as all the other open spaces in the town where kids and families can play.</p>

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		<p>based on National Play Day which is taking place all over the country in the first week of August and is a celebration of children's right to play, highlighting the importance of play and fun in children's lives.</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community</p>			<p>We will also be happy to offer stalls to any groups who would like to volunteer such as Clothes Swap, In Bloom and Young People's organisations such as Ruby's Fund who may bring their mobile soft play area.</p>
	<p>Congleton Tree Group</p>	<p>Aim to plant 30,000 (one tree for each resident of Congleton) reducing our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Approx. 15,000 plants/trees were planted, an amazing achievement thanks to a large group of volunteers and lots of hard work, fantastic effort! (March '22)</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community Communities are better connected</p>	<p>Carbon Footprint Climate Emergency</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>For the 22/23 planting season, an online consultation via the Partnership website was completed.</p> <p>Plans were adjusted after listening to local views. We also asked for 'Friends' of the planting areas and we had quite a lot of responses which was nice to see.</p> <p>Tree Council Grant was secured for all planting.</p>
	<p>Congleton Hydro</p>	<p>Situated in Havannah on The River Dane, funded by a community share scheme (£710K) is also developing new joint working with Siemens and Eaton Bank Academy.</p>	<p>Education Carbon Footprint CP matched funded Educational Boards £3080</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Just after eighteen months of operating, Congleton Hydro reached the Celebratory Milestone of 250MWhrs generated clean energy</p> <p>Building on the success of Congleton Hydro, the team behind it have secured</p>

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		<p>Educational element, group tours and inspiring the next generation of green champions.</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community</p> <p>Communities are better connected</p> <p>Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services</p> <p>Decreased Demand on public services</p> <p>Congleton Hydro for 2023 has generated £5000 for reinvestment into community projects.</p>	<p>£4000 in community grants</p>		<p>£100K funding to develop a brand-new renewable energy scheme.</p> <p>The grant funding is from RCEF –Regional Communities Energy Fund. This time the goal will be to generate power from both hydro and solar sources.</p> <p>A planning application has now been submitted to Cheshire East for a hydro in the park. Ongoing talks due to land ownership.</p> <p>Buildings have been identified for the solar panel project, we now have 10 letters of intent for the installation of solar panels, looking to move forward with the share raise offer.</p> <p>Applications are now open to apply.</p>
	<p>Landshare Project / Airbnb for Gardens</p>	<p>Land sharing project which grows local, fresh, sustainable food for the community. Whilst there are approx. 300,000 allotments across the UK, land set aside for plots has declined by 70% since their peak with waiting lists as long as 40 years in some parts.</p> <p>There are waiting lists in Congleton for the limited supply of available allotment space, and there are homeowners/tenants who have gardens they struggle to maintain or would be</p>	<p>Cost of living Grant £9580</p> <p>£700 funding for skip hire from Kanga Health to clear site</p>		<p>We intend to provide community tools, a community store shed and small grants to develop vegetable plots so money is no object to starting out. The Hillary Avenue plot will need raised beds and topsoil to develop the plot, as well as seeds, plants. Will be a community space and launching 17th June with a Big Planting Day with the big green week.</p>

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		<p>happy to utilise their land to grow food. We will provide a match-making service between growers and garden owners with all the necessary tenancy agreements, land usage, visiting rights and safeguarding policies in place to protect both parties.</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community</p> <p>Communities are better connected</p> <p>Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services</p> <p>Decreased Demand on public services</p>			
	Elizabeth's Garden	<p>Elizabeths Garden, West Road - Add low customised black metal railings along the front of either side of the garden, to emphasise the garden perimeter, add further definition to the name and purpose of the garden and help prevent cyclists from cutting the corner, which spreads the slate chippings all over the path.</p>	<p>£600 matched funding from the CP.</p>		<p>Project Installed March 2023</p>
	Inclusive Wheelchair friendly Roundabout in Congleton Park	<p>The Partnership completed a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to install an inclusive roundabout in Congleton Park.</p> <p>A total of £14000 was raised.</p> <p>Communities are better connected</p>	<p>Health & Wellbeing Socialising</p> <p>CP has contributed £1244</p>	<p>Launched Apr '22</p>	<p>42 backers contributed to the crowdfund, a mix of small business support, grants and local people.</p> <p>Originally the target was £18,948 but we approached Sutcliffe Play suppliers to install the roundabout. This reduced the costs to 14k</p>

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		Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services	Installed and officially opened March '23.		A photo call will be organised and all backers will be invited to attend.
	Communications	<p>To improve Congleton Partnership communications and marketing to attract larger investment opportunities, communicate what Congleton Partnership is and be an effective educator for the Congleton Community.</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a social media marketing plan • Media: utilise all media channels such as local papers and radio. • Improve web presence with informative website/app <p>Increased Knowledge and accessibility of Services</p>	Culture	Jan '22 Ongoing	<p>Developing the vision and future targets for Congleton Partnership.</p> <p>Continuing social media coverage, blogs, signposting events etc.</p>
	Congleton Repair Cafe	<p>Running on the last Saturday of the month (10:00 - 14:00). A monthly pop-up event dedicated to repairing possessions & items. Based at The Old Saw Mill in Congleton, run by volunteers.</p> <p>Increased social innovation in the Community</p>	<p>Very well attended each month.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Joint Working</p> <p>Life skills development</p>	Ongoing monthly events.	<p>Cathy is helping the team with marketing plans, a landing page and MailChimp account will be set up to improve communication.</p> <p>Alsager & Sandbach Partnerships are interested in setting up Repair Cafes in their towns.</p>

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	Sustainable Living Course (Digital)	Sustainable Living Course is now launched online: https://learn.congleton-tc.gov.uk/courses/sustainable-living-in-congleton/	Education Climate Emergency Zero Carbon Target	Sept '21	A joint project between Congleton Town Council and the Partnership.
	Minibus	<p>Bookings have been picking up post covid, revenue generated £4377 for the period Apr '22 – Feb '23.</p> <p>Running costs for the same period £4075</p> <p>Current bank balance £5850</p> <p>**Cheshire East has publicised a Rural Transport Grant is coming up. We need to consider a bid.</p> <p>Are we looking to expand, replace a vehicle or do driver training?</p> <p>CP currently has £200 reserved for driver training.</p> <p>Decreased Demand on public services</p> <p>Communities are better connected</p>	<p>CP supported the running costs (Insurance etc.) £4000 to enable the project to continue.</p> <p>Welfare</p> <p>Community support</p>	Ongoing	<p>Users include organisations such as St Johns Community Centre which pick vulnerable members of the community for a weekly lunch club.</p> <p>Bromley Farm youth provision use the minibus to help young people to access different positive opportunities that increase their knowledge, build strong relationships with key services such as youth support service and the police which helps to reduce the demand on police response calls and social services resources.</p> <p>We have also supported some Ukrainian transport free of charge.</p>

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	Congleton Cares Leaflet	<p>Congleton Cares Leaflet was produced in response to the cost of living crises.</p> <p>A timetable of various groups, meetings/events were produced, and a leaflet was produced and distributed around the town.</p>		January '23	The timetable of events was also included in the Bear Necessities Spring edition '23.
	AMI Volunteer Project / Congleton VCP	<p>Currently, the Congleton VCP is actively managing 20 Volunteering Opportunities and 30 Volunteers.</p> <p>Each of the 30 volunteers is giving 3 hours of volunteering time a week.</p> <p>14 volunteers giving 2 hours a week 10 volunteers giving 3 hours a week 2 volunteers giving 6 hours a week 3 volunteer giving 10 hours a week 1 volunteer giving 15 hours a week</p> <p>Each volunteer has been for an informal interview during which their wishes, skills and availability have been discussed to enable their bespoke volunteering journey to start.</p> <p>This has proved invaluable in matching volunteers, settling anxieties and understanding the volunteers better. As a result of these initial conversations, changes have been made to the Volunteer Journey Programme such as meeting prospective new volunteers outside the venue as walking into a new place to meet a new person can be daunting, if not impossible. It is</p>	<p>Grant Received £1700</p> <p>Funds remaining £15742.5</p>		<p>Quotes from Volunteers:</p> <p>“My mental health was at an all time low until I started volunteering and now I have a reason to get up and to go out.”</p> <p>“I have learnt so much more about myself, I never expected that from volunteering It really feels that I have made a friend for life.”</p> <p>“Being with other people has given me a real boost, and I'm doing something I never thought I would be able to do.”</p> <p>“Since retiring, I have felt really lost, without purpose or motivation. Now I have something to do, where someone relies on me and needs me, and that's been life changing for me.”</p> <p>Feedback from the Volunteering Opportunities</p> <p>“The person who brings my meals, always has time for a chat and I really look</p>

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		<p>hoped this will help with the retention of volunteers.</p> <p>This will help with the retention of volunteers, as well as provide a firm, supported, personal start to their volunteering journey, during which they will be supported, encouraged and rewarded for their efforts.</p> <p>Future Plans:</p> <p>We have been approached by a Behavioural Insights Team who has been working with Cheshire East to map out a Volunteer journey.</p> <p>A Volunteers Social Calendar will be created for the volunteers offering a diverse range of monthly social activities for all volunteers to access to enjoy socialising in a safe whilst completing volunteering opportunities such as a community gardening project, or to come together to share a meal and to offer personal development opportunities.</p> <p>A volunteer job coach has been identified who will help with CV preparation, interview preparation and the completion of application forms for volunteers wishing to move into paid employment.</p>			<p>forward to seeing them. In fact, I actually enjoy getting up, showered and dressed on a Friday now! I just wish they could come every day!"</p> <p>"At first, I found it really hard to accept help with my shopping, I've always managed but actually, it's such a relief to have someone I trust to buy my food and everything."</p> <p>"Without a doubt, having my volunteer help me has meant that I have been able to stay at home, and to be independent. I have a paid carer but their time is so short and they don't have time to chat."</p>
	Green Fayre & Festival Week	30 th September 2023 is the date for the next Green Fayre, it's held on the same day as the maker's market.	A joint project between CP and CTC		Currently, in the planning stages, costs are shared between CP & TC.

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					Estimated costs £1000-1500