

# Assembly will champion White Ribbon campaign

Congleton’s efforts to encourage men to speak out about misogyny and challenge the attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women is to be highlighted at a top meeting of local councils.

Town Coun Mark Edwardson announced he will “fly the flag” for Congleton when he addresses the National Association of Local Councils’ national assembly in London on Wednesday, 29th November.

White Ribbon is the national campaign asking men to speak out against male violence against women and Congleton Town Council was one of the first to be accredited with White Ribbon status. Its ambassadors ask people to make the promise never to commit, excuse or remain silent about gender-based violence.

Playing a leading role in Congleton’s efforts is deputy mayor town Coun Kay Wesley, who worked with the association to become White Ribbon accredited.

Her town hall colleague Coun Edwardson will head to the capital later this month where he will speak at the association’s national assembly after which he has been invited to be a guest at its awards ceremony at the House of Lords.

He will address the assembly to inspire other councils and regional leaders to become White Ribbon accredited.

Coun Edwardson told the “Chronicle” the event was not going to be a “mere talking shop nor an opportunity to rest on collective laurels,” as he planned to “urge” more members to join the campaign to stop male violence against women and girls.

He said: “This is a real thrill for me. I’ve only been a town councillor for just six months so it’s a privilege to have been invited to speak at such an important event.

“I just hope I can live up to expectations by being a great ambassador for Congleton Town Council and its support for the White Ribbon campaign.”

He emphasised that one of the “most important” reasons for his trip to Parliament was the experiences of his female relatives, some of whom had reported being victims of sexual harassment.

Coun Edwardson added: “Domestic violence is endemic; even here in Congleton. Sexual and domestic violence takes a massive toll on women and girls, and it is not acceptable; I want it to stop.

“That’s why I’m one of a dozen White Ribbon ambassadors in Congleton. It’s our job to persuade other men to stop and think before raising a hand. The consequences for both parties can be catastrophic.

“The campaign’s slogan is ‘Change the Story,’ that’s all we want to do.”

Coun Edwardson’s London trip was announced during a recent meeting of the town council’s Community Committee, which also received an update from Coun Richard Walton about plans for this year’s White Ribbon campaign which begins on Saturday, 25th November, for two weeks.

He said: “We will be flying the flag on the town hall, lampposts will have ribbons and there is a massive Press and social media campaign.”

Ambassadors will have street stalls at Congleton’s Christmas lights switch-on celebration on Saturday, 24th November and at this month’s makers’ market.

Congleton High School has booked a talk with White Ribbon ambassadors, which Coun Walton said “always proves really rewarding.”

The town council is also working with Cheshire Police which has pledged to focus on domestic violence in the county.

Coun Walton said the White Ribbon group had stalls in the town centre in June, at Congleton Pride in July and at Astbury Mere in September. Some 65 new White Ribbon “promises” were made which he said was “excellent.”

When Coun Edwardson told town councillors that he was looking forward to his trip to London, Coun Wesley told him to “have fun” and “bring us a souvenir.”



Mr Edwardson.

# Planning round-up

## Latest plans + planning decisions

Cheshire East Council has received the following planning applications. Plans can be viewed online at [planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk) (search for “Cheshire East planning portal”) and found by using the reference number. Dates given are the last dates for comments; dates are November unless stated otherwise.

**Alsager:** 87, Linley Road, two storey extension, for A Evans (23/4129C, 24th).

**Arclid:** 3, Pulford Road, works to two lime trees, for F Williams (23/3993T).

**Brereton Heath:** land south of Brereton Heath Lane, permission in principle for the erection of two self-build dwellings, for Consilio Bono (23/4056C, 29th).

**Congleton:** 10, Coniston Avenue, new entrance porch and extension at first floor level and erection of part two storey and part single storey rear extension, for K Lani (23/4077C, 20th); Boundary Villa Farm, 4, Boundary Lane, replacement of conservatory for sun room, for C Johnson (23/4131C, 23rd); Copeland and Craddock, Greenfield Road, demolition of concrete frame structure currently forming factory two and small single storey toilet block to the right-hand side of the office block, construction of new portal frame unit to replace factory two, front and rear portal frame extensions to the portal frame structure currently forming warehouse one and reconfiguration and extension of the single storey office block with render and clad exterior façade, external hard landscaping will be reconfigured to provide a more defined car parking area, solar panels to be installed on the roof of warehouse one, for C Halliday (23/3763C, 7th Dec); former Valley Manufacturing site, North Street, non-material amendment to 10/4480C, demolition of commercial storage building and erection of four dwellings, for MAC Architectural Design (23/4055C).

**Church Lawton:** Blue Bell Cottage, 3, Congleton Road North, works to oak, beech and willow trees, for Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons and Arboricultural Consultants (23/4103T).

**Henbury:** land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, discharge of condition 19 on application 19/3097M, reserved matters application for the erection of 134 dwellings, vehicular access, roads and footways, hard and soft landscaping, drainage and other associated works following outline approval 17/4277M, for Bellway Homes (Manchester)

(23/4096D, 21st).

**Lower Peover:** Broom Lane Cottage, Broome Lane, discharge of conditions 3-6 on approval 21/4606M, for B Jackson (23/4115D, 24th).

**Middlewich:** Unit 11, Pochin Way, discharge of condition 13 of permission 21/1369C Plot 1a, Ma6nitude, Pochin Way, for Jet2 (23/3743D, 21st).

**Sandbach:** 10, Abbeyfields, Park Lane, single storey garden room extension (resubmission of application references 23/3289C and 23/3290C), for J McCombe (23/3957C, 30th); 19, Congleton Road, extension and remodel of existing garage into studio apartment, for A Perry (23/4132C, 23rd); Kudos Shower Products, Lodge Road, extension to warehouse (use class B2) for manufacturing purposes with associated car parking, for Thornhill Holdings (23/3953C, 30th).

**Scholar Green:** 36, Birch Tree Lane, prior approval for a single storey rear extension extending 6m beyond the rear wall, maximum height of 3.60m and eaves height of 2.40m, for M Austin (23/4124C, 22nd).

**Smallwood:** Beech Croft, Newcastle Road, demolition of domestic storage building, removal of caravan and the construction of a bungalow, for L Smith (23/4053C, 29th).

### Decisions

Cheshire East Council has made the following decisions on planning applications.

### Approved

**Marton:** Brickyard Farm, Congleton Road, discharge of condition seven part B on 21/3528M, demolition of two commercial buildings (B8 use) and erection of two replacement commercial buildings (B8 use).

**Warringham:** Five Oaks Farm, Drury Lane, discharge of conditions 4-6 and 11 on approval 20/3816N: conversion of barn to two dwellings and change of use of land to residential.

### Approved with conditions

**Alsager:** 43, Barn Field Way, two-storey side extension to approximately 2.3m to create additional accommodation.

**Congleton:** 12, Heath Road, single and two storey extensions including internal alterations; 14, Boundary Lane, first floor rear extensions with part raising of ridge; 206, Padgbury Lane, detached garage; 39, Thames Close, single storey rear and side extension.

**Gawsworth:** 7, Wardle Crescent, front bay window removal and replacement with squared off masonry walls to match the footprint of the first floor walls above and rebuild first floor walls over this area.

**Goostrey:** 136, Main Road, single storey rear extension and associated work to dwelling, new carport/garden store and new garden annex with associated landscaping works.

**Holmes Chapel:** 3, Cartmel Close, single storey side/rear extensions, garage conversion (including raising roof) and exterior changes.

**Middlewich:** land east and west of Croxton Lane, erection of 52 dwellings with associated infrastructure including new vehicular access from Croxton Lane, alterations to existing lay-by on Croxton Lane, hard and soft landscaping, new open space areas with children’s play area, Sustainable urban drainage system, pedestrian access point to Croxton Park and continued provision of public right of way; Unit 11, Pochin Way, discharge of condition 13 of existing permission 21/1369C; Plot 1A, Ma6nitude.

**Nether Alderley:** land adjoining Bollington Lodge (Alderley Park, Congleton Road), consent to display an advertisement.

**Sandbach:** 21, Offley Road, two-storey side and rear extension with single storey rear extension; 502, Crewe Road, change of use of industrial premises; Sandbach Primary Academy, Crewe Road, rear extension to provide additional classroom accommodation.

### Tree consents

**Alsager:** Little Gables, 12, Chancery Lane, work to horse chestnut tree (with conditions).

**Congleton:** 75, Park Lane, removal of two conifers (tree six-week date expired\*).

**Nether Alderley:** Alderley Park, Congleton Road, work to copper beech within the woodland to the rear of 3, Asquith Grove (with conditions).

**Wistaston:** 320, Crewe Road, tree work to remove damaged branches for safety reasons (consent not required).

\* Local planning authorities have six weeks to issue a tree protection order if they consider that any proposed works would be detrimental to the local amenity.

### Determinations

**Goostrey:** 9, Meadow Avenue,

Cheshire East



Staffs Moorlands Newcastle



prior approval for demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey flat roof rear extension extending 3.92m beyond the rear wall, maximum height of 2.99m and eaves height of 2.93m (approval not required).

**Nether Alderley:** Fern Cottage, Fernhill Farm, Chelford Road, prior approval of a single storey side and single storey side/rear extension extending 6m beyond the rear wall, maximum height of 4m and eaves height of 2.65m (approval not required).

### Certificates

**Congleton:** 123, Kestrel Close, certificate of lawful development for garage conversion adding a window to the side elevation (positive).

### Refused

**Brereton Heath:** Beech House, Brereton Heath Lane, discharge of condition 18 on application 05/0829/FUL install opening, obscured glazed windows to east elevation.

## Moorlands area

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has received the following planning applications. The reference number and the last date for comments are in brackets (if applicable). The dates are November.

**Biddulph:** Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre, Thames Drive, lawful development certificate for installation of 123 kWp solar PV system on the roof, for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council (SMD/2023/0513).

**Knypersley:** 5, Mill Hayes Road, single rear extension extending 8m beyond the rear wall of dwelling, 3m maximum height and 3m to height of eaves, for Mr and Mrs Woodrow (HNT/2023/0019, 20th).

### Decisions

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has made the following decisions on planning applications.

### Approved

**Biddulph:** Roxboro, 155 Congleton Road, flat roof single storey rear extension.

### Refused

**Biddulph:** Rose Cottage, Knypersley Hall, Harlech Drive, listed building consent for installation of nine replacement skylights.

**Rushton Spencer:** The Fox, Beat Lane, garage extension.

# School shutdown on first day back

Students at Sandbach School were “evacuated” on their first morning back after half term.

Work on the school’s electrical supply had been carried out during the holiday but there was a power outage first thing.

Students had arrived for lessons — and were on their way home soon after.

“You couldn’t write it could you?” headteacher Sarah Burns told the “Chronicle”.

Earlier this year the high school secured funding from the Government’s Condition Improvement Fund and a programme of works to

update the site’s electrical infrastructure has been ongoing.

During half term, “critical update works” to several switch rooms were undertaken.

However, David Osborne, director of finances and resources at the school, said: “Unfortunately, during Monday morning, a malfunctioning new mains incoming breaker caused a whole site power outage, which could not be resolved until later in the day.”

Mrs Burns said she was “grateful” to drivers of school buses who arrived back at school at 10am to escort

children home safely.

“The pupils were so well behaved; we just had a very calm evacuation process whereby they got hold of their parents and got permission to leave.

“And we kept anybody that couldn’t leave with us until we were able to make that connection. Obviously, it was something that nobody wanted to happen, but the students were good about it.” The main block of Sandbach school is a grade 11 listed building, and Mrs Burns described the school as an “old site with a lot of ancient equipment” which is

gradually being replaced.

She added the school has had to close several times during her time as headteacher because the site is “quite unusual” due to its age.

“We had all the new pipes laid, then they were being connected up over half term, but we are a very complicated site with a lot of different blocks of different ages, which makes it much more complex than other schools.”

New electrical parts were ordered on the Monday afternoon and the school was open as normal the next day.

## Convicted in her absence

Mary-Faye Roberts, (33), of 4, Astbury Lane Ends, Congleton, has been fined £72 for speeding on Park Lane.

Her case was dealt with by Cheshire Magistrates’ Court, sitting in Chester, but she did not appear in court and the case was proved in her absence. She committed the offence on 9th October.

Her driving licence was endorsed with three points and she was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £28. No order for costs was made.

## Due in crown court for plea

A 38-year-old was due to appear in crown court this week charged with robbery.

Lee Hackett of 18, Priory Close, Congleton, is charged that on 8th April, in Congleton, he attempted to rob Niccolò Suyabatmaz of a bicycle.

He has not entered a plea and was sent to Chester Crown Court for trial by Warrington magistrates who released him on unconditional bail to await trial. He was due in Chester Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday) for plea and trial preparation.