



21 August 2018

Dear Stockport Council

Edgeley Park Football Stadium: Nomination as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

We are writing to you to renew the listing of Edgeley Park Football Stadium as an Asset of Community Value under the Assets of Community Value Regulations of the Localism Act (2012). It was originally listed in 2013 for a period of five years which is due to expire on 6th November 2018 (ACV Register ref. 2013/0001)

Since listing the ground as an asset of Community Value back in 2013, ground ownership has changed. Whilst it is now owned by Stockport Council (as opposed to Cheshire Sports) and therefore someone who has a genuine interest in the local community, we feel that it is important to renew the ACV as it sends a message out to the football supporters and the local community alike.

PART A: Information About the Asset	
1. Identification of Asset	
Type of Asset	Edgeley Park Football Stadium consists of a football pitch, four spectator stands incorporating bars and exhibition facilities, and a car park at the Cheadle End of the stadium.
Title of the Asset	Edgeley Park Football Stadium
Address:	Hardcastle Road, Edgeley, Stockport SK3 9DD

2. Asset Owners / Occupants	
Current Ownership:	The freehold of Edgeley Park Football Stadium is currently held by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.
Occupant 1	Stockport County Football Club (since 1902). Tel:- 266 2700 Email:- mark.lockyear@stockportcounty.com
Occupant 2	Stockport County FC Community Foundation Tel:- 266 2700 Email:- dave.wardle@stockportcounty.com
Occupant 3	Cheshire Conferencing & Events Tel:- 286 8891 Email:- info@cc-events.co.uk

Stockport County Supporters' Co-operative is the trading name of Stockport County Supporters' Society Limited
Incorporated in England and Wales under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014
Reg'd No. IP29273R



3. Community Value

Current Primary use of property proposed for (re) listing

Stockport County Football Club first moved to Edgeley Park 116 years ago and have remained there playing football matches ever since, interacting with generation after generation of the local public.

When the club was at its peak back in the late nineties, the vast majority of its 10,841 seats were filled for games, with many thousands of visitors from outside the borough complementing the home support. Even in these most testing times the club still commands a support which dwarfs that of their peers in English football's sixth tier. This demonstrates not only how hardy the followers of the club are but how much esteem they hold Edgeley Park in. As the club has fallen on hard times on the pitch, the value Edgeley Park carries in a symbolic sense has grown immeasurably.

In addition to the stadium being a spiritual home to thousands of long standing Stockport County supporters it also has genuine pragmatic value to the locality. The location of the stadium Edgeley provides much needed income to local businesses in the SK3 area, many of whom would be jeopardy should Edgeley Park not be there. Stockport County remaining as a going concern at Edgeley Park is quite literally a lifeline to the Edgeley area and beyond.

Stockport County play an average of 25 games per year at Edgeley Park. For the final game of last season (2017/2018) against Chorley, an attendance of 6,230 was attracted.

Beyond its principal current use of hosting football matches, Edgeley Park provides as an ancillary use a conferencing, exhibition, and entertainment business using the facilities within the stadium. This comprises of a number of meeting and exhibition rooms, bars, and entertainment facilities. It also includes car parking facilities around the ground. Regular business club meetings are hosted at Edgeley Park and provide real value to the town. Edgeley Park is a focal point to many sections of the Stockport community.



3. Community Value (cont.)

Community Value

Stockport County delivers both social value and community benefit to the people of Stockport and outlying areas such as Tameside and High Peak.

The Club's history in Stockport goes back to its founding as Heaton Norris Rovers in 1883. Its principal activity as a football club is the furtherance of local sporting interest specifically the continual existence of one of the area's oldest sporting entities, with over 130 years of history and heritage in the town.

The Club adds genuine value to the borough and outlying areas in the following ways:

- Promotes the enjoyment of sport and exercise to local people throughout the community, particularly young people. To that end, affordable match day tickets and season tickets are abundantly available, and promoted directly in schools. Via the Community Foundation and Stockport County Football Club, children in Stockport receive free tickets to watch Stockport County every season.
- Serves as a focus for community pride, providing Stockport with a shared history and heritage through the achievements of the Club and the many celebrated figures from its history.
- Helps build a sense of community identity, bringing together diverse elements of Stockport, across a range of ages and social and economic backgrounds, on a regular basis for a shared purpose. This is a surprisingly uncommon phenomenon in the borough, perhaps owing to our proximity to Manchester, so Stockport County's role as a focal point is all the more pronounced.
- Engages fans in the support of local charitable causes, such as the Wellspring.
- Provides economic benefits to local businesses such as increasing trade for nearby and associated pubs and restaurants on match days, as well as working to bring together a network of local businesses for mutual benefit.
- Represents the town and area nationally and internationally on such occasions as County's victory at Wembley in May 2008 to win promotion back to the League 1 and their 2004 trip to China. They have played dozens of live televised games and carried the name of Stockport around the world.

Edgeley Park Football Stadium is an intrinsic part of Stockport County and is vital in the football club's plans to continue its good work. Without it, much of the community benefit the club provides would be impossible. Edgeley Park Football Stadium is crucial in enabling Stockport County Football Club to deliver this social and economic value, and community benefit through sporting and community activities.



PART B: Information About the Stockport County Supporters' Co-operative	
Name of organisation	Stockport County Supporters' Co-operative
Type of organisation	The Co-operative is a society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, with membership open to all supporters of Stockport County.
Proof of eligibility to make a community nomination	Supporters' Co-operative is owned by its members, and run by an elected Board of members on a voluntary basis. A copy of our rules detailing our constitution are enclosed. Details of our activities are on our website:- http://www.countysupporterscoop.co.uk

PART C: Contact details	
Name:	Caroline Burt (Independent Secretary)
Address:	c/o Caroline Burt 21 Hurst Street Reddish Stockport Cheshire SK5 7BA
Telephone No:	07846 198641
E-mail address:	CountyCoopSecretary@gmail.com

Please do let me know if you require any more information to support this nomination.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Burt

Independent Secretary
Stockport County Supporters' Co-operative