



29 November 2023

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, then renewed in 2018 for further five years. This expired on 7th November 2023.

Even though Stockport County have agreed a 250-year lease of Edgeley Park from Stockport Council, 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 car parks at the Cheadle End and Railway 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:	In February 2022, the Stockport County Football Club agreed a 250-year lease of Edgeley Park Football Stadium from the Council.
Occupant 1	Stockport County Football Club (since 1902) Tel:- 0161 266 2700
Occupant 2	Stockport County Community Trust Tel:- 0161 266 2700 Email:- dave.wardle@stockportcounty.com
Occupant 3	Edgeley Park Conference & Events Tel:- 0161 266 2700 Email:- events@edgeleypark.com

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 121 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 more testing times in recent years the club still commanded a support which dwarfed that of their peers in the lower leagues of English football. 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 enjoyed recent success, support continues to grow seeing Edgeley Park sold out several times a season.

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 in 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 league game of last season (2022/23) against Hartlepool, an attendance of 10,118 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, Greater Manchester, East Cheshire 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 140 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. As an example, the Stockport County Community Trust have just relaunched the primary school assembly programme which engages youngsters across Stockport with a fun and educational session which also provides free tickets for those attending the assembly to come and watch Stockport County.
- 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 visit to Wembley in May 2023 in the League 2 Play Off Final. They have played dozens of live televised games and carried the name of Stockport around the world.
- County's Social Well-being Group have a weekly drop-in on Wednesday morning (10.00am to 12.00pm) at Edgeley Park
- Men's mental health charity Mentell hold free talking circles at Edgeley Park, welcoming men across Stockport each week, regardless of which football team they support.

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 attached. A copy of the minutes from the meeting on 23 October 2023 is 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 [REDACTED]
Telephone No:	[REDACTED]
E-mail address:	[REDACTED]

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

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