

Council Meeting 16 February 2016 – List of Planning Applications

16/016	Extension etc. – Sampson Blewitt, Rosehill	No Objection
15/0480	Variation of conditions to permission CH/05/0824 to amend weekend opening hours – Vets4Pets East Cannock Road	No Objection
15/0477	Erection of bungalow – 77 Heath Street	No Objection
15/0472	Extension. etc. – 24 Watermint Close	No Objection



**Minutes of Committee Meeting
held on
Wednesday 18th November 2015
at
Pye Green Community Centre, Hednesford**

Present: David Wisehall
Carol Owen
Lesley Yates
Peter Harrison
Brian Gamble

Apologies: No apologies were received

1) Approval and matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising. Minutes approved.

2) Update on Christmas lights switch on and events committee

David and Kathryn have been contacting traders and have majority of stalls confirmed. Cannock Radio are organising entertainment.

HoHRP stall - Carol, Lesley and Kathryn to sort out prizes for the tombola and Katie and Lesley to do face painting.

3) Update on spring clean/litter pick and gardening

On hold now until the spring. Discussion about appointing volunteers to lead the monthly spring clean. Peter informed the group about national initiatives next year around the Queen's birthday 'Clean for the Queen' and how we could use our spring clean to create a larger event in the town. Possibly needs to be co-ordinated by Hednesford in Partnership.

4) Update on proposed landscaping project and arts committee

Lesley gave an update of a productive meeting and a brief initial survey of the town with Lisa Shepherd and Louise Rose of Wiggin Leisure. She explained that Lisa and Louise would be working on a consultation exercise on a proposed art feature in Hednesford Park (as part of the lottery bid) and that they would be happy to extend this consultation to arts projects/features across the town, and were keen to look at proposals for a suggested theme through the town.

Lisa and Louise have agreed to put together some initial ideas/proposals and will present these to an arts group that will work together to move projects forward. Lesley will continue to be the point of contact for the arts group and will follow up the work with Lisa and Louise arranging a further meeting in the New Year.

Lesley explained that she had discussed funding opportunities with Lisa and Louise and felt that by working in partnership we would be able to put forward some funding bids.

Lesley went on to explain that Lisa had advised that we should consider applying for funding for smaller projects rather than trying to get funding for one very large project.

5) Phone box update

David has been in touch with the contact passed on by Kathryn who has said he can renovate the phone box. It needs to be moved to a more suitable place to be worked on -- David to arrange. Discussion around what the phone box would be used for and how it should look.

6) Promotions/marketing

Need to get HoHRP flyer updated -- Carol to sort. Discussion about recruiting more volunteers to help with admin, marketing and keeping the website updated. Carol to speak to Sarah at VAST about advertising as volunteer vacancies.

7) Any other business

Kathryn has had to resign as Vice Chair due to work commitments. Lesley proposed that Carol be elected as Vice Chair and we appoint a new Secretary. David seconded this.

Lesley mentioned that her mum may be interested in taking on the Secretary role.

Lesley confirmed that she had completed a survey of the Market Street Traders but had not yet had chance to fully analyse the results. Lesley confirmed that the survey had not been an easy task and that she had been met with negativity and apathy.

Initial analysis had shown disappointingly that only a couple of those that responded were aware of the monthly spring clean HOHRP had undertaken. Lesley will undertake a more detailed analysis and report back to the group.

8) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 6.30pm at Pye Green Community Centre

Monday 11th January 2016

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Advisory Partnership & Parish Council's meeting to discuss
Management of Staffordshire's Countryside Estate**

Present: June Jukes MBE, Chairman Friends of Cannock Chase
Ian Jones, Vice Chairman Walton Chasers
Cllr Anne Andrews Tixall Parish Council
Cllr Pat Ansell Staffordshire Parish Councils'
Association
Cllr David Ballet Brindley Heath Parish Council
Linda Barratt Hazel Slade Community
Association
Cllr Len Bates South Staffordshire Council
Emma Beaman Cannock Chase AONB Unit
Cllr Ian Bearne Berkswich Parish Council
Cllr Gwyneth Boyle Lichfield District Council
Roger Broadbent West Midland Bird Club
Helen Dale Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Susan Dalloe Museum of Cannock Chase
Michelle Edwards Young Peoples' Representative
Michelle Fullard National Trust
Ruth Hýtch Cannock Chase AONB Unit
Cllr Leslie Lee Brocton Parish Council
Cllr Alan Pearson Cannock Chase Council/
Hednesford Town Council/
Brindley Heath Parish Council
Brocton Parish Council
Cllr Lyn Smith Ramblers
Dick Turton Cannock Chase AONB Unit
Anne Walker Hatherton Parish Council
Alan Willetts Hatherton Parish Council
Cllr Maureen Willetts

Apologies: Mary Cope (NFU), Andy Coggins (Forestry Commission)

June reminded all that there was only one item to be discussed at this additional meeting: Management of Staffordshire's Countryside Estate consultation.

Ruth outlined the context and background to the discussion:

- In May 2015, SCC informed Cannock Chase AONB Partnership that it was looking at changing the management of its landholding in Staffordshire, including within the AONB.
- Part of this was to look at the ten options and look at how these might impact the AONB either positively or negatively.
- At the June Advisory Partnership meeting, Noreen Davidson from SCC spoke about the ten options.

- A response was prepared based on this discussion and subsequently submitted as part of a report to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee, which would then advise Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet.
- The Committee recommended reducing the options to four which was subsequently approved by the Cabinet in October 2015. It was reiterated that there would be no land sold off.
- Formal consultation on the four options (listed below) began in early November and will end on January 24th 2016.
- The draft response was circulated to the Advisory Partnership and the Parish Councils before Christmas for comment at this meeting.

June read out the four options:

Option A: Maintain County Council ownership and seek opportunities to increase income from existing sites by working with volunteers, community, third sector and private parties. This option is about the County Council continuing to manage sites but looking for more opportunities to reduce their running costs either by increasing income or by working with volunteers, the community, third sector and private parties, many of whom have access to funding streams unavailable to us. This option is better suited to the main country parks with a high number of visitors and more opportunities for recovering income from activities such as catering, sales of goods and Christmas trees, guided events, car parking charges and licensed activities.

Option B: Transfer management on a site by site to local community or voluntary sector groups such as parish councils. This option is about inspiring and empowering other organisations, communities and individuals to become involved with the running of the countryside estate. Within the countryside estate, there are nine smaller sites known as picnic places. These sites are more of a local recreational resource. Although this option is not exclusive to these smaller sites, we believe that they could benefit the most from greater community management.

Option C: Establish a partnership of landowners to manage all green spaces in a particular area. This option is about working together with other landowning bodies to manage a cluster of green spaces in a particular area. Many other landowning bodies face similar challenges to us and there is a growing interest in partnership working, merging resources or developing new arrangements to deliver efficiencies and economies of scale. Establishing a multi-agency partnership of organisations who share our passion for local communities and the environment could ensure that all green spaces are looked after for the greatest benefit of people and wildlife.

Option D: Establish a not for profit trading company or charitable trust to run and develop parts of the estate. We know from our benchmarking exercise that this approach has worked well in other areas. For example, at least one Council has established a successful Trust to manage its estate. The Council is estimated to have saved £390,000 over 8 years and this saving is expected to increase as the Trust becomes more adept at generating its own income.

Currently for every £1 provided by the Council, the Trust is able to generate an extra £3.34 from other sources because of its charitable status.

Ruth noted that these four options were posted on SCC's website along with the consultation form and details of drop-in sessions, two of which were held in this area on 13th December – one at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre at Marquis Drive, the other at the Innovation Centre at Chasewater. It had been reported back to the AONB team that the drop-in sessions were poor as there was no signage to let people know where to go in the buildings, no additional information available, no-where to sit and discuss the options and no recording of comments from members of the public. June noted that it seemed like just a bit of a chat. The poor weather did not help either.

Ruth noted that the draft circulated before Christmas reflected that some issues had already been resolved. Some individual partners may wish to respond separately as they have interests Staffordshire-wide. Ruth also noted that the AONB Unit had been pushed to look at a proposed solution by SCC officers which would suit the AONB. Many partners had commented that the four options still looked superficial with a lack of detail and none indicated how they would be financed. The draft response faced this issue. A summary of the key points is on the first page.

Option A – concerns about this as there are large numbers of visitors already coming. A major concern throughout this has been that Cannock Chase is an AONB and has far more status than just a Country Park, this needs to be emphasised. There are also additional designations including IUCN Category V status, Special Area of Conservation and a number of important geological and historical sites. It is a positive thing that there are these constraints as they make the area less likely to be attractive to buyers. It was highlighted in the last draft that this option would not work for Cannock Chase. The Cabinet paper noted that there are 3 million visitors to all SCC sites per year, however it is recorded that 2.3 million visit Cannock Chase AONB. Both the Management Plan and Visitor Management Strategy pertain to the AONB and emphasise a range of issues for the AONB. A number of partners were content with option A as it represents the status quo. All agreed that the level of access is right but that nothing should be done that would be to the detriment of the area.

Option B – likely not to impinge on AONB as it is more appropriate for small sites such as the picnic sites and greenways. The last response to the options also commented on the additional burden for volunteers.

Option C & D – this is more complex and a number of partners favoured option C as there is already a partnership of organisations present in the AONB, ie, the AONB Partnership including the Advisory Partnership. This would not be without its complications, funding would still be needed. Option D indicated working with an existing charitable organisation would be responsible for raising funds. Concern would be about if the organisation is able to raise enough funding in the future.

Discussion:

Comment	Response
Michelle (NT) – could this partnership be seen SCC as an organisation to do this?	Ruth – no, it had already been difficult to have a dialogue with SCC about this as the Partnership had not been recognised as having more weight than any other respondent.
Ian – comment about ‘encouraged by officers’, could Ruth elaborate on this.	Ruth – some of the meetings of the SCC committees/Cabinet can be seen on line or minutes are also on SCC’s website. Concerns are of evidence of getting funds to use. Unsure if officers are comfortable with the status quo if funding was there. Is there a will to do this on the ground? Members want change.
Cllr Andrews – asked if there were any picnic sites on Cannock Chase, eg, Milford Common.	Ruth – no there are none on the Chase.
Cllr Lee – not for profit company identified in SCC’s report, where is this?	Ruth – this is not known other than ‘elsewhere in the country’. Would like to see evidential data behind this. Council decision about council land. Have compared notes with other AONBs which SCC had not done so far.
Cllr Lee – having seen the preferred options, would be beneficial to see how this works elsewhere. May be raising sufficient cash but is the site being destroyed as a consequence, or is the site being looked after properly.	
Cllr Pearson – Brindley Heath Parish Council, Hednesford Town Council and Cannock Chase Council all agreed with option A. Looking at how to get voluntary sector to bring in more funds. Overuse by some partners that are not bringing in income. Option A looks at earning more money to run the Chase.	Ruth – need today’s discussion to see if the majority agrees with this view subject to strengthening controls for the AONB.
June – concerns about what events will be allowed to bring money in, some could destroy areas, such as SSSIs. The areas used for events should be co-ordinated with the AONB Partnership. Cllr Pearson	

Comment	Response
agreed with this comment.	
Cllr Boyle – concerned that the Advisory Partnership and thus the AONB Partnership not thought of as being important. Seemed to be being treated as just land to save money on with no safeguards. Do we have assurances from someone that the SSSIs will be protected properly? They are a special case.	Ruth – in theory this is acknowledged. This Partnership has a statutory role that has not been reflected in the discussion with Cabinet. Set this aside to the end of the discussion. Need to make sure that we have it understood that this is not just the opinion of the AONB Unit. The response needs to be properly heard and reflected.
Cllr Bates – AONB Partnership should make this decision.	
Michelle E – have Natural England made written representation to SCC as the experts to advise. People making the decision are not experts and input might be too late when the decision is made.	
June – Friends of Cannock Chase fought against the area being designated as a Country Park. It is viewed as a play area rather than an AONB.	Ruth – in recent years, consultants had suggested that the Country Park status should be reviewed, a comment that was not viewed favourably by SCC. It is suggested that this should be reviewed due to the increase in visitors. Tension needs to be addressed. SCC is part of this Partnership but acting on its own in this case.
Roger – re charitable status, West Midland Bird Club (WMBC) is a charity but would not be able to run Cannock Chase AONB. There are concerns from a conservation point of view already. Data collection shows that recording less and less. The position of WMBC is that they either disagree with the options or they do not know what the implications are. Meeting on 12 th January. Led to believe that Option A is not an option for SCC. Does the status quo give the best resource available? Cannot fund option A, as an organisation have ruled out B, C is the only one that mentions conservation. Whatever happens more investment will be needed	June – agreed re accessing funds, Friends of Cannock Chase have done so in the past but would not be able to do so on a larger scale that would be needed for the AONB.

Comment	Response
<p>from a conservation point of view. Charitable organisations may be able to access funds. View it as a conservation area, will need specialist management to maintain. It is not a playground. There are times when activities/events could take place, the middle of summer is not the time. Want to make a positive contribution but things do need to get better.</p>	
<p>Susan – in terms of heritage, this is how things are going countrywide. The natural heritage is important but so is the built heritage environment. Currently looking at WW1 training camp remnants but LiDAR will indicate early human occupation. This needs to be taken into account along with the cultural aspect.</p>	
<p>Ian – concerned that the natural heritage is not being recognised. Asked if Natural England had submitted comments as a statutory agency.</p>	<p>Ruth – also Environment Agency and Heritage England, both of whom gave initial comments. Natural England had reserved the right to make separate comments. A number of counties in the country are looking at similar options for their countryside management. Might not get additional comments from them. Will recognise the designations.</p>
<p>Ian – general lack of funding in central government, unlikely to be spare money for this.</p>	
<p>Cllr Lee – no extra cash from local government either. There needs to be articles of association for whoever takes over. The body must protect the AONB, work must go on alongside this.</p>	<p>Ruth – SCC has decided to retain ownership of its countryside sites as it will be easier for them to meet their statutory obligations. June – do they know all the points that govern the AONB?</p>
<p>Cllr Ansell – any advice from national AONBs.</p>	<p>Ruth – not as such, have compared notes with other AONBs as part of the paper put together, looked at the solutions that others have taken.</p>
<p>Ian – Option C – any organisations that have been identified to do this?</p>	<p>Ruth – in some reports have mentioned RSPB, National Trust and</p>

Comment	Response
Difficult to comment when you do not know who these agencies might be.	Wildlife Trust. Other landowners are in a similar position, eg, Forestry Commission manage land in the AONB adjacent to the Country Park. Having ongoing discussions with a number of these organisations.
Ian – Walton Chasers came out in favour of Option C with some 'riders'. There could be savings on management costs. Following on from previous comments, do others want to get involved? There is a need to raise more money. At the visitor management strategy conference, were unable to come up with solutions to raise money other than from car parking, which is not enforced. Other than the café, where else can money be raised.	
June – Cannock Chase Visitor Centre café is franchised out. Kaye makes business work a Springslade Lodge and the visitor centre café could be made a money earner as it is in a honey pot area. The subject of honey pot areas was discussed by the Friends of Cannock Chase as far back as the 1970s	

Ruth noted that an amended draft will be completed by the end of the week then circulated.

In summary:

Option A – need to put some strong riders, strengthen more, AP needs to be heard and taken account of more.

Option B – no concerns, drafting to stay same.

Option C&D – look at this in part 2, picks up wishes so far.

All agreed.

Section 2

Ruth – has been in discussion with other AONBs, one of which has a ranger service and is directly involved in land management, one has a visitor centre that it is making money from. The situation is complex at the moment, the next Advisory Partnership meeting later in January will discuss a proposed governance restructure. This might however benefit partnership delivery as a whole but does mean complex decisions.

Ruth outlined part 2 of the paper. The driver is money and organisation, part of a triangle. Para 2 reflects comments. The status quo might not be working well enough so far. Diagram 2 illustrates the need for strong management. We already have a strong partnership on the ground, SCC is a partner. Can we build on this? Nearly 60% of the AONB is in public ownership (nb: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has just signed a 99 year lease with Lichfield District Council on Gentleshaw Common). Have SCC thought of this. The management is diagram 2 will mean that the AONB Partnership (including SCC) retains its statutory role. Need to identify where this could be funded from. SCC is already looking at the visitor centre and had a feasibility study done two years ago. Suggestion is that the commercial nature of this is looked at, invest the right way through the visitor centre on behalf of the landowner. Cotswolds AONB have done similar and brought it in house to run setting up a charitable organisation. Could be an existing charity to run or set up a new one. This would need an amendment to the Partnership organisation directly linked to into the partnership to deliver land management of the AONB, make a profit for other plan projects. The current diagram may need more detail. Could be thought about what happens with this AONB. Many of the comments may cause issues for SCC.

The narrative in part 2 covers this and makes the suggestion that SCC looks at other protected landscapes, not just local authority land. General comments are also included. It is a big idea with a number of ifs and buts. It is however a proposal that might work.

Ruth noted that it would be put forward as the collective option from the Partnership.

Discussion:

Comment	Response
Cllr Boyle – asked about the position of the Officers Working Group in the discussions.	Ruth – are included in the Advisory Partnership.
Ian – assumes that additional resources can be found. SCC is short of cash. The proposal for Cannock Chase visitor centre would cost several million £ to redevelop.	Ruth – that is the big if and should be seen to be making money in Option A. The feasibility study undertaken two years ago should be revisited as the solution proposed might not address current day issues. In the feasibility study it proposed a single grant bid but this could also attract sponsorship. The Cotswolds scheme is a good example as they are moving forward with their business plan. With the visitor centre solution there could be possibilities of accessing further investment.

Comment	Response
	Needs to be visionary.
June – there are lots of visitors at the Marquis Drive site with the potential to raise funds and keep people away from more sensitive sites.	Ruth – it is not without its flaws but does provide the option to make money.
Ian – if there are existing models, include these in the response.	Ruth – Cotswolds did quite a lot of research beforehand.
Michelle F – the AONB Partnership will have more control with this option. There are similar models from the National Trust, eg, advised Sheffield City Parks about their parks. This was a pilot project (Michelle to send more details to Ruth). Agrees that this is a good proposal.	Ruth – asked if she could refer to this in the response.
Michelle E – asked if the legal protection for the AONB could be explained more. Focus on why it is protected and raise the status of the conservation needs.	Ruth – might be wiser to include a glossary of terms, including SSSI, SAC, etc.
Cllr Boyle – would like to see this included stronger, particularly if there is an issue with understanding.	
Ian – spoke to the head ranger who pointed out how difficult and complex it can be to get information across to some. It was easier when members of the Committee visited on site.	June – it is difficult to express the strength of feeling to members of the Joint Committee who do not live in the area. Ruth – arranged a ½ hour site visit for the Joint committee as part of their September meeting but it was declined. Strategic decisions are being made without any knowledge of what is happening on the ground. We rely on partners' officers and all partners for this. Normal routes of communication do not seem to be getting the message across.
Cllr Lee – example of the undergrounding scheme in Brocton. SCC conservation officer wanted to stop the work because of the damage to the bracken, yet in other areas the bracken is being controlled.	Ruth – need to focus on what is best to protect Cannock Chase AONB.

Comment	Response
Cllr Willetts – main problem is the name, if it was 'Stafford' AONB it might be different.	
Roger – involved with the Tame Valley Wetlands project and have been approached by a major company with money to invest in diversity offsetting – HS2 Ltd. Not sure how far their funding will spread out geographically from the route.	Emma – due to meet with them later in the month.

(Cllr Andrews/Michelle F – discussed arranging a meeting with each other re HS2)

Ruth summed up the discussion and asked if all were content with the proposal remaining in the response. Cllr Pearson had concerns that more funds were needed. His opinion is that the AONB is overused and abused already to the detriment of the wildlife. All want to go somewhere that is quiet and peaceful to get away from others and this could lead to more overuse.

Cllr Bates proposed endorsement of the proposal, agreed by all.

Ruth – practical issues now to be sorted out. Part 4 included general comments and she suggested also feeding in the comments that had been made regarding the public consultation process. Also include:

- Bullet point 2 – heritage, reiterate some issues.
- SCC to seek expertise from other protected landscapes around the country.
- Highlight more about the country park designation, take 'may' out of this sentence.

Cllr Boyle asked if there were any other AONBs in Staffordshire. Ruth replied that Cannock Chase is the only protected landscape wholly within Staffordshire. Part of the Peak District is in the north of the county. June noted that it also has the largest tract of lowland heathland in the country. Her local elected member has been made aware of this to bring forward in committee meetings. Cllr Lee suggested that this should be included in the summary of key points.

All agreed with the summary of key points and also suggested including heritage and geology.

Ruth – will now take a couple of days to update that response then circulate it to all on Friday 15th January 2016. As there will not be the opportunity to meet again before the response is submitted, Ruth requested that if possible those at the meeting to sign up to a commitment sheet. A covering letter from June as Chairman of the Advisory Partnership and Cllr Bob McCardle as Chairman of

the Joint Committee to be drafted. Sensible weight to the response. It was noted that all reserved the right to comment individually or as part of their own organisations.

Discussion about getting agreement from organisations represented. Suggested that the form and response if sent to Parish Councils and they can then pass this on to their SCC elected members. Cllr Lee noted that as his Parish Council had sent him along, he had authority to sign the commitment sheet. Cllr Ansell likewise on behalf of the Parish Councils' Association. Ruth suggested that if appropriate people could sign 'subject to confirmation'.

Cllr Pearson asked if the SSSIs were being re-evaluated on the Chase. Ruth replied that she was not aware of such, there have been discussions about a possible SPA designation and possible heritage designation in context of what is already existing.

Meeting finished 11.30am

Next scheduled Advisory Partnership meeting: Monday 25th January 2016, 10:00 am.

Summary of key points

1. Cannock Chase is a special case and should be treated differently from other County Council land holdings.

It is not merely a country park and has an array of important designations and features that the County Council is obliged to respect. These include national and international protection – for natural heritage, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Area of Conservation, IUCN Category V Protected Landscape. Other key designations include protection of heritage and geology in the area e.g. listed parkland, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, alongside unlisted but unique features requiring special protection.

2. The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan is agreed by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and its partners with national government as an over-arching plan for the area.

This has the advantage of already having set out the land management needs, including the County's land holding, alongside co-operation with other land owners. It offers a clear framework to meet the Council's (legal) obligations in managing the land.

3. Cannock Chase AONB is affected by 2.3 million of the 3 million visits per annum.

This presents opportunities as well as challenges. However there are provisions in place to approach the situation. A national tourism accord and local visitor management strategy, with agreed actions are already in place. These should be revisited immediately, as evidence on the ground shows that more co-ordination and stronger management overall, based on 'honeypot' sites, are needed now.

4. For any option to be successful, it will need a recipe of strong management (directed by clear strategic direction), sustainable funding (including up-front investment) and co-operation and organisation (with adjacent land owners, Staffordshire residents and other interested parties, e.g. statutory regulators).

The Partnership's response contains some suggestions for achieving this.

5. The Partnership has already expressed a preference for Option C as a solution for Cannock Chase, subject to being supported with suitable funding. Our response provides an idea for a solution based on a combination of Options C and D.

6. The Partnership would be happy to advise SCC further on addressing the complex needs within the AONB context.

Partners feel strongly that the statutory responsibilities to this area must be a cornerstone of all debate for the estate in Cannock Chase AONB.

7. The Partnership would like to form a working group to develop and deliver solutions. By working further in partnership, this would benefit SCC and its partners to conserve and enhance its land holdings within the AONB.

Partners feel strongly that open dialogue and united effort, based around those who already have a strong passion for making things work in the area is the only way to achieve the best practical solutions and urge SCC not to "go it alone".

1 Comments on options presented

Option A

This has been identified by your Cabinet report as most suitable for Cannock Chase. We do not wholly agree with this suggestion. Our views fall into two parts on this option.

Firstly, it is described as keeping the status quo. We take this to mean that SCC retains both ownership and land management activities, as now. Partners are generally supportive of this part of the option and many of us have therefore endorsed it in theory. The retention of the land and its management by SCC is therefore supported.

Secondly, this Partnership has already commented that Option A has a high potential to have a negative impact, particularly bearing in mind that 2.3 million of your stated 3 million visits per annum occur within the AONB and the SCC estates sit at the heart of the area. Whilst we would like to see a status quo remain with regards to the maintenance of access for enjoyment of the area, it must be acknowledged that this should not happen to the detriment of the area. Recent evidence on the ground, particularly connected to the holding of events has caused us to hold a strong view that Option A cannot be wholly about a status quo for Cannock Chase. For the option to be viable, it would therefore have to be greatly strengthened to demonstrate a direct approach to the protection of the AONB and its characteristics (including e.g. peace and tranquillity, openness and wilderness).

Partners are unanimous that the protection of the AONB must be legally and practically acknowledged in any implementation of this option. In particular, we wish to see a direct relationship between the advice on the management of the AONB from this Partnership and decisions made about events and commercial activity. (This is already part of the agreed AONB Management Plan). The option would have to ensure specifically no negative impacts on the integrity of the AONB. In the light of evidence surrounding events in recent years, many Partners are yet to be convinced that this aspect of the proposal is working as an acceptable status quo.

The view already expressed that this option would have a negative impact on the AONB therefore remains. Some aspects that need to be considered to address this are set out below.

As noted above, partners are already raising concerns about uncoordinated activities, both for enjoyment and to raise funds, being inappropriate to the integrity of the AONB. The statutory requirements, government guidance and agreed plans are already in place to ensure that income must be sustainable in terms of its impact to the AONB. There is currently no evidence that the events

already being held have benefitted the AONB, its management or sites within it. Concerns remain about the volume of activities and the places that they are being held, particularly where any economic benefit flows away from the sites used.

Partners including the DMP and SCC have already signed up to the AONB visitor management strategy which seeks to address a sustainable use of the area and to:

- celebrate, conserve and enhance the landscape character, habitats, wildlife and cultural heritage of the AONB by developing a welcoming, informative culture that supports a balance between the sustainability of the area and visitors' enjoyment and use of it.
- balance the desires of the people who wish to enjoy the AONB with the need to deliver a sustainable high-quality visitor experience to all whilst conserving and enhancing its natural and cultural heritage.
- encourage and support local businesses and all frontline people to be proud ambassadors of the AONB, understand the needs of the visitors and be knowledgeable about the site and its designations.

This strategy needs a great deal of focus on its implementation before Option A could begin to be viable or appropriate to the AONB.

Incorporated within the AONB visitor management strategy are the provisions for the delivery of SCC's duties towards the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the SAC mitigation plan (as part of the SAC partnership), providing a second important reason for SCC to focus on its commitment to making it a reality.

Option B

We have already commented that this would not provide a consistent approach within the AONB context (the need to manage at a landscape rather than site-based scale). We emphasise, again, the concerns we have expressed about "overburden" on our volunteering partners.

Option C

We have already commented that this option is the one most favoured by partners, subject to addressing suitable funding.

Indeed, the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership already comprises the relevant land owners and interests working on a landscape scale to be considered as a basis for development to include provision for land management. The overarching principles for the land management needs of the SCC estates are already enshrined within the Partnership's policies, strategies and agreed actions. These agreed principles already cover the necessary matrix of funding,

management and organisation that would be required to address changes to the estate's management.

There could be room for innovation to support a change to the Partnership's role. This would enable SCC to work with other land owning Partners in providing a solution to land management needs within the context of the AONB. It might also break down some of the existing barriers and bring benefits enabling consistent landscape scale management of land within the area. It could provide the opportunity to innovate in creating new resources and making existing resources for management more efficient.

See 2 below for more details.

Option D

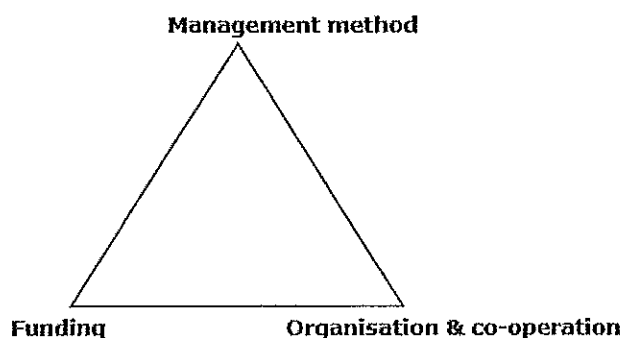
Our previous concerns over the potential of this option to deliver statutory commitments have been addressed via your decision for SCC to retain ownership. However the sustainability of funding to maintain this part of the AONB remains a concern.

We believe that there may be some merit for this option in providing part of an overall solution that may fit well within the AONB.

See 2 below for details.

2 Ideas specific to Cannock Chase

The options set out in the consultation documents are very sketchy for the necessary comments from the Partnership to be set out in full. None of the options will work any better than the status quo without careful investment and the best use of resources available. For any of the options (or any new options that may be considered) all the elements of the 'eternal triangle' shown below need to be achieved and sustained to meet success. The resources to achieve it shown across the base of the triangle are imperative for this.



SCC's estates will continue to require a recipe of strong management. This will need a clear strategic direction that translates all the way into action on the sites. In the Cannock Chase area, this must be informed by the existing framework of the AONB Management Plan. From this strategic direction there needs to be a route to gain sustainable funding (including up-front investment). This would establish a strong basis for the continued conservation and enhancement of the Cannock Chase sites. Co-operation and organisation with adjacent land owners, Staffordshire residents and other interested parties, e.g. statutory regulators are imperative in the AONB context. These have already been enshrined in the AONB Management Plan.

The context of our thinking is therefore based on these basic tenets and the realisation that whilst the SCC estates within the AONB are a special case, they may also have access to opportunities to provide a robust solution beyond that expressed with Options A-D. We believe that a combination of Options C & D could provide the skeleton of a solution for the estate held within the AONB. Since there is no detail provided for the options being consulted upon, this idea is similarly not detailed at this stage. However there are some good examples within other AONBs that could be investigated.

We need to discuss the detail of these ideas with you in full outside the formal consultation process and point you to some good examples. To date, your thinking has been around comparators with other local authorities for solutions. However because of the special character of the land within the Cannock Chase AONB, we believe that there are other useful examples that can be drawn from other protected landscape areas.

Idea for discussion with SCC

Link the AONB Partnership (as the umbrella body) to an existing or newly established trust/Community Interest Company. This would enable a land management delivery arm within the AONB. (The arrangement could ultimately benefit land owners other than SCC). See diagrams 1 & 2 attached.

Fund this delivery body through allowing it to earn income (appropriate activity managed within the AONB context) and making part of its status to be the sole operator of Cannock Chase visitor centre. Aim to earn income for other AONB projects into the future. Up-front investment in developing the centre, based around its status within the heart of the AONB would be required.

A direct formal link to the AONB Partnership is important to the delivery of land management within the context of AONB management. It provides the opportunity to innovate around other Partnership project delivery into the future. Such a link was previously discussed when a partner charity based

within the AONB set up a 'Friends of' organisation and wanted to create a more formal working link with the Partnership. This was ruled out at the time.

A good example of such related organisations delivering within an AONB context would be the recent changes to the Surrey Hills AONB structures.

A very similar case study can be found in the development of the Cotswolds Discovery Centre and a lot of background research around this type of delivery has already been done by the Conservation Board to create this project. This project could support investigation of the idea for Cannock Chase.

Solway Coast AONB partnership directly manages land attracting Higher Level Stewardship within its area on behalf of its local authority, with its own ranger. The arrangement includes working with volunteers to deliver work on sites.

3 Specific requests/proposed actions after consultation

The Partnership would like to review benchmarking already done in light of this thinking to see if more ideas (some brief examples given above) that fit better can be found for Cannock Chase.

We would be happy to advise further on SCC's statutory duties, the Management Plan and visitor management strategy.

If Option A is chosen, we would like close discussion to enable advice on the AONB to be taken into account in any plans. In addition, the AONB Management Plan and visitor management strategy will need to be revisited as any new plans are developed for the estates to ensure that SCC can have due regard for the AONB in its delivery.

4 General Comments

Designations and legal matters

- Partners all wish to re-iterate that Cannock Chase AONB is the only nationally protected area wholly within Staffordshire. Changes to the management of large areas of land within the AONB must be afforded greater consideration than for different sites within the County. Partners are concerned that there is no reflection of this in any of the Council's decisions to date.
- The richness and complexity of important features on Cannock Chase is reflected in a range of protective designations for wildlife, habitats, heritage, geology and overall landscape. These are wrapped up in the AONB designation. All Partners wish to see the weight of the legal duty towards the AONB and other designations within its boundaries fully reflected in all consideration of land management for the Cannock Chase estate. Many of

us feel strongly that this should result in greater dialogue with the AONB Partnership, particularly as SCC is a member.

- The country park designation is a local matter and falls within the overall AONB. The country park designation should be revisited. This was raised in an independent report undertaken for the AONB Partnership – see visitor survey report 2012 by Lepus Consulting. Addressing the points made there may have a bearing on SCC's ultimate decision for the land management.
- SCC's legal duty to have regard to the AONB designation is separate from its ownership but should impact positively on its land management decisions.
- Of the 3 million annual visits to SCC sites stated in the Cabinet report, 2.3 million are to Cannock Chase AONB. This is disproportionate and emphasises the importance of making the right choices to sustain the AONB.
- Partners would like to see evidence of full consultation with those statutory bodies that oversee the delivery of legal duties within the AONB, particularly relating to all the legal designations from Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.
- Large areas of SCC's land holdings in the AONB were covenanted to the people of Staffordshire and for nature by the Anson family and this must be respected within any decision made.

Consultation

- The full breadth of Partners involved in the AONB Partnership has been committed to and involved in the drafting of this response (see separate signatory sheet). We wish it to be noted that the numbers of us involved is a demonstration of the strength of feeling that the solution for practical arrangements for Cannock Chase must be right and based around our collective knowledge of what works.
- All of the individual AONB Partners reserve the right to respond separately on this consultation, as many have concerns across Staffordshire and beyond.
- There has been consistent feedback about the drop-in sessions held about this consultation. A range of Partners attended sessions at Chasewater and the Cannock Chase visitor centre on Sunday 13 December. Concerns raised are:
 - lack of information prior to the event, including confusion at the venues that sessions were going ahead, unadvertised times, the timing of the event (2 hours in bad weather immediately prior to Christmas), potentially leading to a lack of take-up for attendees
 - difficulties of finding the session on the day – no signage or direction advertising the session on site, no notice boards or clear area for the session – again leading to concern that this could have led to a lack of take-up
 - lack of awareness in local libraries that the questionnaire was available or

the consultation current

- no information given on the day and an apparent lack of detail available, including no information boards, no maps or elaboration of the options proposed
- difficulties in a lack of seating for those not able to stand for any period of time were highlighted, leading to one attendee not being able to stay and comment
- no apparent recording of any comments made
- a long questionnaire apparently directed at gaining information on a wide range of issues that was difficult to address in the context of people wanting to make comments on the options. Again, leading to concerns about lack of take-up due to participants being over-faced.
- There is not enough detail to give definitive answers to our views on these options. We would therefore prefer to have an ongoing dialogue with SCC rather than a single response through this consultation. Options A-D are sparse in the information they give about their content. They have therefore been considered with no detail set against them. This means that our response could have been more meaningful, rather than based on some necessary assumptions. Partners have not been able to address the consultation with as informed a view as we would have liked.

Information

- We would like to review benchmarking already done in light of this Partnership's comments to see if different ideas that fit better can be found for Cannock Chase e.g. from other protected landscape areas. In addition, we would like to see the evidence that management models work elsewhere to receive assurance that they would be positive for the AONB.
- The National Trust has pointed to some good examples within its own delivery that seem to accord with our proposals and demonstrate that they would work. Further investigation is under way to see if this can be fed into your process of decision making.
- We hold data that may help inform decisions for Cannock Chase.
- It is particularly important in the AONB that decisions on land management are based in good evidence. We would therefore like to work with SCC, regardless of the final option it chooses, to improve data cut to AONB area – particularly those relating to economic and health impacts but also relating to events and tourism.
- Some of our Partners feel strongly that SCC decision-makers would benefit further from seeing how things work "in the flesh" and have extended further invitations to show you how things are happening on the ground.
- There exists a great deal of local and technical knowledge across our Partnership on all local and land issues. SCC could draw upon this in making its decisions.

Building on existing opportunities and impacts

- Any of the options chosen requires funding and investment. Our discussion of all the options has been based on this basic premise and we have debated how that can be brought about. It also shows strongly in our proposed solution. Methods need to be found to ensure these factors are achieved but they must be appropriate to the AONB designation and existing commitments there.
- Investment is required to ensure sustainable funding into future.
- Although SCC has decided to retain ownership of its estates, a number of its partners have a great deal of expertise that could enhance current arrangements, particularly those who belong to national organisations and networks. They should not therefore be ruled out of the practical solutions found by SCC.
- We all felt strongly that events and fundraising initiatives must be appropriately co-ordinated and controlled across the AONB. Existing franchises e.g. at the visitor centre, could also be better utilised to generate resources for the area and should be revisited. However this will figure most in option A and the strength of concern about such activity is expressed in our earlier comments in this response. Appropriate activity that is sustainable for the AONB must be found. It is therefore essential that the advice of this Partnership is sought in establishing solutions, particularly around the holding of events.
- We wish to re-iterate previous comments about the capacity of the voluntary sector to access funding and other resources sustainably in the long-term for the land management activities. A number of us from the sector are concerned that this is practically impossible. Further discussion is therefore required around this part of any of the options.

Diagram 1

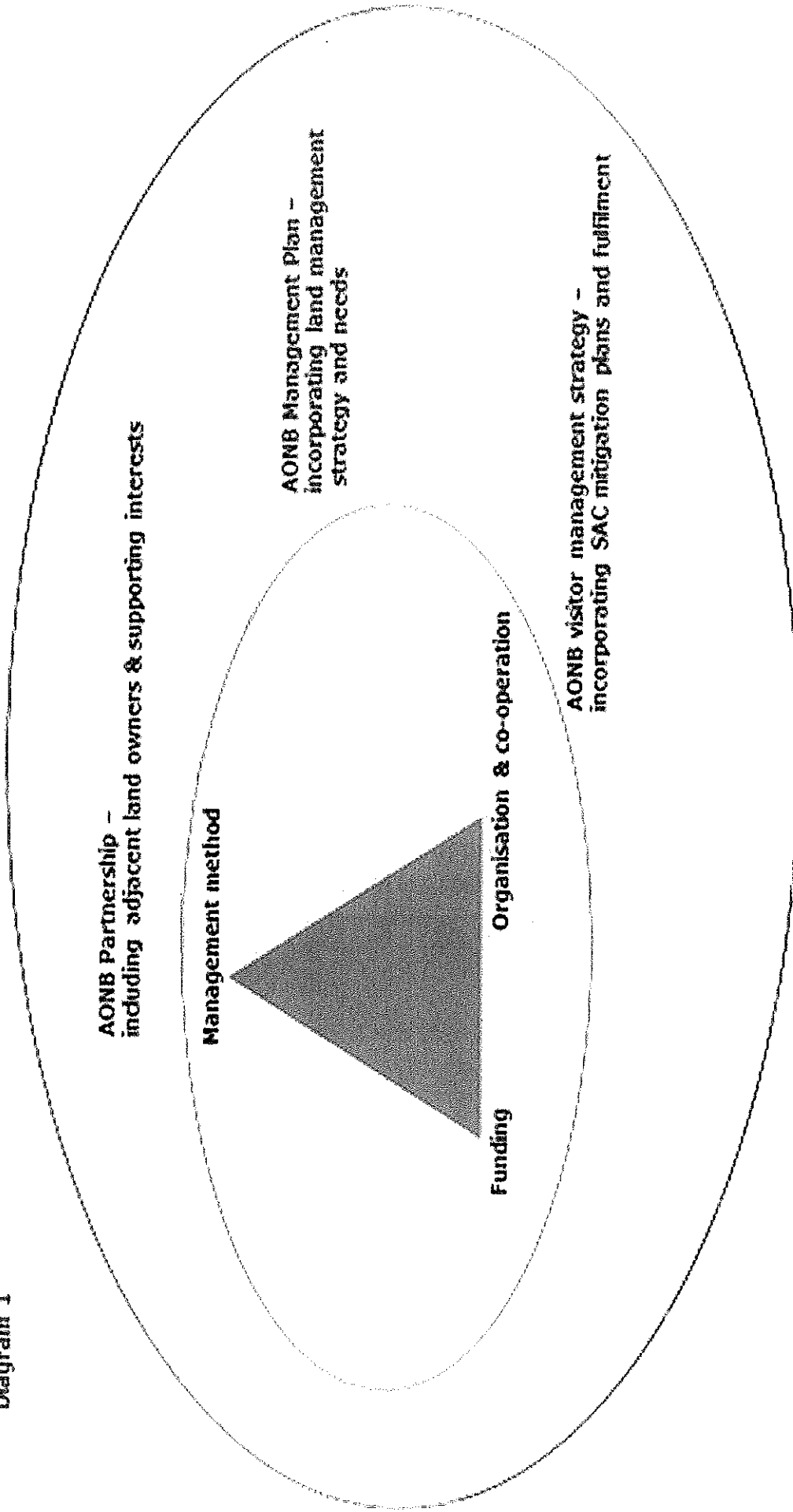
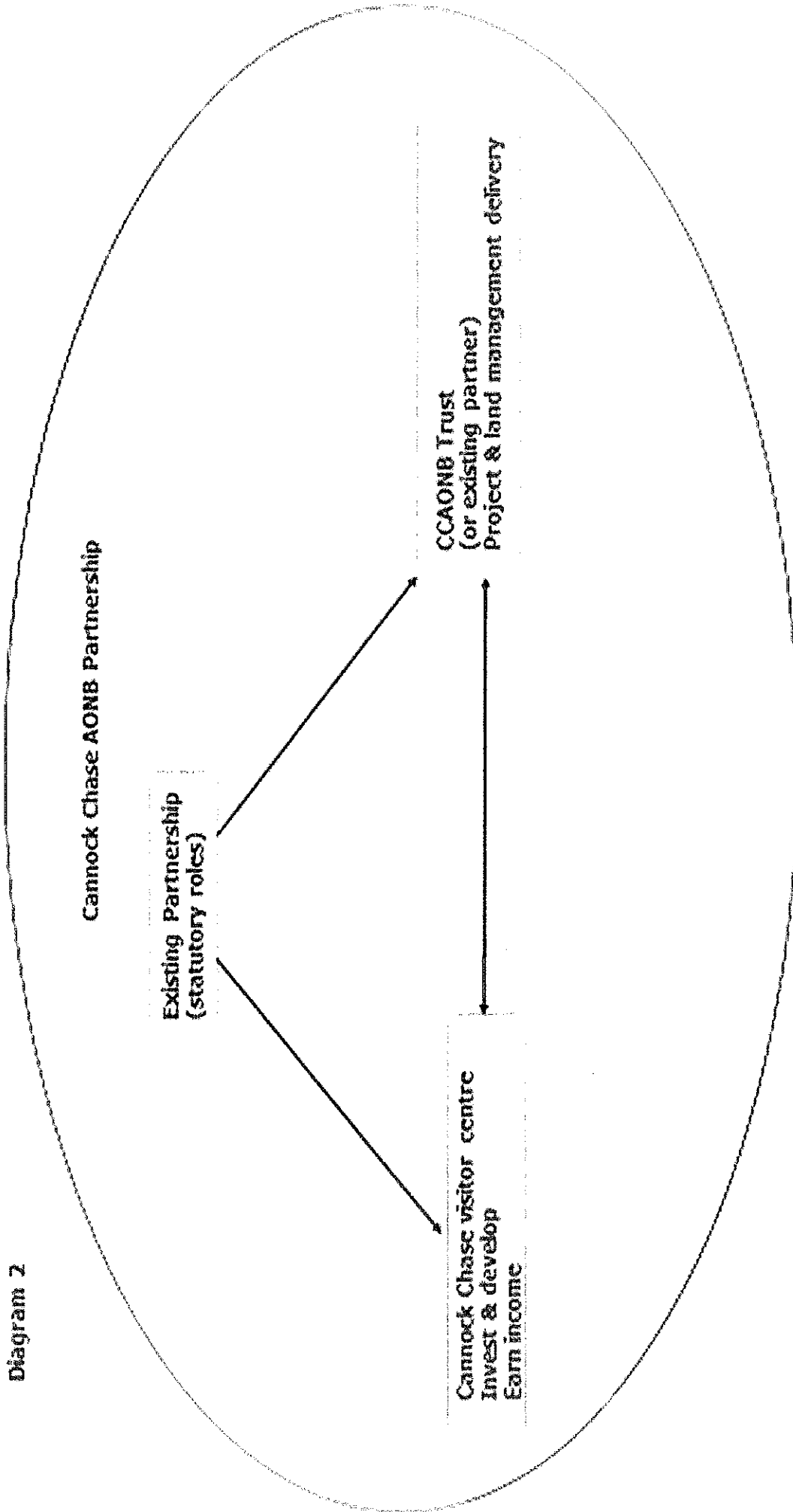


Diagram 2





Dear Hednesford Town Council,

Please see attached statistical information collated from Central Control CCTV within the month of December

CCTV MONITORING for Hednesford Town Council

Criminal and non criminal activity

BURGLARY	
THEFT	
DAMAGE	5
AUTOCRIME	
DISTURBANCE	
DRUNKNESS	1
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	1
GRAFFITI	
SUSPICIOUS	3
TRAFFIC	
MISSING PERSON	1
DRUGS	
ASSAULTS	
NON CRIMINAL (AREAS MONITORED)	183
TOTAL	194

POLICE ADVISED US	5
WE ADVISED POLICE	3
RESOURCE DEPLOYED	5

4% OF MONITORING WAS NON REPORTABLE

4

6% OF MONITORING WAS OF OBSERVING REPORTABLE ACTIVITIES TO THE PARISH /POLICE

Throughout the month of December Hednesford town centre was a lot busier with the lantern parade and light switch on throughout this month. Although we had no incident reports on these occasions it was very busy with a high influx of people in high festive spirits

There have been a few clusters of groups of people in the area on an evening but nothing seen of criminal nature just the usual loitering and hanging out

There has been a few reports of damage to businesses in the area with police reviewing and taking evidence of footage to Bellas, The bankbar and Jalipur on the high street Hednesford.

We have had regular contact with the hedgeford Lodge ,woodys music bar on a weekly basis via the storenet

We continue to monitor and action any requests through out 2016

Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any issues or concerns that we can assist in monitoring around the Hednesford town area throughout January.

Kind Regards

Lisa Cattell
CCTV Operator.

Email to: Amanda Wilkinson
peter.harrison@hednesford-tc.gov.uk (Hednesford Town Council Clerk)



Dear Hednesford Town Council,

Please see attached statistical information collated from Central Control CCTV within the month of January 2016

CCTV MONITORING for Hednesford Town Council

Criminal and non criminal activity

BURGLARY
THEFT
DAMAGE 1
AUTOCRIME
DISTURBANCE 5
DRUNKNESS
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR 2
GRAFFITI
SUSPICIOUS 4
TRAFFIC 2
MISSING PERSON 1
DRUGS
ASSAULTS
NON CRIMINAL (AREAS
MONITORED) 174
TOTAL 189

POLICE ADVISED US 7
WE ADVISED POLICE 5
RESOURCE DEPLOYED 8

92% OF MONITORING WAS NON REPORTABLE
8% OF MONITORING WAS OF OBSERVING REPORTABLE ACTIVITIES TO THE PARISH /POLICE

Throughout the month of January we have continued to keep in view the top end of Market Street by the Jalipur which has had damage and suspicious ASB issues in this area over the months.

There was a report of a Road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles on the junction of Rugeley road .We monitored .Police attended all ok.

2 disturbances on the 09/01/2016 of which group was monitored and vehicle registration was taken and police at scene

We had a police report from an abandoned 999 call at the telephone kiosk in Hednesford .Located a male and female in the area .Police were updated

This month a female missing person was reported to us and we monitored the areas for this person who was later found in the Cannock road area

Alleged attempt abduction was reported in the area Eskrett Street of an 11 year old boy we were asked to keep in view the area for a vehicle in possible connection.

There seems to be youths in the area in lots of different clusters .We monitor the areas and liaise with the police if we see any sus activity in the areas .The police have called us on numerous occasions throughout January with reports of disturbances and Anti-social –behaviour of which have been monitored and actioned accordingly .

The youths seem to be congregating in the park and by the Tesco car park areas .on ost occasions it is just loitering and hanging around the town centre areas ,which can be quite intimidating for passers by and memebers of the public

We continue to liaise with the pub watch users on a weekly basis via the snet radio

Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any issues or concerns that we can assist in monitoring around the Hednesford town area throughout February.

Kind Regards

Lisa Cattell
`CCTV Operator.

Email to: Amanda Wilkinson
peter.harrison@hednesford-tc.gov.uk (Hednesford Town Council Clerk)

Hednesford Town Council
Lloyds TSB Bank Reconciliation 31/01/16

Bank Balance per Statement £73,280.22

LESS O/S cheques

15/12/2015	2895	Bellas Coffee House	£41.00
	2899	Risk Assessment Solutions	£30.00
	2903	Littleton Green Community School	£100.00
	2905	Hednesford Valley High School	£100.00
	2910	Hednesford Lions	£100.00
	2911	Redhill Primary School	£100.00
	2912	West Hill Primary School	£100.00
	2922	Hednesford in Partnership	£250.00
04/01/2016	2927	Ascot Industrial Supplies	£99.02
19/01/2016	2930	A Pearson	£35.00
	2937	Ascot Industrial Supplies	£42.00
	2938	Risk Assessment Solutions	£30.00
	2940	Yolo Youth Services	£145.00

£1,172.02

Cash Book bank balance at 31.01.16

£72,108.20

Lloyds TSB Cash Book Balance

£72,108.20

1 Year Long Term Savings

£50,000.00

3 month Savings

£30,000.00

BIA Savings

£22,467.44

Total Cash Balances

£174,575.64

Reserves B/F

£157,834.02

Receipts

£167,897.33

£325,731.35

Less: Expenditure

£151,155.71

TOTAL

£174,575.64

Council Meeting 16 February 2016 agenda Item Page 34

Date	check	Source	Type	TOTAL	VAT on Precept Receipts	VAT Recovered	Interest Received	PGCC Hall Lettings	PGCC Bar Takings	Misc	Grants	Loan	Community Investment/Levy
		Year Total		£ 161,074.89	£ -	£ 8,027.46	£ 150.23	£ 21,734.40	£ 655.78	£ 507.00	£ -	£ -	
06/01/2016		Mrs D L Denby	500175	£ 1,283.80				£ 134.40					Regular Hirer - Tuesday Dance
		Mrs Ward						£ 240.00					Regular Hirer - Slimming World
		Mr Gregory						£ 102.40					Regular Hirer - Pye Green Dance
		Pye Green Ladies Club						£ 48.00					Regular Hirer - Ladies Social
		Mr & Mrs Keay						£ 384.00					Regular Hirer - Stardust
		Scallywags						£ 40.00					Children's Party
		Mrs Ridgeway						£ 180.00					Regular Hirer - Saturday Slimming World
		Mr Taylor						£ 155.00					Regular Hirer - Chasin Tails
		Plyvine Catering	Faster Payment	£ 62.71				£ 62.71					Bar Commission 05.12.15
06/01/2016		WLCT	BGC	£ 120.00				£ 120.00					Regular Hirer - Rugeley Leisure Centre
08/01/2016		EHEMA	Transfer	£ 199.20				£ 199.20					Regular Hirer - Karate
14/01/2016		Pre School Learning Alliance	500176	£ 687.60				£ 192.00					Regular Hirer - Toddlers
		Mr Small						£ 89.60					Regular Hirer - Sequence Dance
		Mr Fryett						£ 130.00					Private Party 04/06/16
		Mrs J Stokes						£ 276.00					Regular Hirer - Stars
10/01/2016		Alicopers limited	BGC	£ 815.56				£ 815.56					Vat Recovered
10/01/2016		HMRC Vat repay	BGC	£ 1,845.77		£ 1,846.77		£ 130.00					Private Party 12/03/16
16/01/2016		Mrs Dyer	500177	£ 392.00				£ 112.00					Regular Hirer - Sequence Dance
		Mr Small						£ 150.00					Regular Hirer - Chasin Tails
		Mr Taylor						£ 134.40					Regular Hirer - Tuesday Dance
27/01/2016		Mrs D L Denby	500178	£ 1,081.60				£ 144.00					Regular Hirer - Toddlers
		Pre School Learning Alliance						£ 492.80					Regular Hire of Meeting Room 2
		Midlands Psychology						£ 64.00					Regular Hirer - Ladies Social
		Pye Green Ladies Club						£ 102.40					Regular Hirer - Pye Green Dance
		Mr Gregory						£ 144.00					Regular Hirer - Saturday Slimming World
29/01/2016		Mrs Ridgeway	BGC	£ 56.00				£ 56.00					Regular Hirer - Rugeley Leisure Centre
30/01/2016		WLCT	Transfer	£ 277.20				£ 277.20					Regular Hirer - Karate
		EHEMA						£ 4,912.96	£ 62.71	£ -			
		Month Total		£ 6,822.44	£ -	£ 1,846.77	£ -	£ 4,912.96	£ 62.71	£ -			
		Year Total		£ 167,897.33	£ -	£ 9,874.23	£ 150.23	£ 26,647.36	£ 718.49	£ 507.00	£ -		

Hednesford Town Council - Cash Book 2015/16

31/01/2016 Cheques sent out

Date	Payee	£	Details
04/01/2016	2924 Purchase Power	£ 105.50	Postage
	2925 Xs Events	£ 550.00	Christmas Event Stage
	2926 St John Ambulance	£ 105.60	Christmas Event
	2927 Ascot Industrial Supplies	£ 99.02	Cleaning Materials
	2928 The Marketing Room (UK) Ltd	£ 420.00	Website Support
	2929 L Bowman Expenses Amazon Teapots	£ 43.90	Teapots x 2
19/01/2016	2930 A Pearson	£ 35.00	Staffordshire Regiment Dinner
	2931 Mr B Jones	£ 318.54	Salaries
	2932 Mrs D Richards	£ 522.30	Salaries
	2933 Mrs L Bowman	£ 860.33	Salaries
	2934 Mr P Harrison	£ 1,622.67	Salaries
	2935 Mr M Bradbury	£ 749.19	Salaries
	2936 Staffordshire Pension Fund	£ 238.96	Pension
	2937 Ascot Industrial Supplies	£ 42.00	Cleaning Materials
	2938 Risk Assessment Solutions	£ 30.00	Fire Extinguisher & Emergency Light testing
	2939 Initial Washrooms	£ 522.36	Sanitary Yearly Contract
	2940 Yo!o Youth Services	£ 145.00	Grant
04/01/2016 D/D	Public Works Loan Board	£ 8,715.88	Loan
04/01/2016 D/D	Cannock Chase Council	£ 720.00	Rates
18/01/2016 D/D	Npower	£ 624.00	Electric
22/01/2016 D/D	Pitney Bowes	£ 75.49	Postage
28/01/2016 D/D	Lloyds Bank	£ 25.84	Bank Charges
	Month Total	<u>£ 16,571.58</u>	

Lloyds TSB Cash Book Balance	£72,108.20
1 Year Long Term Savings	£50,000.00
3 month Savings	£30,000.00
BIA Savings	£22,467.44
Total Cash Balances	<u>£174,575.64</u>

Reserves B/F	£157,834.02
Receipts	£167,897.33
	£325,731.35
Less: Expenditure	£151,155.71
TOTAL	<u>£174,575.64</u>

HOW TO START A FOOD IS FREE PROJECT

A GUIDE TO GROWING
FOOD AND COMMUNITY
IN YOUR FRONT YARD

foodisfreeproject.org
#FOODISFREE



FOOD IS FREE

HELLO!

John here with the Food is Free Project. What started as a simple front yard community garden with a #foodisfree sign has evolved to become a worldwide movement. Over 200 cities around the world have started Food is Free chapters. We're here to offer advice about how to rally friends and neighbors, find free or salvaged resources, and take action in your community. When we come together to grow, there is abundance for everyone.



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FOOD IS FREE

FOOD IS FREE

CONSIDER:

Each Food is Free Project will look a bit different, tailoring to fit the needs of the community. You will meet other like-minded individuals as you put yourself out there and take the first steps. Even if it feels a little vulnerable, know that you are not alone. Together we're creating a decentralized food system grown by and for the people. Food is Free.

Onward and upward,
John and the folks at Food is Free



FOOD IS FREE

FOOD IS FREE

FOOD IS FREE

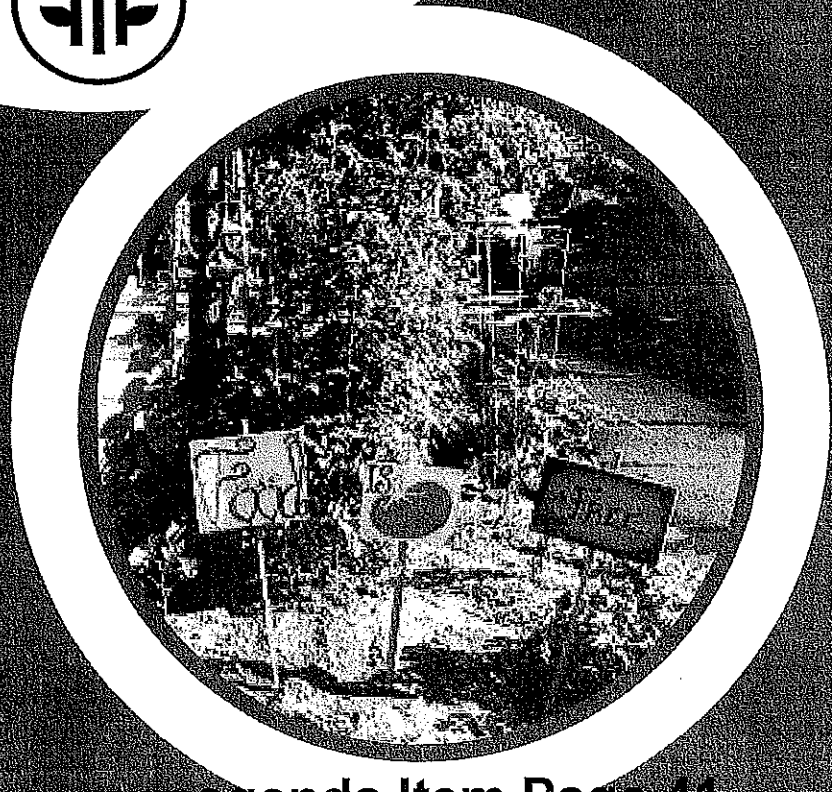
STEP 1 DECLARATION

Start sharing your vision and ideas with friends and neighbors. Start a Facebook page for "Food is Free (your city or neighborhood)". Invite others to join you. Everything that exists was first a thought, so dream big and know this worldwide community supports you.



STEP 2 LOCATION

Find a spot for the first #foodisfree garden or #foodisfree sharing table. It can be in your front yard, a friend's place, apartment courtyard or a container garden on your porch. Get creative and there's always a place to grow. Consider a place where people will walk past it and be inspired.



STEP 3

DISCOVER RESOURCES

Identify what materials and tools you have as well as what you still need. There are so many free resources in the community: free mulch, coffee grounds, yard trimmings, pallets and more. Check craigslist, freecycle, or contractors about salvaged items. Don't be afraid to ask.



STEP 4 PLANTING

It all starts with that first garden. Go for it and invite friends and neighbors to join. It's okay to make mistakes. We all learn faster and have fun when we grow together. Enjoy the interactions with neighbors and let them know you'll be sharing the coming harvest.



STEP 5

SHARING

Sharing what we grow is exciting. It's such a joy to share our harvest and connect with others, growing community as well as food. It's funny how the more we give the more we receive. Share your #foodisfree photos on social media to keep the ripple of inspiration going.



GROWING THE PROJECT

Congratulations and thank you for sharing the vision and taking action to uplift your piece of the world. Things will evolve and unfold organically. Spread the word with local media and document your progress with photos. Share them with us on social media and let us know if we can offer advice. We're all in this together. Here's to creating a world of abundance.



Never underestimate your ability to inspire your community. Start the ripple on your street!

Stay tuned to foodisfreeproject.org for resources, videos and ideas.

If you're inspired to make a one-time or recurring donation to support the Food is Free Project, [click here](#) and thank you!

Follow us on:

