**Last updated: 4th June 2023**

As adopted by the Friends of Cannock Stadium Park Community Group.

**Background**

Cannock Stadium Park is an important example of a green haven in an urban setting. The land of over 24 acres originally consisted of Allotments, a tramway to haul coal and a landfill site upto 1922. The park was passed into public ownership afterwards and developed to a Sports Arena (Festival Stadium) with external football pitches and was opened in 1951 by Cannock Chase Council (CCDC). The sports arena closed in 2008 and was saved from housing development. The land was developed into a fully functional Park between 2014 and 2018 for the local community.

The park is open to the public 365 days a year. The main accesses to the park are via Pye Green Road, Festival Mews, Huntington Terrace Road and Princess Street.

It is regularly used for recreational and sporting activity and there are two well equipped children’s play areas and allotments for the community and private plot holders.

The park is surrounded by three schools and people of all ages enjoy the open space.

Whilst recognising that the Park has a minimal adverse impact on the environment we recognise that virtually all the activities of an organisation or individual have some impact on the environment and that in pursuing our aims and objectives we must take the opportunity to protect the Park’s biodiversity and nurture the environmental status.

Friends of Cannock Stadium Park (FOCS) are committed to the conservation and improvement of the environment and to minimising the environmental impacts of the risks arising from its activities. The group will manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable and economically feasible and provide appropriate environmental information for its members.

**Aims and Objectives**

In order to achieve this, the Friends of Cannock Stadium will:

* Promote sound environmental management policies that aim to meet and comply with all relevant environmental regulations
* Make efficient and environmentally responsible use of raw materials, energy and water
* Promote environmentally responsible procurement of goods and services
* Minimise waste production as far as practicable; reuse or recycle waste where appropriate
* FoCS will look into the provision of recycling bins
* Reduce and where practicable, prevent pollution
* Minimise the impact of transport on the environment by promoting the use of sustainable transport to its members
* Be fully committed to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
* Raise awareness of members of the group’s environmental impact activities and performance and promote individual good practice
* Whenever possible work with schools and other community projects to promote educational opportunities and environmental awareness
* Contribute to sustaining the attractive appearance of the park by monitoring the regular grass cutting, weed control, tree care and general maintenance of the grounds.
* Keeping contractors informed about environmental issues that may affect them.
* Review this policy annually

**Environmental Impacts**

We have identified the following environmental impacts associated with the management of Cannock Stadium Park:

* Litter and waste bins - We aim to keep the park as litter free as possible by encouraging the use of litter bins. There are at least 6 waste bins. CCDC empty the litter bins at least twice a week. At present the main bins are for general and dog waste.
* Organised litter picking sessions take place a few times each year and the group are investing in litter picking implements, gloves etc. to comply with health and safety regulations.
* Dog Walking - We work to eliminate dog fouling. Dog waste can be disposed of in normal bins which are situated around the park and dog walkers are encouraged to use these.
* Benches - There are many benches for the public to sit on around the park. They are inspected for condition and safety by CCDC. Any issues the Friends of Cannock Stadium will be reported to Cannock Chase District Council.
* Energy - There are lights in the park and are all LED. This saves energy and promotes safety within the park for all its users. FOCS aim to use Solar Lighting where possible.
* Biodiversity - We aim to ensure that biodiversity within Cannock Stadium Park is maintained and enhanced.In the future we hope to have bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog huts, homes for owls and bug hotels in place. Fallen timber is left whenever possible, FOCS aims to work with CCDC to create areas designated as ecological zones to encourage natural growth & wildlife.
* Trees - FOCS have started to implement a programme of tree planting over the first year of our establishment and have planted over 1200 trees and over the next decade planting over 3000 new trees. Where possible trees and plants have been ethically obtained. Any exotic plants were mainly grown from seed or as grafts and were sourced as locally as possible. Through-out each year, a group of friends come together to help with their maintenance and coppicing. Apart from bird boxes we do not like to see items nailed to trees.
* Products - We ensure that wherever possible we will avoid the use of environmentally damaging substances. Recycled or environmentally friendly products are used where possible.
* Walks - Walks for the public in the park with Friends and its partner organisations are promoted each year and advertised through posters, social media & the website. Environmental information leaflets are available during these walks. People are encouraged to use the pathways wherever possible. The park is used as a cycle route by many but the use of motorcycles or vehicles is NOT permitted and any offenders are reported to the Police promptly.
* Office Supplies - FOCS keep paperwork to a minimum and use recycled paper. Empty ink cartridges are donated to charity. Communications are carried out electronically and through the website, email and Google Drive.

Whilst FOCS accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individuals have a very important role in co -operating with those responsible for safeguarding the environment.

President :........................................................

Date...............................

Vice President :........................................................

Date...............................