

Save Coventry Speedway Home of the world famous Coventry Bees and Stox



Rugby Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation, February 2024

SAVE COVENTRY SPEEDWAY AND STOX CAMPAIGN GROUP (SCS) RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q36. Are there any other issues or policies (not covered by the questions above) that we should cover in the new plan?

Response: SCS believe that the future of Coventry Stadium is as important an issue as the others identified. It should be recognised as very important in itself as it affects the quality of life of thousands of people both inside and outside the Borough.

SCS also believes that the recent Planning Appeal (Appeal Ref: APP/E3715/W/23/332203) highlights that the Rugby Local Plan Review should have a policy which allows the identification, designation, enhancement and protection of non-designated heritage assets. This should be integral to the heritage policies in the new LP and Coventry Stadium should be identified, and therefore protected, as one of the first such sites in the Borough. This would be in recognition of the importance of the Stadium as a place with a long and rich heritage, where numerous events and achievements occur rather than on the basis of the quality of the buildings currently on the site.

Q38. Do you support a policy protecting stadia as community and sports facilities? If so, which stadia should we protect?

Response: SCS strongly supports the suggestion of introducing a policy to protect stadia as community and sports facilities. While the existing LP does protect community facilities these are not explicitly applied to sports and recreation facilities as per the Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is important that this is clarified beyond doubt.

SCS also considers there is a very strong argument for a direct reference to Coventry (aka Brandon) Stadium in both policy and on the Policies Map given that the continuing 'need' for the stadium has now been completely endorsed by the Government appointed Inspector at the recent planning appeal. The inclusion of such a policy would support the restoration of the stadium for Speedway and Stock Car Racing but also its development to provide low capacity community uses (such as a gym, climbing wall, cycle training track, Mountain bike track, links to National Cycle Network) and a museum for Speedway and Stock Car Racing. Other appropriate uses could also be encouraged, such

as equestrian events. This approach, SCS believe, would be consistent with the approach in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The LPR is likely to take several years to complete. SCS has strongly welcomed the recent appeal decision (Appeal Ref: APP/E3715/W/23/332203) which has clarified the long term future use of the stadium. SCS would welcome discussions with the Council to ensure this is reflected in the most appropriate way through the local plan review and to be delivered in a timely fashion.

Prepared by the Save Coventry Speedway and Stox Campaign Group, February 2024

