

### **Background**

Cllrs will recall recent discussions in Full Council around the safety of the Town Centre regarding the traffic ignoring the pedestrianisation order, and the state of the paving slabs. Staff have also been raising questions about possible signing and highway improvement.

To this end the County Council Highways team were contacted and have come back with the following responses:

1) We have noticed that a number of Brown Signs around town are wrong or old and wondered how I could go about getting them replaced / more created please and is there a cost attached to this?

Brown signs are "Tourist destinations signs" generally funded by the company or organisation directing to the destination. The signs can be reviewed but would require funding.

2) Pedestrianisation – Cllrs were wondering if we would be able to put up additional signage in the town centre that would allow for enforcement of fines for stationary vehicles?

I'm unsure on what type of signs you are suggesting however Highway signs are regulated and there are strict rules with their use. The correct signage is already in place to support enforcement. Once a driver has driven past the Regulated signs there are no other highway signs that could be considered. It is possible the Town Council could look to provide some information signs around the town?

3) Along a similar line, would we be able to have a weight limit sign go up  
There is already a 7.5 weight limit surrounding the town (except for access) followed by a "No Vehicles" order within the ped area.

4) We are thinking of applying for funding to create a Coronation Garden which could go in Market Square – linking some of the existing planters. Also to have circular seats around the bottom of the trees in Anson Street by the War memorial – do you have any thoughts on this?

In general such a scheme is likely to be supported, we would need to complete a section 50 licence as per Brook Square once we had further detail.

5) Are we any further on with getting some of the paving replaced in the town centre please?

We have recently repaired a number of areas around the town including new slabs and concrete repairs around iron work. Block paving requires regular maintenance and defects are monitored via monthly inspections and reports from the public.

6) What is the possibility of getting ANPR cameras in town please?

Very unlikely. We currently do not enforce moving traffic offences. I understand we are applying for powers following changes announced by government however we are some way off developing a policy.

## **Background**

Earlier this year, Full Council heard from the organisers of Chase Pride which was due to take place in Hednesford in 2022 and Rugeley in 2023. The Town Council have received the following email from the Chase Pride Organisers:

*Since I was last with you, we've been busy evaluating sites in Rugeley to hold Chase Pride 2023. Turnout for Chase Pride was higher than we expected, with 5500 people joining the event, alongside a parade attendance of 400 and with 1000 member of the public lining the streets to watch. Given the huge amount of post event publicity we received, we're expecting that to grow again next year.*

*Unfortunately, we haven't managed to find a location in Rugeley which meets the needs of such a large audience and an event of our nature. We've evaluated Ravenhill Park, however this presents accessibility challenges for our inclusive event, with insufficient space on flat terrain for two stages and a funfair due to the rolling hills. We're also concerned about the lack of parking facilities, the proximity of nearby residential properties, and public transport connectivity. We've also evaluated Hagley Fields and the Leisure Centre - a great sized space, but given it's incorporated into the towns flood defences and designed to retain/slowly release storm water, we feel this presents a significant risk to the event should we have an overly wet year. The proximity of residential properties is again a problem, along with emergency access/egress challenges for a large audience. Having talked through options with the District Council, we have concluded that at the present time Hednesford Park remains the best place to hold the event for 2023.*

*I can appreciate that this will come as a disappointment to your Members, who like me would have been looking forwards to the benefits of Pride spreading through the district. On a positive note, we were supported this year by Gregory Bryant of Rugeley, and a large number of Rugeley residents. The feedback from all regarding 2022 has been overwhelmingly positive, and many have told us that they think Hednesford Park was the perfect setting for the event and they're looking forwards to 2023 – so hopefully for the Rugeley LGBTQ+ community, there will be nothing but excitement. We will naturally put out a press release regarding the chosen location for 2023 in due course.*

*In our discussion with the leaders of the District Council, we also talked about the afterparties and fringe events which publicans in Cannock and Hednesford ran which saw them benefit from Chase Pride – it would be great to see more businesses in Rugeley getting involved too. This may be something which Cllr Lyons and the District Councils new LGBTQ+ Ambassador, Cllr Josh Bancroft, can assist with promoting along with other initiatives for the local LGBTQ+ community.*

*Hope that provides a useful update for your members.*

Item 103  
Warm Bank / Big Knit

**Background**

The Town Clerk attended a district wide meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October where we were speaking about the heating crisis in the district and how we may help. Cannock would like to create a district wide knitting opportunity to knit squares / scarves / shawls / hot water bottle covers / fidget mitts for dementia sufferers etc. These would then be distributed to those local people in need.

Other partners from Rugeley were invited including Brereton Millions, The Little Wool Shop, Community Church etc.

**Proposal**

On a Wednesday we have Afternoon Teas in the Rose Theatre. It is proposed that we continue to promote the afternoon tea but also promote the fact that the Theatre will be a Warm Hub for the day between say 10am – 4pm. If the theatre is free, Cllrs may wish to consider offering old films running continuously for the time that it is open. We could promote to those with dementia or caring for people with dementia to give them some connection. We can then also market this as a knitting group – possibly getting someone in to teach beginners knitting. We could approach existing groups and general public to come in a learn to knit and we will collect their squares and take to those who need them.

**For Consideration**

Cllrs are asked to consider supporting the promotion of the Rose Theatre as a Warm Hub for Rugeley on a Wednesday which will also include the promotion of the space for old movies, afternoon teas, tea and coffee and knitting club.

Cllr Gaye has requested that Cllrs consider paying for a Citizens Advice Bureau advisor to attend the Rose Theatre for these sessions.

Item 104  
Rugeley Rifle Club

**Background**

In July 2022, Full Council received a request from the Rugeley Rifle Club for money towards a 7 day summer activities camp for 16 young people. Cllrs agreed to pay £1,000 as a one off grant.

We have been sent an email inviting donations to be made, or purchase medals to raise money to allow for the replacement of the 51 year old 110 yard long range wall.

**For Consideration**

Cllrs are asked to consider if they would like to make an additional donation to the Rifle Club for this work.