

Any notes in brackets and italics are my own thoughts/commentary while witnessing the meeting.

Notes from community meeting 27 Nov 2024 - 7.30pm, Cannock Conservative Club

- Representatives from IHL, Cannock Chase Arts Council and various arts groups were present and speaking at the meeting.
- Who is going to review and analyse the survey data from the consultation period?
- How will the community present their solutions to the council?
- Andrea (local councillor), showed dismay at how many councillors feel like they've also been ambushed by the decision and the pressure being put on them by the community.
- *(Download copy of the original Levelling Up Bid documentation from the council website, as it has been reupload)*
- Community wants to know what the £20m fund is now going to spent on. If we even get it.
- The PoW building needs real terms investment due to the building being in dire need of repair - *(could we introduce a restoration levy?)*
- The community needs to effectively communicate the wellbeing impact of the cultural assets of the town centre.
- The community believes that the LU funding probably had some level of funding matching. *(Council documents show, link below, that it should have been £5.6m on top of the £20m LUF)*
- *(What were the terms of the funds being released from the Levelling Up fund?)*
- Concerns were raised that various groups, like amateur dramatic societies focused around citizens with learning disabilities, won't have somewhere to go to continue their activities, which support their wellbeing etc. The voices of these groups need to be represented within the community pitches to the council.
- *(Planning application for the regeneration plan approved with conditions on 04 jul 2024 - <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/cannock/application-details/26452>)*
- *(Josh Newbury was the deputy leader of the regeneration portfolio at the time of the bid being successful:
<https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/council/news/articles/cannock-town-centre-regeneration-takes-step-forward>)*
- The economic manager of the council would have been the one who put the original bid in for the LU fund.
- *(Matched funds of £5.6m from the council was agreed for the £20m funding:
<https://cannockchasedc.gov.uk/business/economic-development/levelling-fund-cannock-town-centre>)*
- All thoughts to be emailed to petersidgwick47@gmail.com
- Next meeting Wed 11th Dec, location TBC.