



Tamworth Heritage Centre

A place of culture, connection and community

www.tamworthheritage.co.uk



I am thrilled to be a part of this project and I know I speak for everyone at St. Editha's Church to say that we are excited to be a key stakeholder, going forward, in the development of a creative, permanent heritage hub for Tamworth. We are determined to make this happen.

Rev. Andrew Lythall, Vicar of Tamworth



We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of a new heritage centre which would enable us to increase access to the museum collections and archives, and would provide a valuable cultural asset for the town.

Lara Rowe, Tamworth Castle Museum and Archives Manager



I am delighted on behalf of the Civic Society to help with this exciting project. It is completely in line with our aims, hopes, and work for making the most of our town's incredible heritage and history for the benefit of residents and visitors. We must not allow this wonderful and rare opportunity to slip through Tamworth's grasp.

Dr. David Biggs, Chairman of the Tamworth and District Civic Society



Tamworth has a long and rich history; this will be a great place to tell our unique story and celebrate our history. A world class Heritage Centre will help put Tamworth clearly on the map and support a wider ecosystem of heritage, culture, arts and community programmes that are vital to maintaining a strong community.

Sarah Edwards MP, Member of Parliament for Tamworth



I am a refugee from Iran, and have lived in Tamworth for about two and a half years. I have loved getting to know the history of this town. I have come to feel at home here, and part of the community. I would love to see a heritage centre here, to give people the opportunity to learn more about the amazing history of this town.

Safa Vahedi, Tamworth Resident

We want to celebrate the rich diversity, history, and creativity of our community.

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**From Anglo-Saxon to modern times,
Tamworth is defined by its heritage**

What is proposed?

This project involves the creation and operation of an accessible heritage, visitor and tourist information centre in the heart of the town centre.

The heritage centre will be based at 30 Church Street, Tamworth B79 7DX and open on a regular basis as a place for temporary and permanent exhibitions; study and research space; educational outreach centre; tourist attraction and archive store.

The centre will bring together stakeholders from across Tamworth to serve as a focal point for preserving, interpreting, and celebrating Tamworth's rich and diverse heritage. It will provide a space for residents, visitors, and academics to engage with local history through exhibitions, interactive displays, educational programs, and community involvement and outreach. The heritage centre will be designed to enhance the local economy, foster pride in the community, and contribute to cultural tourism in the town centre.

This project involves a collaborative enterprise between St. Editha's Church, Tamworth; Tamworth Castle Museum; the Tamworth Town Centre Forum; the Tamworth and District Civic Society, and other heritage and culture groups across Tamworth and the surrounding area.

We believe that this initiative will become a cornerstone of Tamworth's cultural identity, offering a deeper connection to the town's past while inspiring future generations. We look forward to working together with various partners, stakeholders, and the community more broadly, to bring this vision to life.

We believe in the power of heritage to bring people together.

Why now?

It has been the ambition of various heritage and local history stakeholders for many years to create a heritage centre that can meet public demand and provide services and accessibility not logistically achievable alone by the borough council museum located within Tamworth Castle. Various barriers have prevented realisation of this concept.

Factors that have hindered development include:

- Limited or no shared vision across a wide range of stakeholders, especially in terms of limited Local Authority resources to drive improvements;
- A lack of funding, and fund-raising both in terms of capital outlay and ongoing core costs;
- Lack of ambition and insufficient key people to turn vision into reality.

The future of Tamworth's heritage assets is currently more uncertain than ever before. The town faces several risks to the integrity and sustainability of its heritage, not least:

- The issues around the consolidation of Tamworth Borough Council within a larger regional Council, as per the Government's proposals over the next three years;
- An overall lack of strategy in place to safeguard and develop our historic patrimony;
- Significant funding required to preserve existing historic assets;
- Limited accessibility for the wider public to Tamworth's considerable historic museum and archive collections.

We see this as a fantastic opportunity, particularly as positive relationships are emerging between key stakeholders, and volunteers are growing in numbers through several recent successful collaborative projects and the sense of achievement that this creates. As Tamworth is regenerated, we are in a strong position to improve the resilience of our shared heritage assets. For the first time in a generation, the right people are in place to address these issues, and a real drive and desire exists to bring together, improve, enhance, and safeguard the various collections in the care of heritage bodies across our community.

Further, recent events in Tamworth have shown us that in some ways, our community is fractured. It is apparent that many people struggle to articulate a sense of place, or a sense of pride in their community. Understanding our heritage helps us to understand each other better: we think that a heritage centre has massive potential as a force for community cohesion in our town – positively seen in effective relationship building through the Castle Heritage Crafts projects, for example, which took centre stage at Athelstan 1100 and engaged under-represented audiences.

Moreover, the past several years have seen a great deal of work building effective relationships with universities, colleges and community groups who are actively seeking opportunities for skills development to enrich academic courses and prepare for the workplace; the centre could provide these opportunities.

By understanding the past, we can better prepare for the future.

A background to heritage in Tamworth

Tamworth is an ancient and important settlement. Evidence of Iron Age occupation has been found within the present borough, including the famed Glascote Torc. However, the town of Tamworth itself, situated at the strategic confluence of the rivers Anker and Tame, is held to be of Anglo-Saxon origin in the 7th Century AD. The Anglo-Saxon burh was fortified with substantial defensive ditches and walls by both King Offa, and by Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians in 913 after she recaptured Tamworth from the Vikings. Charters were issued from the royal palace which was famously described as "the wonder and admiration of the age". Aethelflaed made Tamworth her seat until her death here in 918 AD. It was here that she mentored her nephew Athelstan, first King of all England.

The town was granted after the Norman Conquest of 1066 by William I to his Steward and Royal Champion which resulted in the building of the motte and bailey castle that survives to this day. Descendants of the Royal Champion held the Castle as a private residence until 1897 when it was purchased by the Corporation of Tamworth to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and opened as the borough museum in 1899.

The importance of Tamworth also resulted in it having a royal and collegiate church, which to this day is the largest parish church in Staffordshire. The church is dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon princess and saint, Editha, whose royal wedding took place in the church in 926. Until the Reformation the centre of Tamworth was a large and busy ecclesiastical complex with deanery and collegiate buildings lining Church Street, College Lane, Colehill, and Gungate. The church was also closely associated with the town's Grammar School - one of the oldest in England - and the town's mediaeval Guild of St. George.

With the Industrial Revolution, and the construction of two canals and two railways through the area, substantial textile, paper manufacture, brick, terracotta, stoneware, engineering, and car manufacture mills and factories provided major employment alongside several deep mine collieries, which increased the population considerably from the late 18th Century onwards.

After WW2, Tamworth was entered into controversial expansion and redevelopment programmes that massively increased the population and transformed the physical appearance and character of the town and surrounding areas. Employment largely changed from the 1970s onwards to service and light industry occupations, commuting to work elsewhere, self-employment and home-working. The construction of the M42 motorway with a Tamworth junction in the 1980s added to Tamworth's transport connectivity.

Many renowned personalities are associated with the town. To name but a few: Tamworth's most famous MP, Sir Robert Peel the Prime Minister and police force founder who issued the world's first party political and election manifesto, the Tamworth Manifesto, in 1834; philanthropist Thomas Guy who gave the town its landmark Almshouses and Town Hall; Crimean War Victoria Cross heroes Captain Sir William Peel and Samuel Parkes; footballer Harry Hibbs; WW2 Enigma Code hero Colin Grazier, GC.

A heritage centre will enable us to attract investment from further afield.

The collections in the Castle Museum, and those others held by private groups, venues and individuals reflect this long timeline and vast range of diverse heritage, history and culture, and deserve to be better known, seen, understood and appreciated - something the proposed heritage centre can significantly, and realistically, facilitate and contribute towards.

Despite the town's historical significance, there is currently no central venue that comprehensively showcases Tamworth's heritage and encourages an ongoing dialogue with its history.

A heritage centre would not only preserve this invaluable history but also offer a platform for education, tourism, and community pride. The centre would engage residents, schoolchildren, tourists, and researchers alike, with a strong focus on community collaboration and inclusivity.

Heritage is a key element in developing community cohesion.

What will a heritage centre do?

The centre will provide a multi-faceted approach to conserving, improving, promoting and developing Tamworth's heritage in 5 principal areas:

1. Assist with display and interpretation of Tamworth's heritage collections.

An accessible town centre heritage centre can alleviate the decades-long issues and limitations faced by Tamworth Castle Museum.

Since 1899 the borough's museum and archive collections have been housed in Tamworth Castle, and some, to a limited extent since the 1970s, in its Holloway Lodge.

Despite excellent, creative and thoughtful management, the castle as an ancient building on a man-made motte presents many serious, pressing, and costly accessibility, conservation and restoration issues. Plus, by its very nature and location, the building has severe limitations on space for displays, interpretation, and other activities.

The steepness of the castle mound itself prevents many people with mobility or other health issues from reaching the museum. The historic nature and lay-out of the buildings within the shell keep, further inhibits access to upstairs rooms and walkways.

Due to the impracticality of space, many objects and documents in the collections are rarely seen, or have never been seen, by the public as they are kept in off-site storage some miles from the town centre, with very limited visitor access. This long-term situation has impacted on public perceptions, and led to some hesitancy to donate items that may never be seen. St. Editha's and the Castle have begun an embryonic project to address this issue and are presently working in partnership to exhibit a series of historic paintings; these have been well received, but space is limited as to what can be practically achieved without a dedicated exhibition space.

The conversion of the Long Gallery to display and interpret the Staffordshire Hoard and the Anglo-Saxon heritage of Tamworth, worthwhile as that is, has caused the popular "Story of Tamworth" exhibition which had occupied the gallery since the early 1980s to be removed. This means that there is now nowhere available in the Castle Museum for visitors to learn and understand the timeline of Tamworth's story from origins to the present day and to see the artefacts and interpretation boards revealing the social, economic, political and religious development of the district through the centuries.

A heritage centre can offer the Castle Museum the collaborative opportunity to again display a "Story of Tamworth" exhibition to locals and visitors, and in a more accessible location.

It will also offer storage space and researcher facilities to alleviate or even negate the present situation with an off-site storage unit.

A heritage centre will give Tamworth a focal point for its common culture.

2. Assist with display, interpretation and storage of other collections from local heritage and history groups, and from private collectors

There are significant collections in private hands across Tamworth. It has been suggested, and well received, that such collections might be put on public display on a temporary basis, to reach a wider audience and attract new interest in the town's cultural assets. The Centre has already had offers of large collections on both permanent and temporary loan.

St. Editha's Church is trialling such a display with the exhibition of a private collection of historic ceramics in September 2025, but what can be displayed is very limited without a dedicated exhibition space and accessibility is limited in some parts of the church.

Furthermore, a dedicated area for rolling and temporary exhibitions can include material borrowed from larger museums, art galleries, and archives across the UK and beyond to enable Tamworth residents to see items from nationally-important collections, and also to view Tamworth items normally out of their reach - particularly for special anniversaries. For example, in 1984, key items from Bury Museum and Art Gallery relating to Sir Robert Peel were borrowed by The Peel Society for display in its temporary exhibition in Tamworth Town Hall marking the 150th anniversary of the Tamworth Manifesto.

3. Offer temporary display and exhibition space to groups or individuals to mark particular events and anniversaries in the town.

Experience with events through the decades has shown that there is tremendous interest in, and potential for utilising, and capitalising upon, Tamworth's rich, diverse, and unique history.

Community events recently delivered in partnership by the Castle, Church, and TDCS have shown that there is a significant demand for historical community events in Tamworth. In March 2024, St. Editha's Church, Tamworth, Tamworth Castle and the Tamworth and District Civic Society collaborated to create the immensely successful King Offa Procession with attendant events and activities. This day provided a great introduction to the busy Athelstan 1100 week of celebrations in July for the 1100th anniversary of the accession of the first King of All England, who is so closely associated with Tamworth. This celebration of Tamworth's Anglo-Saxon history and heritage generated much community awareness, engagement and enthusiasm among thousands of residents and visitors. A physical heritage centre will have the presence and means to increase several times over public knowledge and involvement in such activities by being an accessible, frontline, face-to-face hub of information, bookings, and networking, and by supporting and enhancing special events and anniversary celebrations with appropriate research, publications, displays and exhibitions.

Better accessibility means a more diverse interest in our heritage assets.

4. Provide an accessible, knowledgeable and helpful front desk service for visitor enquiries, sales, bookings, tourist information, and directions to other heritage venues and services, as well as host workshops, classes and education events.

Whilst the Borough Council has recently re-opened a front desk service, it does not wholly cater to the promotion of third-party activities or tourist information services.

The heritage centre will provide information for local tourism, arts and community events, and be a sales outlet for local history and heritage publications, souvenirs and gifts. The centre will also enable visitors to book professional guided tours of the town with qualified town-based tourist guides.

The heritage centre will provide space for researchers, with computer terminal access to digitised archives, as well as providing a meeting place for local heritage and history groups.

We propose to set aside some space for educational opportunities; workshops, talks, demonstrations etc, to engage local residents more deeply with the arts as a whole and encourage creativity and diversity of thought.

5. Provide office and meeting room space in an appropriate non-commercial setting.

There is a profound shortage of affordable office and meeting room space in the town centre for community groups, especially since the Carnegie Centre was closed and the public meeting room in Tamworth Central Library was closed. The proposed building has 2 good-sized offices available with kitchen and washroom facilities.

The heritage centre would provide affordable, small office space for start-up businesses, giving entrepreneurs a helping hand as they establish their venture. This will encourage economic growth and development in the heart of the town as well as a revenue stream for the ongoing operation of the centre. This complements other recent developments in the town that will enable Tamworth to be a particularly attractive place to start new business.

Furthermore, the proposed building has room for 5 car parking spaces; town centre spaces are at a premium so these could be rented out to subsidise ongoing running costs.

Heritage has been proven to help develop place attachment in young people.

What are the benefits of a heritage centre?

There are significant benefits for our community in having an easily accessible and recognisable heritage centre. There are 5 main areas of benefit to this project:

1. Enriching the heritage and tourism offering of our town

In combination with visits to the town's main heritage attractions of church and castle, and possibly touring of the town and use of shopping and hospitality venues, a heritage centre will increase the offering of the town centre for a full day visit and experience that can retain visitors in the town centre for longer periods than at present.

Recent years have seen increasing public interest in, and visitor numbers for, historic events and celebrations, such as Aethelflaed 1100 in 2018, the King Offa Procession in 2024, Athelstan 1100 running from 2024 to 2026, and the revived St. Editha's Day and Cherry Fair procession and service since 2022. A dedicated physical heritage centre will be a focus point that enables awareness and engagement to be further developed, on the ground and all year round.

A recognisable and recognised heritage centre, with tourist information, will help put Tamworth "on the map" as a heritage and tourism destination. It can work with the town's professionally qualified Blue Badge and Green Badge tourist guides in the Tamworth Guild of Town Guides to offer professional tours for visitors.

The centre will provide more appropriate, and greater capacity, archive and storage facilities now that usage of the Castle's Holloway Lodge for such purpose is no longer tenable.

2. Developing Tamworth as a centre of excellence in historical research, outreach and museum and archive services

The heritage centre can become a recognised centre of expertise in the history of Tamworth and district history through being a primary calling point and reference for those undertaking historical research, both locally and nationally, and whether for personal interest or formal study, and for whatever branch of historical study being pursued. The centre will include research rooms where people can come and study archive material in a safe, quiet but stimulating environment, that allows a level of access unprecedented previously in the town.

The heritage centre can receive information and deposits from the general public and from researchers and other institutions, as well as disseminating information outwards, and thus continually grow its knowledge and holdings and its value to the community. It will look to meet professional and quality standards and accreditation in all areas.

Our shared history defines us: where we have been and where we are going.

In this regard, it can call upon relevant professional assistance and advice through its close contact with, and connections to, local museum, archive and library services and through its key stakeholders and management group who collectively provide necessary skills, experience, expertise, and qualifications for the good governance and appropriate development of a community-facing heritage centre and its services.

The heritage centre will be able to accommodate and host symposiums, seminars, lectures, presentations, conferences etc. explaining, exploring, celebrating, and promoting our rich and diverse heritage, and making good use of the centre's collections and displays.

Over time, the heritage centre can expect to become a trusted and well-known centre of excellence for learning about, discussing, and enjoying Tamworth's rich history.

3. Improving access to and usage of historic collections and archives

For years, there have been calls to explore how Tamworth's collections and archives might be better displayed, interpreted and accessed by local residents and visitors.

The Castle Museum, for understandable reasons, currently operates a fee-charging model which means that some people are excluded from entry. The heritage centre, on the other hand, will offer free entry, giving those who are experiencing economic disadvantage the opportunity to view part of the historic collection which is rightly theirs in the sense of shared historic patrimony.

The heritage centre will offer excellent, accessible but secure permanent storage facility for archives and part of the town's collection – a significant improvement on facilities currently in use. An advantage of 30 Church Street is that it was originally designed as a bank, so not only does it offer significant floor area for storage, but also a secure premises with intrinsic security features in which valuable items can be stored safely.

Further, the proposed building is right in the heart of the town centre, with easy access for people of all mobility levels. There is ample car parking within a 30 second walk, and the premises will stand opposite the new Tamworth College, giving especial ease of access for students. It is an ideal place for the focal part of the town's heritage – right in the middle of where much of Tamworth's history has unfolded. Part of the premises abuts the medieval deanery wall, which opens up the potential of access for archaeological works to help understand and preserve this distinctive feature of Tamworth's medieval past.

4. Increasing visitor footfall and spending in the town centre, enhancing the local economy

It has already been articulated by many stakeholders, including the Town Centre Forum, that Tamworth would very much benefit from a further attraction in the town centre.

A heritage centre allows us to share our stories and better understand each other.

Studies have conclusively shown that the longer visitors remain in the town centre, the more money they spend.

A heritage centre will increase footfall to the town centre and, critically, “linger time”, meaning more opportunities for visitors to visit shops, hospitality businesses and accommodation in the town centre. More usage of the town centre will increase competition, and raise the quality, type, variety and opening hours of businesses and venues seeking to benefit from increased footfall. This may help improve the general appearance of the town centre, and contribute towards a reduction in neglected or empty retail premises.

Visitors to the centre will likely go on to visit other amenities in the town: perhaps visiting local shops, enjoying a drink or meal, possibly staying in a local hotel; higher foot traffic will directly lead to increased sales for retailers, restaurants, and service providers. This has knock-on effects: an uptick in visitors to the town centre will stimulate demand for additional staff in various sectors, thereby reducing unemployment rates and stimulating economic growth.

With the increase in visitor footfall, impending completion of the new Tamworth College building, and the possibility of offering affordable office space to new businesses, the heritage centre will help the sense of the town centre being a bustling, thriving space and an increasingly attractive location for new businesses. Areas with higher footfall often see an appreciation in property values, benefiting property owners and attracting further investment into the area.

5. Promoting community cohesion, pride, creativity and positive mental health

Heritage helps people to understand their roots, fostering a sense of identity and belonging. Learning about local and national history enables people to connect with their community, traditions, and cultural narratives. Studies have comprehensively shown that heritage is central to constructing personal and collective identities, helping people across every demographic to appreciate their place in society.

Local heritage projects have been proven to involve people more broadly in their communities, fostering civic pride and participation. Engagement with local heritage encourages local residents to contribute further to conservation and community initiatives.

There are particular benefits in connecting children and young people with their heritage. Programmes that focus on familiarising children with historical places and their significance have been proven to help build a stronger attachment between people and where they live. This has been proven to improve wellbeing and self-esteem. Significant studies have also concluded that visiting heritage sites is strongly associated with increased self-esteem amongst children aged 10 to 15 (*Lahey et al, 2017*) and cultural engagement visits are significantly associated with increased life satisfaction.

Tamworth is proud of its status as ancient capital of Mercia.

A heritage centre has the potential to help bridge generational gaps, providing younger generations with a tangible connection to the past. Older community members can share stories, and artefacts can be shared with younger people who may not have personal experience with those historical events. As Tamworth grows and our town's demographic changes in the future, the heritage centre can work to establish cross-cultural relationships in the context of community outreach and artistic events.

We see the heritage centre being a significant focus for local pride and participation, and an interface for education, further enquiry, inspiration and creative development across the town for people of all ages. There will be a rolling programme of art classes, events, talks, interpretations, and skills workshops catering for a wide demographic of people from the locality.

Heritage has enormous potential as an engine for economic growth in our town.

Who will run the project?

The principal stakeholder will be St. Editha's Church. This is appropriate and advantageous for several reasons:

- St. Editha's is one of Tamworth's largest charities with a demonstrable track record of delivering change;
- Its trustees already manage significant historic assets in plant and capital; the trustees currently oversee more than £3.5m;
- The church is centrally positioned physically in the town and very close to the proposed centre (and indeed owns adjacent buildings);
- The church itself provides one of the main heritage buildings and visitor destinations in Tamworth, so is aligned with all aspects that running a heritage centre would involve;
- There is a level of independence of governance which places the trustees above any differences among local heritage and history groups;
- Funding doors, closed to LAs and similar bodies, will be opened.

Although the ownership of the building and project more broadly, in terms of charity law, would rest with the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Tamworth (charity 1133982), a management group would be established to oversee the strategic development and operational delivery of the project. This group will be made up of stakeholders from across Tamworth, including businesses and third sector organisations.

It would be anticipated that the centre would be open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am – 2pm, although opening hours could be extended for special events, functions and exhibitions. In terms of day-to-day operations, the centre would be principally staffed by volunteers; there is already a large pool of volunteers from the church and other agencies who have expressed a desire to help in this regard. It may be possible, funding permitting, to employ a part-time Centre Manager to co-ordinate volunteers and oversee operational activities, volunteer recruitment, costs etc.

Entry to the centre would be free although - as is common practice amongst museums and galleries - it might be appropriate to occasionally charge for entry to special exhibitions or projects which have incurred additional costs.

We see Tamworth becoming a leading hub in heritage education and outreach.

What will the project cost?

The purchase of a suitable building will cost in the region of £300,000 plus approximately £25,000 for fitting out; factoring in a realistic contingency for unforeseen costs means that the overall project cost will be **£345,000**.

We have identified a highly suitable and appropriate building in Tamworth (30 Church Street) that would be ideal for our needs. A provisional offer of £300,000 has been accepted.

The ongoing costs of the centre based on estimated use will equate to some £7000 per annum. Owned by a charitable body, it is likely that the building will be rated with zero business rate liability.

With the leasing of internal office space, there is no reason that the heritage centre could not cover its own running costs. Plus, there will be several opportunities to source ongoing grants for core costs, special exhibitions, projects and improvements, as well as a “Friends” group and other sustainable income streams which have been used to great effect at St. Editha’s Church.

Indicative annual budget

Income

Office rentals (x2) - £10800

Car park rentals (x2 spaces but this could be increased to 4, doubling revenue) - £1560

Third party storage and archive fees - £1000

On-site shop profit and other sundries - £750

= £14110

Expenditure

Utilities (gas, water, electricity, telephone, internet) - £4450

Insurance - £750

Compliance (fire, health and safety etc) - £750

Cleaning - £850

= £6800

A surplus of £7310

This level of surplus would potentially allow for the appointment of a part-time centre manager to manage the day-to-day running of the centre on a 10 hour a week basis, equating to approximately £7200. This still allows a surplus annual budget, before potential grants, donations and gifts are taken into account.

98% of teachers say that learning about local heritage improved pupils’ sense of place.

Who will pay for the project?

Currently, the project has raised £227,000 towards set-up costs from various trusts and individuals. We are actively seeking additional funding to meet the shortfall of some £100,000.

So far the Heritage Centre has received support from the following agencies:

1. Investment from St. Editha's Church - £110,000

The Parochial Church Council of Tamworth, recognising the importance of a Heritage Centre for its ability to bring people together and build community cohesion, has pledged £110,000 to the project.

2. Grant making trusts - £100,000

Various grant making trusts have recognised the value of the project and have pledged to support the purchase of the building, as proposed. These include the J. W. Pemberton Trust (£65,000), the Beardsley Trust (£25,000) and other smaller trusts.

3. Crowdfunding and individuals - £17,000

A successful crowdfunding round from the general public via gofundme raised an incredible £17,000 towards the project, showing that there is a passion for the project amongst the local community – 95% of donations came from Tamworth residents.

The current shortfall is approximately £100,000. It is hoped that we will have funding in place by early 2026, enabling us to complete the purchase of the identified property. We are continuing to seek the support of other trusts, local agencies and the general public to help meet the funding target.

In terms of longer-term sustainability, the previous page has shown that the centre should easily be able to run on a net surplus basis, however we are confident that an annual grant ask of £2-3000 from various trusts will be realistically achievable, to offset any additional or unforeseen costs and to build up a small reserve for the maintenance of the building.

A heritage centre will enable us to make history more accessible to all.

Next steps

It is important that next steps are taken quickly, so that the opportunity to purchase and fit-out 30 Church Street can be achieved before it is taken off the market.

We have engaged the services of Support Staffordshire, with whom we have an excellent working relationship, to assist with the submission of bids to various charitable trusts.

An administrative assistant has been hired using third party funds to help progress the project in the initial stages.

A website went live earlier this year, which has helped to raise awareness of the project and the potential it has to help Tamworth to flourish.

Indicative Timeframe

July 2025 – set up preliminaries and trust deeds, etc

January 2026 – purchase the building and outfit

May 2026 - transfer the historic collection to the Centre

September 2026 – open the Centre to the public



HERITAGE CENTRE PROPOSED LAYOUT

About the key stakeholders

St. Editha's Church is the largest parish church in Staffordshire and one of the fastest-growing churches in the Diocese of Lichfield. A grade-I listed building, the church attracts more than 20,000 visitors a year and serves as a place of worship, welcome and wonder for Tamworth and beyond. As well as a working church, St. Editha's is also a significant venue for the arts; the church welcomes people of all faiths and none to more than 30 concerts, recitals, performances, exhibitions and special events throughout the year.

More information at www.stedithatamworth.co.uk

Tamworth Castle Museum is an iconic landmark and a vital heritage and cultural treasure in a town undergoing transformative regeneration. It is an important resource for the local community and attracts visitors nationally. Whilst the motte and bailey castle site dates back to 11th century, the museum collections range from the Staffordshire Hoard and Anglo-Saxon heritage, to social history collections revealing development of the town and its role in UK political history.

More information at www.tamworthcastle.co.uk

The Tamworth and District Civic Society was founded in 1973 as Tamworth Civic Society, and after a short period of inactivity was relaunched in September 2015 as TDCS. The revitalised society was soon described by Civic Voice, the national body of the civic movement, as one of the most active in the country. TDCS is the planning, conservation, environmental, local history, and heritage amenity society for the district, with the motto "Protecting the Past, Promoting the Present, Planning for the Future". It aims to preserve, promote, and celebrate the heritage and history of the area; to protect and improve the natural and built environment; to advance civic pride and engagement. The Civic Society is a campaigning community forum for improvement. With a strong, shared voice, members believe that they can make a difference for the better, to create an attractive town and district, with a sustainable infrastructure and a thriving, cohesive community that takes justifiable civic pride in its heritage and local identity. In pursuit of its aims it works wherever possible in partnership with organisations with shared interests.

More information at www.tamworthcivicsociety.co.uk

The Tamworth Town Centre Forum was established in 2023 as a grassroots, informal network of businesses, charities and community groups in Tamworth. The Forum gives organisations large and small the opportunity to come together and discuss shared issues and concerns. It serves as an interface between businesses in the town, establishing and promoting best practice, and works to develop B2B relationships across the public, private and charitable sectors. It numbers about 50 members from across the town centre.

More information at www.tamworthtcf.co.uk

Only by working in partnership can we make this vision a reality.



www.tamworthheritage.co.uk