

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Stoke Mandeville Stadium to be used as a vaccination centre against Covid-19**

**Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, is to be used as a centre for vaccinations against Covid-19, with thousands of eligible residents due to visit the Stadium to receive their Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine from the Buckinghamshire Healthcare team.**

Stoke Mandeville Stadium is owned by the national wheelchair sports charity WheelPower, and managed by More Leisure/Serco Leisure, and is famous for playing host to many important sporting events during its illustrious history and in 2021 it will now play its part in supporting the local community in the fight against the Covid-19 virus.

In line with current lockdown measures the Stadium has been shut to the public since 20<sup>th</sup> December, but from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January it will once again be welcoming members of the community in for their vaccines.

The Stoke Mandeville Stadium team, alongside the support of local volunteers have transformed the indoor bowls centre in recent weeks and it is now ready to be used for the delivery of the vaccine by the Buckinghamshire Healthcare team.

“As owners of Stoke Mandeville Stadium, everyone at WheelPower is delighted to have agreed to allow our facilities to be used as a vaccination centre in the national fight against Covid-19. We are hugely proud that the National Centre for Disability Sport can help the country and our local community in Aylesbury Vale and Buckinghamshire to be vaccinated. As a charity we rely on the support of the public to help disabled people lead healthy active lives. We want to do all we can to support the public, whose support for disabled people enables WheelPower to transform their lives through sport.” Rob Wilson, WheelPower Chair.

*Transforming lives through sport*

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## Notes to editors:

**Images:** To request further images please use contact below.

## About WheelPower

WheelPower have been providing opportunities for people with physical impairments to take part in sport for nearly 70 years. Based in Stoke Mandeville, the home of the Paralympic movement, WheelPower is at the heart of wheelchair sport.

From first-timers to Paralympic medallists, we support and promote participation at all levels. We have seen how playing sport can enrich lives, offering tremendous physical and psychological benefits, whatever your age or ability.

During the current crisis WheelPower has continued to offer new opportunities for disabled people to get active and stay active through a range of events and resources that include our popular 'Exercise at Home' fitness films. WheelPower also provides equipment that enables disabled people to get active and support for a range of wheelchair sports associations.

**Websites:** [www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk) | [www.stokemandevillestadium.co.uk](http://www.stokemandevillestadium.co.uk)

## Social media:

WheelPower can be found on all channels so please do tag us into your posts using the following: [@wheelchairsport](https://www.facebook.com/wheelchairsport) (Facebook) [@wheelpower](https://twitter.com/wheelpower) (twitter) [@wheelpower\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/wheelpower_official) (Instagram)

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