

Wednesday 10th November 2021
The Trinity Centre
7pm

Present

Cllrs Wood, D Allan, Ashley-Higgins, Briggs, Cairns, Cooper, Cummins, Ellis, Griffin, Horrocks, Mackey, Parmar, Pears, Pocock, Puri, Raut, Simper and S Ward.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan –Chief Executive Officer and Natalia Gorman.

Jan Rowley, Town Council Regeneration Programme Director and John Myatt from Phil Jones Associates.

There were nine members of the public and two press representatives present.

Questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

Tony Whitehead

“The recent announcement about the CRSTS settlement is excellent news for the West Midlands and Sutton Coldfield. However, can the Town Council confirm that the priority for this transport investment is to facilitate the regeneration of our declining Town Centre; and that associated urban realm improvements are essential to ensure our Town becomes a distinctive destination in its own right.”

Cllr Ward responded that the transport investment and the related urban realm improvements captured in the Sutton Coldfield Masterplan remain a key priority for the regeneration of our Town Centre.

John Perks – “Will the Town Council continue to push for other asset transfers across the town given how this shows what can be done – e.g. Walmley war Memorial”

Cllr Ward thanked Town Council Officers for their efficiency in getting the work at Walmley commissioned and completed in such a short time following the asset transfer adding that the transformation of this site is an example of what the Town Council can achieve and is a key indicator of what is to come.

Pat Brown commented “As a resident I hear many positive comments about the Town Ranger Service; I would like to say that this service seems excellent use of public money”

Ray Beech asked if the Town Council would consider funding and installing a children’s playground at Boldmere Gate.

The CEO advised that this had been considered following a consultation exercise carried out by Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group and directed Ray Beech to the minutes of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee meetings.



The Mayor asked the CEO to read a comment on behalf of Liz Parry who was unable to attend the meeting:

“I think that the car park is now too large and I can understand the cinema owners wanting to sell off some of it in order to generate income to fund the refurbishment which is definitely needed. However, I am concerned about the complete removal of parking for cinema staff and customers, given the other businesses at Maney Corner. Has anyone done any form of parking survey of the parking area in front of the cinema, to get a better understanding of its level of use at different times of the day? If not, might this be something the town council might consider?

I note that McCarthy Stone have now launched a consultation (on the redevelopment plans for the cinema) and I would urge the Town Council and Sutton Coldfield residents to participate in that consultation. The trick will be to raise concerns and make suggestions for improvement but not to object so strongly that the whole plan falls through and the cinema falls into disrepair”.

Cllr Horrocks commented that there is a need for a town centre parking strategy which was identified as a short term priority in support of progressing with the delivery of the recently adopted Masterplan. Town Council officers are in discussions with Birmingham City Council officers about commencing this work and any necessary survey work will be undertaken as part of this overall process.

Cllr Horrocks confirmed that the Town Council would engage with any pre application discussions and consultation as appropriate to ensure we are as fully informed as possible when the time comes to make formal comments as a statutory consultee on the planning application in due course.”

51 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies from Cllrs L Allen, Hodgins, Jolley, Mosson, Scott and K Ward.

Resolved to accept the apologies.

52 Declarations of Interest

None.

43 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor reported his attendance at Sutton Coldfield Expo, Bmet College, Sutton Coldfield Railway Society's Annual Exhibition, a climate change event organised by Eco Sutton, a Summer Reading Challenge Celebration in Sutton Coldfield Library, St Chad's Church Eco Festival, Hill Allotments awards evening, opened a new grief counselling business, met with volunteers of Cherished, celebrated 25 years of the Trinity Centre, planted a tree in Walmley as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, attended an exhibition of Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists, opened Jericho ReUsers Christmas shop and met with members of the Rotary Club of Wylde Green.

The Deputy Mayor met with swimmers and volunteers of Boldmere Swimming Club who train at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

54 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 21st September be signed as a true record.



55 Matters Arising

No matters arising were reported.

56 Questions from Members

1. *“Could the Council receive an update on any progress made, to review and re-launch the Health and Well-being Partnership?”*

Cllr Cairns responded as Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership confirming that the Partnership continues to meet virtually, with the next meeting taking place in December. Cllr Cairns reported work continues to move forward despite winter pressures for the NHS. This includes creating a Primary Care Network plus (PCN+) which will include key organisations, including the Town Council, Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust and NHS Primary Care Networks. The key focus of a PCN+ will be driven by what our community needs from its NHS and vice versa.

In addition, the Partnership is working towards a community wraparound scheme to ensure safe patient discharge.

Despite meetings not happening as regularly due to the pressure the NHS and GPs are facing during the pandemic, Cllr Cairns reiterated that work is taking place to enable a PCN+ to take shape and move forward. The CEO advised she is in discussion with the Place Development Director of the NHS Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the emerging governance arrangements for Place Based Partnerships. The CEO also advised a proposal would be considered at the next Amenities, Leisure and Community Services meeting to commission a consultant to help shape delivery of the Town Council's Health and Wellbeing priorities and our partnership work.

2. *“At one stage the Town Council funded some supplementary traffic enforcement hours outside schools that had Modeshift Stars status. With schools now returning to normal hours and parent car use after the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, parking problems are growing again, so could this scheme be re-instated?”*

Cllr Horrocks responded as Chairman of Planning and Highways Committee to confirm that at a recent Planning and Highways Committee meeting, members reviewed their budget for 2022/23 and agreed that due to the ongoing impact of covid 19 it was inappropriate to use schools time to create a new parking programme. Members felt behavioral changes would be more beneficial and working collaboratively with schools, parents and the wider community to promote safe and active travel to and from school. Planning and Highways Committee would like to see schools reengage with Mode Shifts Stars, funded by the Town Council, which is a school and community toolkit providing a comprehensive travel plan for school settings.

57 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan



Cllr Ward invited Jan Rowley and John Myatt to deliver a presentation on the Town Centre Masterplan

Ms Rowley updated Members on delivery arrangements for the Masterplan these arrangements were developed by BCC and TfWM and shared with the TCRP. Following the adoption of Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan as Supplementary Guidance in May of this year there has been a transitional period moving to delivery. These delivery arrangements enable a clear route for delivery; recognising the importance of working together with Birmingham City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), with clear timelines and in recognition that activity and development in the Town Centre are interrelated. Progress on the delivery of the Masterplan is moving. There have been initial discussions with land owners and developers on key sites and the important Sutton Gateway project. Discussions with TfWM and BCC have enabled an indicative timeframe to be shared. It should be noted that although the CRSTS has been announced and the Sutton Gateway and associated Transport works are within the 2022- 2027 West Midlands Programme. Confirmation on when the funding will be made available is likely to be made early in 2022 and both TfWM and BCC will need to produce Outline Business Cases to access the funding.

In response to a question by Cllr Pears in relation to communication with key landowners, Jan confirmed that landowners are recognising that the Town Council as a statutory consultee and are a key organisation to engage with. Jan advised that landowners are in support of the Masterplan.

Cllr Pocock spoke in favour of the collaborative work between Sutton Coldfield Town Council and Birmingham City Council however he does question if the suggested timeframe is realistic. Jan confirmed that having worked closely with TfWM, we understand it is a challenging timeframe however they and the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership are ambitious and are pleased to be working towards a challenging and an achievable goal should the milestones in the indicative timeframe are met. Jan advised that regular reports will be brought back to Council stating progress as the project moves forward.

Cllr Wood asked if a pedestrian garden could be featured in the town centre. Jan feels that there is no reason why concepts like this cannot be considered to enhance the public realm space.

Cllr Cairns asked if TfWM and other key partners would consider working with the NHS with a view to creating a better and safer passage to and from Good Hope Hospital.

John Myatt advised that there are two elements to the Interchange and wider transport studies with one funding source being used for immediate transport works and the second to deliver the wider masterplan which will focus on behavior change and those travelling to key locations using public transport.

Cllr Ward spoke to thank both Jan and John for their presentation and was delighted to note positive key dates for progress in the not so distant future. Cllr Ward reiterated that the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership is a team effort of key stakeholders and community that hold great ambition for the future of the town centre.

58 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways held on 5th October 2021.

b) Planning and Highways held on 2nd November 2021.

Resolved to note the minutes from the Planning and Highways Committees meetings held on 5th October and 2nd November 2021.

c) Strategy and Resources held on 12th October 2021.

Resolved that the Town Ranger service is extended for a further 12 months from November 2021 at a cost of £139,899 ex VAT.

Resolved that the Town Ranger service be expanded in spring 2022, subject to a proposal being brought to Full Council nearer the time.

59 Use of Chief Executive Officer's Delegated Powers

No use of delegated powers reported.

60 Accounts for Payment

Resolved to note the delegated payments, approve the accounts for payments and appoint Cllrs Pocock and S Ward to complete authorisation.

61 Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting

13th December 2021 at the Trinity Centre

The meeting ended at 20.05.