

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Friday 23 September 2022

Online

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Present

Cllr Simon Ward (Chair) (SW)
Olive O'Sullivan (OOS)
Jan Rowley (JR)
John Myatt (JM)
Keith Neil-Smith (KNS)
David Hemming (DH)
Kelly Perkins (KP)
Tina Swani (TS)
Liz Parry (LP)

Leader, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council
Chief Executive Officer (RSCTC)
Regeneration Programme Director (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Sutton Coldfield Town Centre BID
Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)
Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust (SCCT)
FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Trustee

Natalia Gorman

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council

		Decision/Action	Owner
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chairman welcomed Liz Parry to the p'ship. Liz will be representing the community on the p'ship in her role as a FOLIO trustee. Apologies received from Andrew Tucker, Sandeep Shingadia, Henrietta Brealey, Simon Delahunty-Forrest, Amanda Holland and Chris Brewerton.	SW
2	Decisions and Actions from last meeting	Minutes agreed as correct and accurate. JR provided an update on the Environmental Improvement Programme for the town centre advising the p'ship that the Town Rangers have cleared overgrown areas and that areas have been identified for spring planting. Community groups who have an interest in the town centre and Bloom will be invited to meet with JR w/c 17 October. Regarding Meanwhile Use, JR confirmed that whilst there are vacant shops within the Business Improvement District, they would require capital investment before occupied. There are no empty units available to be used for short term use in the Red Rose Centre however Gracechurch Centre are happy to discuss potential offers.	SW

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		DH confirmed that over the past two months, four vacant units are now occupied.	
3	Matters Arising	None.	
4	CRSTS update	The Chairman welcomed KP to provide an update. TfWM have confirmed that additional clarification on the CRSTS funding bid for Sutton Gateway, requested by the Department of Transport, has been provided and is satisfactory, with the scheme being included within the core CRSTS programme. Birmingham City Council (BCC) are therefore moving forward to the next stage of the project, which will further develop the scheme, and prepare a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC), which is the next step in the WMCA governance process. Following a procurement process during the summer, which involved representatives from BCC, TfWM and the Town Council, Jacobs have been appointed to deliver this next stage of work. Their commission will be overseen by the Transport Task Group. The Partnership will be aware that earlier work on Sutton Gateway has been completed and will feed into the SOBC. Jacobs have prepared a project plan and associated timeline which following the inception meeting is being revised to ensure that the scheme development and SOBC moves forward at a pace to ensure the SOBC is approved as soon as possible. During its development, the scheme will need to move through a series of gateways as part of the WMCA's CRSTS governance process, which follows the standard government business case methodology. Following the production of the SOBC, the project will require approval of an Outline Business Case and then Full Business Case. Each business case requires further detail and certainty over costs and risks. We propose to prepare a plain English guide to the WMCA's Single Assurance Framework, as we engage with key stakeholders later this year. LP asked if there would be an opportunity for residents and businesses to contribute to the framework. JR advised that Jacobs in the revising of their programme are likely to schedule a workshop for key stakeholders in Jan/ Feb 2023.	

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5	Multi Modal Travel / Festive Season 2022	The Chairman invited JR & JM to provide an insight into plans on how residents could be supported into coming to the town centre over the Christmas period. Given that the aims of the masterplan include sustainable ways to travel , JM proposed that in addition to exploring the possibility of free car parking, the Town Council is keen to promote additional transport options through public transport and cycle hire residents should have choice, which would include travelling via public transport. JM / JR are working on a package to put forward to BCC and TfWM which will include subsidised travel and cycle hire which will include a communications package for residents and visitors. TS spoke in support of the plans and asked if the comms package could include an accessibility map highlighting accessible toilets. LP asked if, as part of the plans, the impact could be measured. JM confirmed this would happen which could influence different packages next year. The Chairman spoke in full support of the plans which he hopes to see will also support the night time economy.	
6	Key Progress from Task Groups - Transport; Property/Planning & Development	JR confirmed that M&G, the owners of the Gracechurch Centre are in negotiations with developers for the Northern side of the centre to be redeveloped P'ship members were reminded that the brief published by Savills on behalf of M&G wanted developers to explore residential, commercial and leisure uses. Regarding the Southern side of the Centre, discussions are in place between PRIME and NHS regarding a health hub however there are no further updates at present. The middle part of the Centre M &G are looking to maintain a healthy retail office which is likely to include existing retailers and other new retailers. Whilst M&G are working hard to attract new businesses the current trading difficulties are hampering negotiations.	

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		The next Transport Task Group meeting will take place on 29 September. JR expects to have a timetable of consultants plans which will be shared at the next TCRP meeting.	
7	Funding Opportunities	JR advised that there remains a challenge for the Pship in relation to attracting further public sector funding to support the delivery of the TC masterplan as this process needs to be supported by the principal authority Birmingham City Council. There have been a number of opportunities through Levelling Up funding, Town centre Funds which have been directed to other areas. There is also another relevant pot of funding available through the UK prosperity fund which is managed through the West Midlands Combined Authority. The Town Council will continue to pursue all funding avenues which support the transformation of the Town centre. Whilst transformation of key sites are likely to be driven by development/private sector funding which we note is happening. Additional public sector funding needs to continue and available for the Town Council to either bid directly or through the principal authority.	
8	AOB	The Chairman confirmed that Sutton Coldfield Town Council's Full Council meeting will be held on 27th September where council will make a decision on engaging with a communication agency as part of the Council's overall comms package. The agency will have a particular focus on the movement within the town centre. SW also confirmed that a meeting will take place w/c 26 September with himself JR and Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands at the mayor's request. SW advised the p'ship of the return of the Farmers market to the town centre this weekend and encouraged everyone to help spread the word and encourage participation.	
9	Date and time of next meeting	Friday 18 November, 8.30am. Online.	

Meeting closed 9.15am