



Tuesday 18th October 2022

The Trinity Centre

7:00pm

Present

Cllrs Mosson, Allan, Allen, Briggs, Cooper, Cummins, Griffin, Hatton, Mackey, Millichope, Parkin, Parmar, Pears, Perks, Pocock, Puri, Raut, Roberts, K Ward, S Ward and Wood

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan—Chief Executive Officer, Jan Rowley-Regeneration Programme Director and Mary Watkins-Finance Manager.

There were 8 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

Four questions had been submitted for public question time.

Pat Brown asked if public transport would form a key part of the town centre Masterplan; so that there is access to the town centre by both train and bus services which are well linked and provide an attractive and pleasant gateway.

Cllr S Ward responded that accessibility and good public transport was at the heart of the Masterplan adding there should be a choice of how people travel into the town centre and that in the short term, the Strategy and Resources Committee were looking at measures that would support multi modal transport.

Jay Chan asked how the Masterplan would provide more opportunities to local businesses, local residents and especially young people.

Cllr S Ward responded the Masterplan big moves are creating a town centre that people want to live, work and spend time in and there are opportunities to do more in the town centre hospitality and leisure offer. A fundamental aim of the Masterplan is to create an environment in which people want to spend their time.

Max McKenzie stated that Sutton Coldfield Young Labour had written to local MP Andrew Mitchell asking him for a young people's mental health hub, similar to Pause in Birmingham and asked if this is the type of initiative that the Town Council would support or the Town Council would make a commitment to looking into this sort of mental health provision in the near future.

The CEO responded that Pause, it is an emotional wellbeing and support service run by Forward Thinking Birmingham for the under 25's. It's run via a partnership between Birmingham Women and Children's NHS Trust, the Children's Society, and the Priory Group and they currently run two hubs in Digbeth and Sparkbrook where young people can drop in for mental health support. Officers of the Town Council are already linked with the Partnership and Development Lead at Forward Thinking Birmingham and will discuss with them the possibility of extending the Pause model to Sutton Coldfield.

The CEO added that whilst the Town Council does not have statutory responsibility to provide mental health services for residents, it is actively engaged via the work of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, with the B'ham and Solihull ICS and a range of NHS and statutory services providers, as well as the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE), to enhance residents' health and wellbeing in the community on a local level.

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Adeen Irfan asked if any steps had been taken towards setting up a Youth Panel.

The CEO responded that the Town Council is committed to working with and listening to young people across our town and is part of the Youth Vision Network, alongside representatives of Birmingham City Council, the Early Help Network, the Police, youth service providers and uniformed groups.

In June, Council committed to discussions around the establishment of a Youth Panel in Autumn. The Youth Vision network does not meet during the summer due to the school holidays and availability of providers but will shortly be reviewing its strategy and youth involvement and engagement will be discussed as part of this review. Officers of the Town Council will be proposing that a Youth Panel is convened through this network to champion the views of young people in Sutton Coldfield.

47 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies from Cllrs Cairns, Scott and Yip.

Resolved to accept the apologies

48 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pocock declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Birmingham City Council representative in the Sutton Coldfield Business Improvement District (BID) board.

49 Mayors Announcements

The Deputy Mayor reported the Mayors attendance at a fashion charity event organised by Buddy Bag Foundation and opening a newly refurbished building at Minworth Junior and Infant school.

The Deputy Mayor reported meeting community representatives who have been fundraising for bleed kits around the town and also attending the one year anniversary of a Grief and Trauma Clinic based on Anchorage Road.

The Deputy Mayor encouraged primary schools to apply for a Mayor's Challenge grant which this year focuses on promoting positive wellbeing in schools.

50 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 be signed as a true record.

51 Matters Arising

In response to a question from Cllr Pocock, the CEO confirmed that the update on the recent changes in national policy guidance and BCC Telecommunications Policy with regards to planning applications for masts would be circulated to all members.

Cllr Pears reported that the issue of bird feed dispensers in Sutton Park was discussed by the Park Advisory Group. He reported that bird feed dispensers attract rats and predator birds and it may not be practical to have around the park. However, there is one dispenser not far from the Visitors



Centre that could be brought back into use and Birmingham City Council (BCC) could explore providing suitable bird and duck feed at the Visitors Centre.

52 Questions from Members

Cllr Parkin detailed some comments made by BCC Leader Cllr Ian Ward at a Birmingham City Council (BCC) meeting; that the transfer of Allotment sites to the Town Council was delayed because of Legal Services, that the Town Council 'is too small and lacks the expertise to take on and manage the transfer of Sutton Park' and that there is already a devolution deal in place with the Town Council. Cllr Parkin asked the Leader of the Town Council if he agreed with Cllr Parkin's view that the BCC Leader's comments were disrespectful and demonstrated a lack of interest on the part of BCC to deliver on their commitments to asset transfers and devolution.

Cllr S Ward responded that a delay of six years was ultimately a failure to deliver by the BCC Leader and that there was not a devolution deal in place. Cllr Ward stated that meetings with the BCC Leader had taken place in March and July, where discussions had taken place around alternative governance models of governance and the development of a trust model for Sutton Park and suggested that the BCC Leader not recollecting these conversations was extremely disappointing. He had requested an urgent meeting with the BCC Leader.

53 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways held on 4th October 2022

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 4th October 2022.

54 Sutton Coldfield Town Council Masterplan

The Regeneration Programme Director gave an update and presentation on delivery of the Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan.

- [Presentation](#)

After the presentation, Councillors were invited to ask questions.

In response to a question from Cllr Wood regarding attracting a flagship trader to the town centre, Jan responded that M&G had been trying to secure a flagship retailer but there were ongoing challenges as retailers work to change their high street presence and retail offer.

Cllr K Ward commented that retail had changed, that Sutton Coldfield was still attractive to investors and that it hosts large retailers such as B&M. Jan commented that the future of the town centre would be a mixed use offer that is likely to include independent stores

Cllr Mackey agreed that a prosperous future for the town centre would be smaller independent shops that could offer a high quality, personal service.

In response to questions from Cllr Pocock, Jan confirmed that the £25m investment for Sutton Gateway was for a combination of highways works, public realm, reshaping streets and a transport hub to make it easy for people to access the town centre and encourage all transport modes as referred to in the Town Centre Masterplan. Jan confirmed that Birmingham City Council (BCC) were on the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership (TCRP) and that the funding for Sutton Gateway



would be accessed through BCC to support the delivery and ambitions of the Town Centre Masterplan SPD (Supplementary Planning Document).

Cllr Parkin asked if a cinema would be in the town centre, if vacant shops could be used to engage residents in regeneration and how much more additional funding was needed. Jan replied that the whole town centre regeneration would need significant investment, this would be through public sector investment such as the Sutton Gateway and other relevant funding encouraging private sector funding for key sites. The Town centre masterplan identifies key sites which could accommodate a range of leisure activities that could include a cinema. A number of town centres have developed shared space focused on cinema, theatre, library and other complimentary leisure activities.

As a first step to engage residents, there would in the future be an interactive model in the meantime there is a webpage on the Town Council website which simplifies the technical language in the Masterplan and work was taking place for information boards to be posted in the town centre to expand on the plans for each site and areas.

Cllr K Ward asked if hire scooters would be expanded into Sutton Coldfield, Jan agreed to speak with TfWM and BCC highways for a view on such an expansion.

Cllr L Allen thanked Jan for her presentation and noted that making it easier for people to travel to Sutton Coldfield would bring people in and attract additional investment.

In response to a question from Cllr Mackey, Jan confirmed that task groups work under the TCRP and while making progress can be challenging, the TCRP works in collaboration with BCC to move forward.

Cllr Pears asked that work carried out was properly coordinated as to minimise disruption e.g road closures. He also noted that the Empire Cinema had secured funding for refurbishment and the focus was on getting the cinema back open.

Cllr Puri asked if there were an investment model that could be used for local people to invest in the town via membership or subscriptions. Jan responded that this was something that should be explored.

Cllr S Ward summed up that the Town Council should be proud of the progress made to date, a number of business owners were showing interest in the regeneration and securing the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding, championed by West Midlands Combined authority (WMCA) was all very positive. He noted that Jan was doing a great job for the town, standing up and driving forward for Sutton Coldfield.

55 Town Centre Festive Lights Scheme

Resolved to approve that the 2022 town centre festive lights scheme is funded from the Town Council festive lights budget and Town Centre Regeneration budget at a total cost of £48,243.

Resolved that new motifs for the town centre are purchased by the Town Council from Birmingham City Council (BCC) and that BCC is commissioned to install the lighting features under section 11.3. of the Town Council's Financial Regulations as part of the delivery arrangements previously approved for the local centres festive lights funded by the Town Council.

56 Devolution Deal Working Group

Cllr Pears welcomed the establishment of a Devolution Deal Working group and asked that the actions from the Leaders meetings be shared with the group and for senior officer support.

Cllr K Ward asked if Birmingham City Council (BCC) have a Devolution Deal Working Group to assist the smooth running and if not asked Cllr Pocock if he would suggest one.

Cllr Pocock stated that the earlier contribution from Cllr S Ward was unhelpful showboating and worked in opposition to what the Town Council was trying to achieve. He confirmed that BCC has several working groups and the CEO is updated on the progress of devolution. Cllr Pocock also stated that in light of comments made today, he did not want to be nominated to the working group and advocated for working in collaboration with BCC.

Cllr Mackey replied that working together was a two-way street and voiced his frustration at the delays for the Vesey Gardens asset transfer.

Cllr L Allen commented that the Town Council is here to look out for the best interests of residents.

Cllr S Ward said that his comments made earlier this evening were out of frustration and that he had tried hard over six years to engage over all levels at BCC. He stated that the BCC Leader does not show respect to the Town Council and denied showboating, saying he was standing up for the town and trying to make progress on behalf of the residents.

Resolved to approve establishment of a Devolution Deal Working Group.

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Cooper, Millichope, Parkin, Pears, Puri and S Ward to the Devolution Deal Working Group.

57 Use of Chief Executive Officer's Delegated Powers

No use of delegated powers was reported.

58 Accounts for Payment

Resolved to note the delegated payments, approve the accounts for payment and appoint Cllrs Allan and Raut to complete authorisation.

59 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at the Trinity Centre.

The meeting ended at 8:17pm.