

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Friday 8th December 2023

Online

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Present

Cllr Simon Ward (Chair) (SW)	Leader, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Olive O’Sullivan (OOS)	Chief Executive Officer (RSCTC)
Claire Edwards (CE)	Head of Project Delivery (RSCTC)
Keith Neil-Smith (KNS)	Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
John Myatt (JM)	Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Phil Edwards (PE)	Birmingham City Council (BCC)
Sandeep Shingadia (SS)	Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)
David Hemming (DH)	Sutton Coldfield Town Centre BID (BID)
Chris Brewerton (CB)	Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce (CofC)
Tina Swani (TS)	Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust
Liz Parry (LP)	FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Trustee (FOLIO)

Natalia Gorman

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council

		Decision/Action	Owner
1	Welcome and Apologies	None	
2	Decisions and Actions from last meeting	Agreed	All
3	Matters Arising	None	

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

4	Sutton Gateway Update	PE advised that emerging plans for the redevelopment of the Gracechurch Centre had emphasised a complementary opportunity to focus the project on strengthening connectivity to the station, public realm improvements and enhancing links to Sutton Park. Consequently, BCC and TfWM intend to work closely with the Gracechurch Centre developer (BPG/SAV Group) on progressing the Gateway proposals, consistent with the Town Centre Masterplan. Initial meetings have been productive, and the next priority is to refine the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) and progress it through the TfWM assurance processes. PE advised that following progression of the SOC, it is likely that a public engagement and consultation period with residents will happen in the Summer of 2024. SS spoke regarding TfWM's assurance processes and confirmed that he is taking on the role of Deputy Senior Responsible Officer to help streamline the SOC's progression.	PE
5	Update on Key Planning Applications	Gracechurch Redevelopment – SW indicated that early engagement with BPG/ SAV had been extremely positive and that encouragingly, they are aligned with the objectives of the Town Centre Masterplan. Their plans include reconfiguring and extending the retail and wider leisure usage of the Centre and re-development of both the North and Southern ends to provide a more diversified offer. They are highly confident about the contribution their plans can make to revitalising the town and are also working with the BID on short term interventions to increase footfall in the town centre. CE advised that BPG/SAV Group officially only completed their purchase of the centre 3 weeks ago, but have been quick to mobilise a multi-disciplinary support team to work alongside them to make tangible changes to the Centre by 2028, embracing an improved range of retail, food and leisure outlets, residential units, a hotel and a potential community hub. However, working with the scale and structure of the centre's 'under belly' and current servicing and parking access constraints is likely to prove challenging, so further structural/technical analysis is underway to inform the redevelopment process which will be undertaken in phases, commencing with an initial refurbishment programme. Aldi – CE highlighted that further amendments to the proposed plans for this scheme are expected to address concerns raised by the Lead Local Flood Authority about the	CE

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

		proximity of the Plantsbrook culvert. Following this, it is hoped that a planning determination by BCC will be forthcoming early in the new year. Other Key Sites – CE confirmed that the former Rosie’s Nightclub site is back on the market, whilst the future of the adjacent Red Rose Centre and other BCC landholdings, in the town, remained unclear in view of the current financial challenges at the City Council.	
6	Feedback from Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Town Centre Task Groups	CE reported that the Property, Planning and Development Task Group will next meet early in the new year. Furthermore, the Transportation Task Group had been on hold pending further clarity on the approach to the Gateway scheme, however it is understood that the Task Group will reconvene in the new year to focus on the CRSTS scope of works, delivery detail, engagement timeframes and the wider project narrative demonstrating the scheme’s alignment to the Town Centre Masterplan.	CE
7	AOB	None	
8	Date of meetings 2024	Friday 2nd February 2024, 8.30am, online. Friday 12th April 2024, 8.30am, online. Friday 28th June 2024, 8.30am, online. Friday 6th September 2024, 8.30am, online. Friday 8th November 2024, 8.30am, online.	

Meeting closed 9.00am