

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Friday 12th April 2024

Online

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Present

Cllr Simon Ward (Chair) (SW)
Olive O'Sullivan (OOS)
Claire Edwards (CE)
John Myatt (JM)
Andrew Tucker (AT)
Keith Neill-Smith (KNS)
Phil Edwards (PE)
Kelly Perkins (KP)
David Hemming (DH)
Liz Parry (LP)

Leader, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Chief Executive Officer (RSCTC)
Head of Project Delivery (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Birmingham City Council (BCC)
Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)
Sutton Coldfield Town Centre BID (BID)
FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Trustee (FOLIO)

		Decision/Action	Owner
1	Welcome and Apologies	Apologies received from Tina Swani. Note Chris Brewerton has left his role at the Chamber for a new position with Lichfield DC.	
2	Decisions and Actions from last meeting	Agreed	All
3	Matters Arising	SW stated that he had written to the President of the Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce, Naeem Arif, inviting him to join the Partnership. Naeem had accepted and would aim to attend the next meeting in June.	
4	Sutton Gateway Update	PE advised that the SOC was in the final stages of refinement and would be submitted to TfWM in early May for approval in June. In response to a query from LP, PE confirmed that a copy of the SOC, with a supporting narrative plus indicative delivery timeline would be published on a dedicated area of the BCC website, post approval by TfWM. PE also confirmed that BCC officers were in the process of reviewing the wider CRSTS investment portfolio, being promoted by BCC, with a view to identifying where	PE

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		efficiencies could be found to help accelerate scheme delivery. In support of this point, KP also confirmed that TfWM were fully committed to this approach. KNS highlighted that the RSCTC Spring Newsletter had included a simple delivery timeline (p7), in recognition of this aspect being a frequent query from community representatives, whilst CE explained that there would be greater clarity about the scheme detail and ongoing development process, including timelines, once the SOC was approved in the Summer. SW asked about the approval processes for the SOC and KP confirmed that it would likely be delegated to the Executive Director. LP queried whether the scheme would include the earlier proposed new bus interchange facility on Station Street, or at the northern end of Brassington Avenue, as identified in the town centre masterplan? KP replied that the current modelling indicated that full removal of the buses from the Parade and to another location, on the edge of the town centre, was not an immediate option in the initial phases due to current constraints in terms of the delivery window and funding available, which was considerably less than bid for when the original proposals were first shared. The emerging re-development proposals for Gracechurch had also further altered the local delivery context for a sustainable transport improvement scheme and whilst the opportunity to re-locate the buses had not been ruled out and had been duly acknowledged as an important longer-term objective for all stakeholders, there were other transport improvements which could be made more effectively, in the short to medium term and these would now be considered objectively through the SOC assessment process. SW confirmed that he did not want to lose sight of the longer-term objectives for the wider regeneration of the town, but that meaningful progress with the Gateway scheme in the short term was essential.	
5	Update on Key Planning Applications	CE advised that in terms of the Aldi proposals, BCC had advised that they were just finalising the biodiversity net gain agreement and then a planning determination would be imminent. Regarding the Gracechurch Centre redevelopment, CE reported that feedback from BPG indicated that the pre-app process with BCC had been reasonably positive and following further refinement, it was understood that BPG aimed to	CE

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		start engaging the wider community on the plans in the Summer. LP stated that Eco Sutton had submitted some 'green' comments and suggestions to the Town Council recently, aimed at making the town centre more attractive and environmentally friendly and asked whether these comments could also be passed on to the Gracechurch Centre owners? OOS confirmed that she would action this and that BPG would undoubtedly be keen to engage with Eco Sutton. CE also highlighted that, as reported previously, BCC was still in the process of revisiting the constraints associated with bringing forward a development brief for the Red Rose Centre site. In response to a query from SW about progression of a Design Code for the town centre, CE advised that officers were continuing to push the opportunity with BCC, as the local planning authority, with a view to Sutton Coldfield being considered as a potential pilot/early adopter.	
6	Arts, Heritage, Culture and the Environment – Developing a Shared Vision	In response to a query raised previously by LP, OOS touched on the opportunity to bid for Cultural Action Area funding, but as this required a constituted arts organisation to lead the effort, she and LP had been discussing how the Town Council could help facilitate the formation of such a grouping, similar to work undertaken recently in the health and well-being sector, to support such opportunities in the future. SW welcomed the idea and highlighted the future parallels with the Future Towns Fund endowment, plus the quincentenary celebrations.	
7	Feedback from Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Town Centre Task Groups	CE advised that in terms of the Property, Planning and Development (PPD) task group, this had been paused pending the availability of Property Team capacity at BCC, but would be reconvened shortly, whilst the Transport task group had resumed to consider the technical scoping work for the Sutton Gateway scheme and drive the delivery programme forward, as a priority. CE also confirmed that the opportunity to establish an economy and enterprise task group was still under consideration.	CE
8	AOB	LP noted the recently launched BCC Library Service Review and the risk for Sutton Coldfield town centre if it loses the library facility. She also highlighted the upcoming	

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		Birmingham Jazz Festival in July and an opportunity to assist with helping to shape the programme of events.	
9	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 28 th June 2024 - 8.30am online.	

Meeting closed 9:15am

DRAFT