

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Friday 8th November 2024 at 8:30am

Online

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Present

Cllr Simon Ward (Chair) (SW)
Olive O’Sullivan (OOS)
Jon Lord (JL)
Andrew Tucker (AT)
Keith Neill-Smith (KNS)
Phil Edwards (PE)
Naeem Arif (NA)
Liz Parry (LP)

Leader, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Chief Executive Officer (RSCTC)
Head of Regeneration & Sustainability, RSCTC
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Birmingham City Council (BCC)
Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce (BCofC)
FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Trustee (FOLIO)

		Decision/Action	Owner
1	Welcome and Apologies	OOS noted apologies received from Sandeep Shingadia (SS) and Tina Swani (TS). SW welcomed Jon Lord as the recently appointed Head of Regeneration & Sustainability at the Town Council. JL introduced himself to the group.	SW
2	Actions from Previous Meeting (6th September 2024)	Agreed	All
3	Matters Arising	SW confirmed the email received from Liz Parry had been read and agreed the cultural action area proposal is supported and would be progressed.	All
4	Sutton Gateway	PE confirmed that the strategic outline case has been approved and continues to be supported by Majid Mahmood at BCC. The grant agreement which will trigger the commencement of the works is yet to be received and PE will continue to chase SS. Once the agreement is in place the next stage will be to publish the outline case on BCC’s website. PE confirmed the procurement process is in place to move forward with securing technical support and external engagement which will be supported by a dedicated BCC officer lead and project team. A priority will be to commence the joint communications with RSCTC and WMCA. SW whilst	PE

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		appreciating the work undertaken to date confirmed a communication would be sent to Richard Parker to ensure progress continues. SW stressed the need to bring forward the timeframe for the joint communications and requested whether this could be agreed before the festive break.	
5	Update on Key Planning Applications / Development Sites	AT summarised the recent application by ALDI to omit the retaining wall at the rear of the site whilst moving the car park at the side of the site further forwards to Brassington Avenue, which their agent state, is to improve the buildability of the scheme and its layout. AT referred to some concerns regarding the potential implications of the changes which RSCTC could raise in response. These related to both the impact on the footpath width along the Brassington Avenue frontage and how it relates to the CRSTS scheme together with the resultant narrower planting strip for the landscaping area to the front of the site. In regards to Gracechurch, AT confirmed the most recent informal contact with the developer suggested their approach to the redevelopment of the scheme is in a state of flux which indicated a planning application later this year is unlikely. Pre-application discussions with BCC are continuing and once RSCTC receive more clarity regarding the proposal and its timeframe will look to have further engagement with the developer. DH stated that this apparent review by the developer should be considered a positive for the betterment of the town. Regarding the application for the mixed-use redevelopment scheme at the lower end of the Birmingham Road, AT stated there was no further update at present on whether the associate Section 106 agreement has been finalised for consent to be issued. SW emphasised the need to push BCC to progress the Red Rose proposal which is also supported by Andrew Mitchell M.P.	AT
6	Update on Town Council's Strategic Plan	OOS offered an update on the status of the revised RSCTC Strategic Plan and the associated consultation undertaken during September. 2100 responses from residents had been received in relation to the proposed strategic priorities with strong support for the strategic priority of delivering a more diverse retail offer in the town centre which will influence discussions with developers. Enhancements to the public realm also generated support and the responses received resulted in a number of tweaks to the plan which sets a clear	OOS

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		direction of travel for the next 4 years. The next stage will involve producing delivery plans for the strategic priorities. LP offered thanks for the engagement exercise undertaken and requested copies of the strategic plan are sent to local stakeholders including the NHS Trust to ensure awareness. This was agreed. OOS confirmed it has been sent to the Community Safety Partnership.	
7	Multi Modal Travel Scheme-Festive Season 2024	SW welcomed the scheme which will allow a positive message to be conveyed to local businesses as a vote of confidence in the town centre whilst aligning with the BID's seasonal initiatives. SW confirmed the success of the scheme will be measured with a view of returning to BCC to replicate at future dates next year. A discussion took place regarding how the scheme would be assessed, this would primarily be through a visual check of the car parks usage at different times supported by BCC data for comparison alongside bus patronage data and cycling take up data from TfWM.	OOS
8	AOB	OOS noted the Christmas Lights would be turned on at 3.30pm on Thursday 14th November and these would be on until midnight each day with the timing mechanism element funded from BCC's Shared Prosperity Fund.	All
9	Date of Next Meeting	The date would be issued shortly-it is likely to be either 10th or 17th January-online.	All

Meeting closed 9:10am