Royal Sutton Coldfield Pride in Place

Meeting of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Thursday 29 January 2026
Mere Green Community Centre, Sutton Coldfield

Chair: Doug Wright MBE DL

Present:

Doug Wright MBE DL	(DW)	Rt Hon Sir Andrew Mitchell KCMG MP	(AM)
Cllr Simon Ward	(SW)	Cllr Richard Parkin	(RP)
Cllr Ewan Mackey	(EM)	Paul Faulkner	(PF)
Claire Bridges	(CB)	Claire Evans	(CE)
Nicola Gould	(NG)	Krishan Jaglan	(KJ)
Chris Holt	(CH)	Joshua Walsh	(JW)

In attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan (OOS)	Chief Executive Officer, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Jon Lord	Head of Regeneration and Sustainability, RSCTC
Natalia Gorman	Project Manager, Events & Communications, RSCTC

1	**Welcome & Introductions** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Dr Nasir Awan MBE DL, Joy Scott-Thompson, Deepak Parekh, Lynn Jennings and Becky Reeve and Wasim Ali.
2	**Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Decisions Log** The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025.
3	**Matters Arising** The Chair reported that he had issued a message of thanks and an update on next steps to participants in the engagement on the development of the 10 year Regeneration Plan for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Pride in Place Programme. Chairman's message can be found here.
4	**Declarations of Interest** None. The Chair reminded the Board that if there were any changes that needed to be made to Board Members declarations of interest (DOI) forms that the changes should be made in a timely manner and the revised DOI form provided to the Town Council as the responsible body.

5	**Draft Regeneration Plan and Draft Investment Profile** OOS reported that the Sutton Coldfield Pride in Place Programme Draft Regeneration Plan and Draft Investment Profile for the first four years of the Programme was submitted to MHCLG on 27 November 2025 and is now going through the assessment process.
6	**Pride in Place Draft Investment Plan and Capacity Building Funding** OOS advised that following submission of the Plan & Profile, MHCLG had wrote to the secretariat in early January seeking clarification on the forecasted spend for the first four years of the programme, that had been submitted including the management costs apportioned to the eight thematic areas. MHCLG asked that the management cost forecast be separated from the programme delivery funding forecast, this was provided to MHCLG. OOS confirmed that this is presentational and does not affect the overall sums available. SW wished to record his thanks to OOS and Town Council Officers for the amount of work the team had undertaken to progress the plan. **RESOLVED** to note OOS update **RESOLVED** to note capacity building funding used to date
7	**Project Delivery Arrangements** In order to develop the mechanisms through which Pride in Place funding will be deployed to deliver projects, it was agreed to establish a subgroup of the Board to develop the processes and subgroup procedures for project assessment, evaluation and prioritisation. The Chair suggested the membership of the Board include those on the Subgroup for the development of the Regeneration Plan and asked Board members to put themselves forward as the work programme is developed. CE and CB expressed an interest in being part of the Pride in Place delivery sub-group. There was an open discussion on project delivery arrangements with Board members emphasising the importance of ongoing community engagement and the need for a clear communication plan. The need to leverage additional / match funding to maximise the benefits of the Programme was highlighted. AM commented that government officials are impressed by the leadership of Pride in Place in the Royal Town. **RESOLVED** that a Pride in Place delivery sub-group is established.
8	**Resource for Delivery of PiPP** The Board discussed recruitment to a programme co-ordination and development role to support the delivery of the Programme. The Chair proposed a consultancy / fixed term contract role as opposed to appointing a member of staff, which was supported by SW as the contract would be with RSCTC as the Accountable Body.

	OOS clarified that this role could be funded from the PiPP management costs. The Board supported the proposal for a contract role. NG added that whoever was appointed to that role must work well with Town Council Officers. RP felt it would be best if they had knowledge of the town. The Chair confirmed that the Subgroup would develop a job description for the role. **RESOLVED** to engage resource to support the work of the Board.
9	**MHCLG PiPP Prospectus and Boundary Guidance** OOS advised that an updated prospectus was published by MHCLG on 3 December 2025. The Chair advised that in relation to changes on the Boundary Guidance, there is a requirement for the Board to transition towards a community-led model by end of year three of the Programme and move to become a Co-operative, Community Interest Company or charity.
10	**Survey Prize Draw** The Chair asked CE & CB to oversee a Town Council officer select a winner of the consultation survey prize draw using a random number generator. An individual was randomly selected and will be contacted by Town Council Officers to nominate a chosen charity who will receive a £500 donation. Two other individuals were randomly selected as runners up and will only be contacted if the first individual withdraws/cannot be reached.
11	**Any Other Business** OOS advised that there is a West Midlands Pride in Place Programme network event taking place on 10 February which all Boards had an opportunity to register their attendance. There will be a series of workshops taking place throughout the day and the Chair/OOS will report back key takeaways at the next meeting.
12	**Date of Next Meeting** 19 March 2026, 4pm, Mere Green Community Centre.