

Royal Sutton Coldfield Pride in Place

Meeting of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Thursday 21 May 2026

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

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)
Wasim Ali (WA)	Nasir Awan MBE DL (NA)
Claire Bridges (CB)	Claire Evans (CE)
Krishan Jaglan (KJ)	Chris Holt (CH)
Nicola Gould (NG)	Deepak Parekh (DP)
Joy Scott-Thompson (JST)	Haroon Chughtai (HC)

In attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan (OOS)	Chief Executive Officer, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Natalia Gorman	Project Manager, Events & Communications, RSCTC

1	Welcome & Apologies The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Superintendent Haroon Chughtai, West Midlands Police. Apologies received from Paul Faulkner, Revd Canon Becky Reeve & Lynn Jennings.
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Decisions Log The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026.
3	Matters Arising The Chair reported that Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have formally approved Royal Sutton Coldfield's Regeneration Plan and Investment Priorities. The Chair advised that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed that sets out the terms that apply between the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council and the Royal Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Board for the administration and delivery of the Pride in Place Programme. The MoU was signed by OOS on behalf of RSCTC in her role as Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Finance Officer and DW in his role as Board Chair, and Kay Withers, Director, Communities, Cohesion and Inclusive Growth. The Chair reported that the Town Council had submitted the Pride in Place April 2026 monitoring report to MHCLG on 28 April.

4	Declarations of Interest None.
5	Minutes of the Pride in Place Delivery Subgroup Meetings OOS reported that the Pride in Place Project Manager role had been extensively advertised between 9 April and 1 May, resulting in eighteen applications. Two candidates were selected for interview, however, the recruitment process would not be progressed further at this time. NG asked if funds set aside for the Pride in Place project manager role could be redirected to the Town Council and pro rata the cost, using the expertise of Town Council officers. OOS advised that funds could be apportioned to cover time spent by Town Council Officers on PiP projects and activities. The Chair thanked Board members for their feedback on the proposed community safety review and associated community safety projects, with all responses in favour of the proposal, it was approved and work is due to start over the coming months. HC reported that West Midlands Police would provide an overview of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) data for Sutton Coldfield Town Centre over the past three years. The data is recorded at a Lower layer super output area (LSOA level) and is drawn from a mixture of crime management systems and command and control systems, fieldwork surveys and local priorities. This data will be used to build a picture to ensure any target hardening interventions are in the most appropriate locations. It was reported that MHCLG had agreed that management costs going forward could be met from Capacity Building Funding rather than Delivery Funding as previously approved. Decision – The Board approved that a total of £200K revenue funding in year one is allocated to fund Community Enabling and Community Delivery grants. Decision – The Board approved that management costs would be met from Capacity Building Funding rather than Delivery Funding, as previously approved in the 4-year Investment Plan. Decision – Board noted the minutes of the subgroup meetings held on 13 April, 27 April and 11 May.
6	Budget The Board noted the 4-year funding profile and capacity building funding update.
7	Community Enabling and Delivery Grant Funding The Chair highlighted that groups requesting funding would have to demonstrate which local priorities for change their funding application supported and proposed that a grant subgroup is established to make decisions on the Community Enabling Fund applications and to review applications for Community Delivery Grant Funding and make recommendations for the full Board to consider.

	The Chair asked Board members to put themselves forward to form a Pride In Place Grant Subgroup, which requires at least eight members. The Chair reported that Paul Faulkner (not in attendance) had previously expressed an interest in being part of the subgroup. Decision – DP, CH, PF, CB, CE, WA, NA, KJ, JST, to form a subgroup to approve Community Enabling grants up to the value of £7,500. The Chair proposed that Paul Faulkner chairs the subgroup which the Board agreed. Decision – The Board approved the PiPP Community Enabling and Delivery Grants Policy. OOS advised that all due diligence of applicants would be carried out by the Town Council prior to the applications being put forward to the subgroup. OOS discussed the grant funding timeline advising that there would be two funding cycles per year with the first round opening in June. This would allow time to prepare a scoring matrix and guidance for applicants as well as a communications plan to promote the grant scheme. ACTION – OOS to send a revised timeline to Board members. CH queried why salaries and rent are not being included. The Chair advised that the projects the Board would like to see supported should be sustainable beyond the lifetime the grant. HC asked if the Town Council would also carry out social media checks on applicants as part of the due diligence process. OOS advised that a variety of due diligence checks will be carried out which will include social media checks. CE asked if grants would be paid in arrears. OOS advised that payments could be phased in line with project delivery milestone.
8	Capital Projects The Chair advised that the next Board meeting would focus on capital projects.
9	Any Other Business The Chair noted that he was pleased to see PiP branding on the Royal Sutton Fun Run runners' numbers. CH added that PiP is becoming more visible, and he had seen it referenced in recent healthcare documents. The Chair asked NG if she would consider setting up and facilitating a youth advisory group. ACTION – NG to set up and convene a meeting of a Youth Advisory Group and report back to a future Board meeting.
10	AOB KJ asked if there could be a dedicated social media channel for PiP DECISION – this item will be deferred to the next Board meeting.

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Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 July 2026, Mere Green Community Centre, 4pm

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