

FUTURE OSWESTRY

Notes of meeting held on Friday, 11 July 2025 at 9:30 AM at Oswestry Guildhall

Attendees:

Cllr Rob Wilson, Shropshire Council
Grum Mitchell, Community Representative
Cllr Grace Goodlad, Oswestry Town Council
Arren Roberts, Oswestry Town Council
Graeme Kirkham, Oswestry BID
Adele Nightingale, Oswestry BID
Cllr James Owen, Shropshire Council
Joe Bubb Shropshire Council
Cllr Duncan Kerr, Oswestry Town Council (later)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with a round of introductions from all attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to re-establish the group's focus and direction following the recent local elections. It was agreed that Cllr Rob Wilson would serve as chair for the group over the coming year.

2. Background to the Future Oswestry Group

The group revisited its original remit and purpose, reaffirming its role in shaping and supporting the strategic development of Oswestry

3. Future Oswestry Plan

Joe provided an overview of the plan, including its strategic aims and highlighted projects delivered to date, showcasing progress and impact.

4. Identifying New Priorities

The group agreed that it was an appropriate time to review and refresh its priorities. There was consensus on the need to develop a future work programme that included short-, medium-, and long-term goals. Drawing on the focus areas already identified in the Future Oswestry Plan, the group reaffirmed that several themes remained relevant. These included car parking, the condition and use of alleys, the development of Festival Square, improvements to Bailey Head, and enhancements to walking and cycling infrastructure.

In addition to these established themes, the group discussed related areas of interest. These included active travel initiatives, the quality and accessibility of bus services, and the integration of transport links between the train station, bus station, and local destinations. Rob Wilson shared insights from work being undertaken in Shrewsbury to develop a Movement and Public Space Strategy, which could serve as a useful reference for Oswestry.

It was suggested that these items could be picked up within a focussed discussion on which could consider Festival Square. Joe to check availability of key Shropshire Officers Zoe Mortimer and Richard Banks to hold a meeting in August or September. A second meeting will also be arranged as a workshop for the Future Oswestry group to review and agree a long-term plan for the group.

The group also considered the activities currently being undertaken by partner organisations. While it was acknowledged that updates from partners would be useful, it was agreed that the Future Oswestry Group should remain focused on its own scope and goals.

Finally, the group agreed that a Communication Strategy should be included on the agenda for future meetings. This would help ensure that the group's activities and priorities are effectively communicated to stakeholders and the wider community.

5. Next Steps

Joe to share the MOU for comments with the group for comment and sign-off.

Joe to set up meeting dates for the two topics agreed for August (based on window between 16th – 19th August) and September.