

# FUTURE OSWESTRY

Notes of meeting held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am at Oswestry Guildhall.

Attending: Cllr Rob Wilson, Cllr James Owen, Adele Nightingale, Arren Roberts (Clerk), Graham Mitchell

Officers: Emma Williams, Tracy Woods, Richard Davies, Zoe Mortimer

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Wilson welcomed all attending and thanked Rich and Zoe for attending to answer the groups questions on transport.

## 2. Notes of the last meeting

Previous meeting held as a workshop with notes / findings from the workshop being presented as part of meeting agenda. No notes to sign off.

## 3. Declarations of interest

None

## 4. Transport Q & A

Questions were posed to Richard and Zoe prior to the meeting.

### 4.1 Bus Operators and Services

The length of the Bus Contract is a 5-year contract, and only minimal changes can take place during these 5 years. Larger changes will incur a cost. A 5-year period is a standard period for a bus contract. A re-tender process is currently being undertaken

**AN requested the amount of funding for bus services in Oswestry - (£752K is currently committed annually on bus services in Oswestry contracted by Shropshire Council)**

Gobowen Train Station is a commercial contract and Shropshire Council cannot influence this.

A positive discussion could be had with Tanat Valley.

**ACTION** – A letter to be written to the Bus operators to discuss the change in bus services and routes and note the impact decision making has on residents and the wider community. The letter is to be written from FOG with the Logo included. It would be good to promote the wider discussions with the local press. Arren to draft.

### 4.2 Bus Station Management and Refurbishment

£13,540 is currently paid by bus operators for the use of the bus station.

Queries were raised on the fact that not enough funding is put back into the bus station building. There needs to be better asset spending and maintenance of the station.

There is a programme in place, with funding from central government. There will be 12 new replacement shelters in Oswestry Bus Station that will be having electronic real time information. This project is scheduled for early 2026 and the new shelters will have Shropshire branding and the new information boards.

The suggestion to work jointly on this scheme as a FOG project was discussed. Ideas centred around a solar panel/ green roof and CCTV and LED lighting. AN noted that benches would also be included at the new shelter.

**Next step:** *Zoe, Richard, Adele, and Arren to meet to discuss this in more detail.*

Regarding previous interest expressed by OTC in managing the bus station. This will form part of a wider conversation with Alex Wagner and the link to the new administration plans

#### **4.3 Festival Square**

Based on the figures presented on net income to Shropshire Council, it would be difficult to progress with the transfer of ownership. It was stressed that if this was not to be progressed then the site will need to be better maintained. This will be reviewed by FOG.

### **5. Results of FOG Priorities Workshop**

The main findings of the FOG workshop held on 19th August 2025 at Guildhall were discussed and key findings agreed from the workshop, including:

- Creation of a Movement Strategy as a key priority for FOG. Next step is to examine how the strategy was developed in Shrewsbury, and advice sought on how this could be developed in Oswestry.
- Funding is a key factor in developing a movement strategy

### **6. Future meeting programme**

- October – Bus overview of consultation/ Developing a movement strategy and lessons learnt from Shrewsbury.
- November – Focus on highways and to link with Simon D'Vali as a future link into FOG.