

Future Oswestry Meeting - Update meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 9th March 2023 on Microsoft Teams

Partners	Oswestry Town Council (OTC)	Shropshire Council (SC)	Oswestry BID	Community Representatives
In attendance	Cllr Mike Isherwood Arren Roberts	Cllr Chris Schofield Cllr Rob Macey Sam Jones Joe Bubb Rosie Corner Steve Law Andy Wigley Rose Dovey	Adele Nightingale Tim Morris	Craig Marston Peter Lloyd
Apologies	Cllr Duncan Kerr	Alice James Emma Williams		
1. Notes of the last meeting	Meeting notes were approved.			
2. Declarations of interest	None.			
3. Update from Property and Development Team	<p>Verbal update from Steve Law:</p> <p>Castle View <i>SC are consolidating their occupancy of asset to use it to its best potential. Other areas will be leased to public/commercial partners. Agents have been positive about the unique offer presented by this multi-floored space in central Oswestry. Particulars will be available shortly and will be distributed to interested parties. An additional comms piece is forthcoming.</i></p> <p>Oswestry Youth Centre <i>The transfer to OTC is progressing (April 2023 target). There is some ongoing work to do with current SC occupants to ensure continuity of service.</i></p> <p>Victoria Road <i>This forms part of SC's Oswestry Asset Review. The intention is to consolidate SC use and retain the Avalon Day Centre, potentially releasing part of site for disposal. There is some interest from providers for a residential or supported living scheme.</i></p> <p>Cambrian Railway Building <i>Cambrian Railway Buildings Trust have produced some comms about the asset transfer and more coverage will be needed from the SC comms team. Heritage assessment survey currently underway to identify scale of conservation challenges and Andy Wigley providing guidance on conservation management requirements. Property and Development Team identifying potential funding sources to support improvements and revisiting existing ideas for future uses e.g. incubator space, café, space to support Cambrian Heritage Railways' operations on the platform.</i></p> <p>Former Morrisons Store <i>SC is working with a key tenant while formal decision takes place within SC. If this is successful terms will be agreed and a timeframe established.</i></p>			
4. Governance	Update from Joe Bubb:			

	<p>Work is ongoing to undertake an initial review of the partnership agreement incorporating comments received from legal support. The draft will then be shared for further discussion and comments.</p>
<p>5. Communications and engagement</p>	<p>Update from Alice James:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms leads from each of the partners have agreed to bimonthly updates to be shared publicly from the FOG and its progress updates on certain projects. • The first release of this will be end of March 2023. • Other releases for 2023 will be: May, July, September, November. • The comms leads will confirm later the format of the update e.g. a press release, newsletter, infographic and will share before release. • Now the bimonthly update has been agreed, this has been incorporated into item 4 in the draft protocol, which will seek approval at the next FOG meeting in April.
<p>6. High Street Heritage Action Zone</p>	<p>Update from Sam Jones:</p> <p>Capital Grant Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is progressing well and we are on target with our spend for this financial year. • We have had another little flurry which means all money for the scheme is committed for the remainder of the project. <p>Public Realm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clawdd Du – We are waiting on final drawings so we can ascertain from planning if the bin store can be done under permitted development. We are also just trying to work out how we manage maintenance on them and how much rental to charge a year to businesses. • Metal elements are slowly starting to get installed, including the new gates. I am receiving weekly updates now and hopefully things will be completed quickly once they return from galvanisers and powder coaters. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were successful in our bid to UKSPF for an interim evaluation of the grants process of the HSHAZ and looking at a shop front legacy programme across North Shropshire, including Oswestry. • We hosted a day for all HSHAZ Project Officers in the Midlands • Successful Love Oswestry Festival held. Good weather and turn out higher than last year. The Cultural Consortium are now working on the evaluation of this event as well as moving onto our Summer of Art programme and Love Oswestry 2024 which will be the last unless funding can be found to continue. Summer of Art provides good overlap with 2023 Heritage Open Days theme 'Creative Expression'. Opportunity to showcase what Oswestry has to offer. • Update on Llwyd Mansion was put up online due to issues with wind loading on the fencing. <p>Members discussed the cost of Love Oswestry 2024, opportunities for future funding and the continuing development of the Cultural Consortium.</p>
<p>7. Projects Plan</p>	<p>Update from Joe Bubb:</p>

	<p>Further discussion is needed around need to identify criteria for individual projects (e.g. impact, resources required, interdependencies) and to look at scheduling and resource allocation.</p> <p>Bus services <i>James Willocks and Andy Evans would be happy to take part in a discussion about the services at a future meeting. At this stage its very early days since the Arriva announcement and they are working on the implications of this announcement and an overview of next steps will be provided.</i></p> <p>Members agreed that the first Projects meetings in April should focus on the Bus Station. Issues to cover: operations, maintenance, current contractual arrangements, responsibilities and finances.</p> <p>UKSPF funding</p> <p>Verbal update from Adele Nightingale:</p> <p><i>The BID has been awarded £10k for a feasibility study for Festival Square. Purpose of the study is to find out what businesses and the public want from the space. The study must be done quickly (next couple of months) to meet the funding criteria. Consultants are Environmental Associates who worked on HAZ scheme.</i></p> <p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Project (LCWIP)</p> <p>Verbal update from Rose Dovey:</p> <p><i>The LCWIP has received Cabinet approval to go to public consultation. The SC Highways team were successful in obtaining UKSPF funding for Oswestry Phase 1 Cycle Network and the brief will be going to WSP this week for feasibility and concept design work. This also connects to Levelling Up Fund (LUF2) work to improve walking and cycling in the town centre and NW residential area.</i></p> <p>Discussion of public engagement activities and potential for working together: SC Education team, Shropshire Cycle Hub, OTC Youth Forum, BID, Oswestry Leisure Centre. Potential for BID members to support with cycling proficiency and bike maintenance training for children and adults.</p>
<p>8. Future Connectivity Plan</p>	<p>Update from Joe Bubb:</p> <p><i>Awaiting latest details from WSP on Connectivity Plan. This will be emailed out for comments and will be discussed at FOG. Rose Dovey and Andrew Watkin (WSP) are in discussion on how the consultations can run effectively in tandem.</i></p>
<p>9. Meeting with Cllr Dean Carroll</p>	<p>Proposed Solar Farm at Former Landfill, Maesbury Road, Oswestry</p> <p>Verbal update from Joe Bubb:</p> <p><i>SC are in the process of preparing to apply for planning permission to construct an approximate 2 megawatt (MW) solar farm on a closed landfill site on Maesbury Road. Following completion of a feasibility report for the site in March 2021 and approval from full Council in January 2022, work is focused on negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a local business and obtaining the additional documentation and evidence required to submit a planning application.</i></p> <p>Housing delivery</p>

	<p>Verbal update from Andy Wigley:</p> <p><i>The Five-Year Land Supply Statement is due to be published today. SC have a secure five-year land supply. Advanced stage of examination of the Local Plan. And there is a roadmap for proceeding with the examination. A range of additional pieces of evidence have been requested for the Stage 2 inspection and there has been a request from the minerals inspector for hearings in May.</i></p> <p>Oswestry Innovation Park</p> <p>Verbal update from Joe Bubb:</p> <p><i>SC will shortly appoint an organisation to lead the infrastructure works (including roads and utilities) for the business park. This will enable an estimated completion date to be set (likely to be 2024/25, subject to contracting arrangements).</i></p>
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<p>10. Date of next meeting and agenda items</p>	<p>Thursday 13th April 2023 (Projects meeting).</p> <p>Cllr Dean Carroll (SC Portfolio Holder Economic Growth) will be attending Projects meetings.</p>
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ACTIONS		
1	SC Property and Development meeting to provide update at next Updates meeting. Send comms on Cambrian Building to FOG when available.	SL
2	Appoint a deputy chair at the next Updates meeting.	ALL
3	Circulate Registerable Interest Groups form to elected members.	AR
4	Provide financial report on the HSHAZ scheme at the next Updates meeting.	SJ
5	Dedicate April Projects meeting to the Bus Station discussion.	JB/MI
6	Send PowerPoint slides of disabled parking/open space delivery in Bridgnorth to AN and JB.	RD
7	Send all members Five Year Land Supply Statement with flagged Oswestry developments.	AW
8	Share wording from Invest Shropshire on infrastructure works to the Oswestry Innovation Park with BID.	JB