

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of Future Oswestry Group (FOG) meeting held Thursday 14th July 2022 via Teams

Attending

Oswestry Town Council (OTC): Councillor Mike Isherwood (Chair) & Councillor Duncan Kerr.

Shropshire Council (SC): Councillor Chris Schofield, Councillor Rob Macey.

Oswestry BID: Adele Nightingale & Ian Follington.

Community Representatives: Peter Lloyd & Craig Marston.

Officers: Joe Bubb, Rosie Corner, Ffion Horton, Hayley Owen (SC).

Guest: Councillor Ed Potter, SC Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Planning.

Apologies received from Corrie Davies, Rose Dovey, Sam Jones, Steve Law, Laura Pell, Arren Roberts, Andy Wigley and Tracy Woods.

1. Governance

Welcome to Cllr Chris Schofield who will be representing Shropshire Council on the Future Oswestry Group. Cllr Mike Isherwood elected as new Chair.

Actions:

- The review of the Partnership Agreement should look at the rotation of the Chair between the three representative bodies.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Notes of the previous meeting held 09/06/22 were agreed.

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Update from by Cllr Ed Potter (Cllr Ed Potter involved in this item only)

A motion regarding the suitability and design of a new bridge connective Oswestry Innovation Park was raised at the Council meeting on Thursday 7th July. The motion was considered and was not supported.

The LUF2 bid is about to be submitted. The process has drawn on those projects identified within the Masterplan and also includes the 20 mph zone as discussed by FOG. If successful this will deliver funding up until 2025/2026. Some FOG members would have preferred greater opportunity to contribute to the LUF2 bid process. SC will take lessons from this, though there was recognition that this process has been extremely time pressured.

Cllr Ed Potter left the meeting.

5. Update from Property and Development Team

Steve Law will provide an update at a future FOG meeting.

Discussions are ongoing on the issue of providing toilets and a covered break area for bus drivers, with the focus still on the reuse of part of the Cambrian Railway Building.

6. Communications and Engagement Plan

Laura Pell will provide an update at a future FOG meeting.

Laura Pell and Rosie Corner have met to discuss the updating and restructuring of the FOG webpages on the SC website. In the short term there will be web edits to bring the pages up to date; in the longer term the focus will be on providing the public with more clarity on the role of FOG and the progress of the Future Oswestry Masterplan, including the results of the consultation.

Attendees agreed that more social media coverage was required on the success of alleyways projects. Opportunity to share success stories with partners who have a greater online presence. An informal comms group composed of FOG members could assist with this.

Actions:

- Sam Jones to go to BID for support on photographs for future social media releases.
- A group photo of FOG members will be taken at a future meeting for use on the website and on social media.

7. Updates on Priority Projects

a. High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

Update from Sam Jones (via e-mail):

- Pave Aways' work on the alleyways is nearing completion, with the fabricator agreeing to remake some of the metalwork which does not meet the required standard.
- The HSHAZ Board approved the shop front scheme for a premises on Cross Street subject to final approval by OTC. It also approved an Expression of Interest (EOI) to pursue an application for a shopfront and repurposing scheme for a premises on Albion Hill, with an additional offer to fund a structural engineer's report if required, together with an EOI for an Enhancement and Sign Grant for a premises Church Street.
- Officers will be meeting with representatives of Historic England on 22 July to discuss the learning points about the HSHAZ scheme with them and assessing the opportunity for future schemes.

Discussion on the remaining monies available in the HSHAZ fund. There is a diverse portfolio of EOIs for the remaining funding.

b. Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy

Update from Joe Bubb:

Work is taking place to put the consultation results on the website. Future Masterplan engagement work could be designed to compliment the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation taking place in September 2022.

Community Representative Peter Lloyd suggested that further engagement could include workshops with the stakeholders group, a new community panel and public meetings. Feeling in the group that post-Covid, FOG has an opportunity to make itself more visible. There is an opportunity to demonstrate lessons learned from some of the criticism of the Masterplan engagement work.

c. Transport and connectivity

Update from Ffion Horton:

WSP consultants are working on the design and costings for new paving in Church Street. The legal order is in place for the road closure for the resurfacing works.

The creation of new 20mph zones is being considered as part of the LUF2 bid. This is also part of a National Highways road safety investment scheme.

d. Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Update from Adele Nightingale:

This work has now been signed off. Some additional need for signage has been identified.

There are a number of A-frames on the estate which do not have planning permission and the business owners should be contacted by SC to remove.

BID has a list of redundant or incorrect signage in Oswestry. Agreement that FOG make this a future agenda item.

e. Review of the Taxi Provision

Update from Mike Isherwood:

Another meeting with taxi companies has taken place and a consultation for the review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (2023 to 2027) will run until 04/09/22.

f. Co-working space pilot at the Memorial Hall

No formal update, but FOG members encouraged to read Hadleigh Works' blog: <https://hadleighworks.com/news-blog/>.

g. Capital Infrastructure Projects

See Item 4 for update.

FOG members keen to be engaged on the new bridge colour scheme if possible and on the potential for steel sculptures. Confirmation that this work cannot form part of LUF2 as this would significantly change the BID, however there may be more scope within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Action: Joe Bubb to follow up with bridge fabricator on colour scheme and steel sculptures.

h. Restore your Railway Bid update

Update from Adele Nightingale:

The consultation is progressing well with 603 responses to the public survey. A different survey has been produced for hospital staff and users. Next stage is to engage with National Highways on access. A draft strategic business case is due in September.

8. **Any Other Business**

- BID team will be meeting with the Police Commissioner in August. BID is also invited to send a representative to OTC Police Partnership Meetings.
- Members keen for the September FOG meeting to take place in person at the Guildhall with a photographer present.

9. **Date of next meeting and agenda items**

Thursday 11th August 2022