

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of Future Oswestry Group (FOG) meeting held Thursday 29th September 2022 at Oswestry Guildhall

Partners	Oswestry Town Council (OTC)	Shropshire Council (SC)	Oswestry BID	Community Representatives
Present	<p>Cllr Mike Isherwood (Chair) Cllr Duncan Kerr Arren Roberts</p>	<p>Cllr Chris Schofield Officers: Joe Bubb Rosie Corner Sam Jones Steve Law (Item 6) Hayley Owen Andy Wigley</p>	<p>Adele Nightingale Ian Follington</p>	<p>Peter Lloyd</p>
Apologies		<p>Cllr Robert Macey Alice James</p>		<p>Craig Marston</p>
1. Notes of the last meeting	Amended note of the meeting held 14/07/22 was agreed.			
2. Declarations of interest	None.			
3. Future Oswestry Masterplan and stakeholder engagement	<p><i>Update from Joe Bubb:</i> Based on feedback from the last FOG meeting, the edits to the Masterplan document to reflect and summarise the feedback received from the most recent on-line survey are being completed. The consultants are creating a screen-based summary document for the webpage which will act as a clickable exec summary of the masterplan doc.</p> <p>To move the Masterplan Vision into a delivery plan, the workshop with the Future Oswestry Group members on 13th October will prioritise projects to form the delivery plan. Engagement activities will also be discussed.</p> <p>To kickstart engagement, an in person stakeholders workshop is suggested with some of the Parish Councils, and key groups such bus users group, accessibility group etc. at which we could discuss the emerging masterplan priorities, highlight the transport connectivity ideas and share the planned LCWIP public consultation activities. The reason for this workshop is to badge these wider activities including the masterplan delivery plan under the FOG banner so they are seen as a cohesive suite rather than stand alone activities.</p>			
4. Governance				
5. Levelling Up Fund Round 2	<p><i>Update from Joe Bubb:</i> No further information at present.</p>			
6. Update from Property and Development Team	<p><i>Verbal update from Steve Law:</i> Progress is taking place on a new tenant for the old Morrisons building. SC is in negotiations with the Oswestry Station Building Trust over the future of the Cambrian Railway Building. Scaffolding is currently in place and SC are awaiting approval from Building Control and Historic England to proceed with conservation works.</p>			
7. Communications and Engagement Plan	<p><i>Update from Alice James:</i> Alice James now the Shropshire Council comms officer for FOG She has set up a communications schedule and committed to monthly content relating to Oswestry. September's theme is HSHAZ.</p>			

	<p><i>Verbal update from Peter Lloyd:</i></p> <p>An interview with Linda Clark from Fat Rabbit to show the human side of the HSHAZ project was published on three Facebook groups. Picked up by the Shropshire Star and Border Counties Advertiser. Plan is to do more as the opportunity arises.</p>
<p>8. Updates on priority projects</p>	
<p>8a. High Street Heritage Action Zone</p>	<p><i>Update from Sam Jones:</i></p> <p>Capital Grant Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaffolding on 39-41 Church Street and 5-9 Cross Street will be coming down in the next 5-6 weeks. • Shop Front to 17 Cross Street complete. Final fit out to start with opening set for December. • New shop front to be installed end of September on Liberty Travel. • New bus stop for outside 39 Church Street due to be installed beginning of October. • Press coverage on award milestone: https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/oswestry/2022/09/27/shop-front-getting-new-lease-of-life-thanks-to-heritage-action-zone/ https://www.shropshirelive.com/business/2022/09/29/over-300000-grant-money-awarded-to-13-local-oswestry-businesses/ <p>Public Realm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining metal elements are near complete and are on their way to the galvanisers. EA are carrying out final inspections of elements before they are sent to check on quality and then inspections once installed. • Lights are to be installed shortly. • Solution to Clawdd Du proposed. Meeting with businesses scheduled and representative from the Fire Service will be attending. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted a visit from Conwy Council to look at the scheme. • Presented a talk to day school by Carmarthen Council on the positives on the scheme. • We are on track to have spend delivered this financial year. • Working with Historic England to look at standardising evaluation across all schemes.
<p>8b. Transport and connectivity</p>	<p><i>Update from Rose Dovey:</i></p> <p>LCWIP</p> <p>The draft network and interventions (schemes) for all towns (including Oswestry) have now been finalised and the long-list of schemes are currently being prioritised to produce a short-list of schemes both per town and county-wide. We are on track for the final LCWIP document to be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn and following this, public consultation.</p> <p>Active Travel England (ATE) Funding – Capability and Ambition Fund (Active Travel Fund Tranche 4)</p> <p>Council is gearing up to submit a funding bid for 3 years to Active Travel England (the new subsidiary body of the Department for Transport) between Sept – Dec 2022.</p> <p>We will also be putting in bid for funding our new School Travel Planning Programme and School Streets programme which is being developed by Rhiannon Letman, the Council’s School Travel Plan Coordinator (to be presented at Cabinet in October).</p>

	<p><i>Update from Joe Bubb:</i></p> <p>Sports Direct Alley - Shropshire Council is continuing to look into the status of the route and trying to identify if any rights over the alley exist.</p> <p>Church Street - The topographical survey and drainage survey was undertaken last month. WSP are waiting on the receipt of the survey results so they can progress with exploring all the potential design options and the associated costs. This will be covered within a technical note and a call will be arranged to discuss the options. The positioning of the planter opposite the studio access would need to be considered so that the access is kept clear.</p>
8c. Road signage project	<p><i>Verbal update from Adele Nightingale:</i></p> <p>Vehicle-activated signs have been installed at each end of Mile Oak Industrial Estate and three sets of double -sided banners will be delivered next month. New signs and repeater signs are aiding wayfinding but there is an ongoing problem with redundant signs.</p>
8d. Review of the Taxi Provision	<p><i>Verbal update from Mike Isherwood:</i></p> <p>Taxi provision discussions have involved Local members, Oswestry BID, taxi operators and Shropshire Council officers. This group has established a channel of communication for the future and meetings will now be wound up. One-off meetings can be scheduled as required. A key outcome has been highlighting drivers' safeguarding responsibility towards vulnerable passengers.</p>
8e. Co-working space pilot at the Memorial Hall	<p><i>Update from Tracy Woods:</i></p> <p>On Thursday this week we have the full Shropshire network launch of co-working taking place at Memorial Hall / Hadleigh works. This will bring together 14 of the 16 operators we have across the county to start their journey of working more closely and supporting each other.</p> <p>Activities include trying to re-engage previous users and holding events to boost awareness. They would like to create more engagement with the BID / local Councillors again to develop awareness.</p> <p>Vernon Hogg, Ruth Martin and Paul Newman are becoming trustees of Memorial Hall at the end of October to look at creating increased usage and seek opportunities for accessing funding. Again he would welcome some local support and involvement in this area.</p>
8f. Capital Infrastructure Projects	<p><i>Update from Joe Bubb:</i></p> <p>Bridge is under contract for fabrication and installation, however opportunities to look at sculptures or other artwork could be explored as suggested by the BID. Could initial ideas on funding options and how local schools / college/ wider public could be engaged in either the design or decision on final design be considered, before taking forward any details, which will be dependent on engagement with the manufacturer, permissions for the installation and costs.</p>
8g. Restore Your Railway bid update	<p><i>Verbal update from Adele Nightingale:</i></p> <p>BID is working with consultants and have submitted a strategic outline business case to the Department for Transport.</p>
9. Any Other Business	<p>The renovations to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill building are almost complete.</p> <p>OTC are in negotiation with Oswestry Livestock Auction who want to expand their lorry park.</p>

	Oswestry won gold in several categories of England in Bloom 2022.
	Lighting issues need to be addressed outside of the Guildhall (cleaning) and in Horsemarket Car Park.
	Councillor Dean Carroll is the new Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth. Councillor Richard Marshall is the new Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services.
10. Date of next meeting and agenda items	Thursday 13 th October 2022 – Delivery Plan Workshop (Council Chamber, Oswestry Guildhall) Thursday 10 th November 2022 (Online)

Actions

1	Process for making declarations of interest under the new code of conduct needs to be determined.	AR/HO
2	Joe Bubb will circulate draft of the clickable Masterplan summary which includes tables of identified opportunities and related projects.	JB
3	Produce and circulate timetable for Masterplan sign off by partners.	JB
4	Schedule Masterplan engagement activity to coincide with LCWIP consultation in Nov/Dec 2022.	JB/RC
5	Consider cross-cutting principles behind prioritisation exercise at 13/10/22 workshop.	JB/RC
6	Partnership Agreement to be reviewed Feb 2023. The review will be informed by preparation and agreement on delivery plan and engagement activities	AR + SC Officer
7	Revised Partnership Agreement should reflect Members' decision that the Chair should rotate between the three representative bodies.	AR + SC Officer
8	OTC and SC to nominate deputies by November's FOG meeting.	MI/DK/CS/RM
9	Members to be kept informed of progress of LUF2 bid.	JB
10	SC to invite OTC to mediate Cambrian Railway Building discussion if required.	SL
11	Members to be updates on progress on Castle View at November FOG meeting.	SL
12	Press releases to be made available to all three partner organisations prior to publication.	ALL
13	Alice James and the incoming OTC comms officer to meet and coordinate social media output on FOG projects.	AJ/OTC Comms Officer
14	Partner organisations to share Peter Lloyd's article on their social media.	ALL
15	Members to read the updated B-Wise options document ahead of next FOG meeting.	ALL
16	FOG group to support progression of works to Church Street.	ALL
17	Speak with BID and SC Highways Team about option for street scene upgrade on Church Street.	JB
18	Provide update on the proposed adoption of the Sports Direct Alley.	JB
19	SC officers to address need for hedge cutting on walking route to Marches School.	SC Officers

20	OTC and SC officers to continue to work together of provision of free bus travel on Saturdays.	OTC/SC Officers
21	Ensure that toilet provision on the old Morrisons site is an ongoing part of negotiations with the new tenant.	HO
22	Escalate request to SC to remove redundant signs based on the consultant's report.	SC
23	Review of brown signs and decluttering of signs included within list of projects to be considered as part of the delivery plan prioritisation workshop.	JB/RC
24	BID to continue to help taxi firms navigate SC's licensing system.	AN/IF
25	Remove taxi provision from FOG agenda.	RC
26	Look at examples of existing sculptures/artwork and report back.	JB
27	Share strategic outline business case for Restore Your Railway with FOG members.	AN
28	Arrange Oswestry visit for Councillor Dean Carroll, Mark Barrow and Tracy Darke.	HO/JB
29	FOG Members will be photographed for the website at the workshop on 13 th October 2022.	RC