

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 14th October 2021 at 2.00pm via TEAMS

Attending:

Oswestry Town Council: Councillor Mike Isherwood & Councillor Duncan Kerr

Shropshire Council: Councillor Steve Charmley & Councillor Rob Macey

Oswestry BID: Adele Nightingale

Officers: Andy Wigley, Sam Jones, Andy Morris, Joe Bubb, Hayley Owen, (SC)

Apologies: Ian Follington (BID), Kevin Aitken, Steve Brown, Corrie Davies

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr SC welcomed all attending.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Notes of the previous meeting held 16/9/21 were accepted.

Matters arising and key actions from the last meeting to be picked up in main agenda items.

3. Declarations of interest

None

MI, DK & SC raised interests in general work to improve to the town centre, however these were not deemed to conflict with their role or be prejudicial interests.

4. High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

Repurposing and shop front grants are progressing with their implementation. Public Realm report has been delivered with a series of recommendations. EOI was successful and has brought in an extra £179,515 which we will use to carry out the works to Cae Glas Park and Castle Court. Bid also included consultant time to deliver.

Decision: FOG Members agreed to proposal to seek an exemption to employ EA Consultants to carry out this additional but complementary work.

Focus has provided costed initial feasibility report on the flagship options.

Decision: Based on this preliminary work, FOG Members agreed to continue to look into the viability of purchasing both these buildings through additional feasibility work, which includes confirmation of refurbishment costs.

5. Indicative Masterplan and Movement / Access Strategy

Presentation by Allies & Morrisons. Final draft report to be available within the next few weeks, which includes feedback received and changes in order to demonstrate the visuals are not defined projects. The report is a statement of interest with proposals to be taken forward as separate proposals. Following the consultation, feedback will be used to amend the report, with the final report to be formally endorsed by OTC, BID and SC.

Actions:

- Draft report (prior to consultation) to be reviewed by OTC, BID and SC members.

- Separate meeting to be arranged for FOG members to consider the draft and consultation proposals.

6. Cycle Attraction

An approach to OTC has been made to locate this attraction in Oswestry.

Actions:

- OTC and SC to discuss availability and suitability of properties. HO to set up call with Estates.
- Opportunities to offer business support to local businesses in the town that could be involved. JB to raise with Business Support Team
- SJ to draft a brief on improving the cultural offer, which could incorporate other key museums, which could be funded through the HSHAZ.

7. Updates on Priority Projects

a) Traffic Regulations Review

AN had sent photos of site by the Plough to KA re hatching for the box junction outside the Plough on Beatrice street / corner of Castle Street.

KA had shared proposals for parklet with planning legal re licencing and planning authority matters and will follow up insurance and liability which will feed into the road safety audit.

Action: KA to provide update on TRO review.

b) Wayfinding

Pilot sign to be put into place at business park to test before roll out of remaining 26.

Oswestry Find It, Buy It directory has been launched.

AN working on Oswestry Town Centre Directory

c) Oswestry Town Centre Bus Service Review

OTC and BID considering proposals to run pilot Rickshaw scheme.

BID is looking into possibly running the Night Bus over December.

Action: HO to speak to Frances Darling re update on taxi licence and impact on operators. Ask for comparison of numbers of licensed operators (Hackney and Private registered) for current numbers and pre-Covid.

d) Capital Infrastructure Projects

JB provided an update on the Mile End road improvements. Drone footage has been added to the webpage.

e) Co-working Space Pilot

Claire Evans to be invited a future Meeting

8. Governance

Community Rep advert to be promoted from Monday, giving two weeks for expressions of interest. Holds in diaries for suggested interview dates, which could be held in person or online to suit.

9. Communications

Update on communication provided by Andy Morris. Calendar of events being prepared.

Action:

- Key dates and deadlines to be added by all and shared with AM.
- Briefings for BID, OTC and SC Members in mid-November on the masterplan work.

10. Any Other Business

Festival Square discussions – a meeting has been set up with **HO, AR and SB**.

Details of site and covenant to be shared with AR.

AR provided an update on proposals to be considered by OTC regarding free car parking and bus travel on town centre bus services.

Letter has been sent by OTC to SC regarding the lost income compensation scheme.

Actions:

- Meeting to be set up to discuss air quality idea further – JB/AR
- Update on Old Morrisons site – HO
- Damage to fencing / barriers by Old Morrisons by pedestrian crossing and car park. MI to raise with SB

11. Date of next meeting and key topics

Forthcoming FOG meetings: 9th December at 2.30pm