

OSWESTRY BID - Minutes

Thursday 28th July 2022, 4pm

Location: The Fort, Artillery Business Park

	<p>Present</p> <p>Ian Follington (IF), Chair James Woodward (JW) Cold Move Tim Morris (TM), Booka Bookshop Patrick Evans (PE), Evans Enterprises Tania McGee (TMc), Lanyon Bowdler Lee Lucks (LL), Oswestry Borderland Tourism Stuart Phillips (SP), Celt Rowland Mark Derham (MD), Bridge Coffee Matt Potts (MP), Shropshire Council Adele Nightingale (AN) - BID Manager Lindsey Pierce (LP) – BID Assistant Manager John Waine (JW2) – BID Admin</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Welcomes and Apologies:</p> <p>IF welcomed members to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies from Samantha Cleal (SC2), Niche Patisserie, Graeme Kirkham (GK), Knock and Snitch, Kevin Griffiths (KG), Griffiths Tool Hire and Duncan Tipton (DT), Wilko</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes of Last meeting and Actions arising:</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting approved.</p> <p>Any actions arising to be dealt with during the meeting.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Conflicts of Interest.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest with Board Members declared.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Governance</p> <p>Board Meeting attendance has been raised. We need to ensure regular attendance by Directors at Board Meetings in line with our Articles.</p> <p>Agreed that any issues will be raised with the Director first before bringing to the full Board.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>I. Cash in Bank</p> <p>Cash in the Bank 25th July 2022 - £510,573.80</p>	

II. Levy Collection Year to date

	Liability (£)	Receipts (£)	Credits (£)	Balance O/S	% Collected
2018/2019	250,929.76	253,849.45	3,832.70	913.01	99.64
2019/2020	262,929.74	262,269.60	1553.38	2,213.52	99.16
2020/2021	276,897.80	274,104.29	2499.81	5,293.32	98.1
2021/2022	277,003.77	276,809.10	4021.96	4,216.63	98.49
2022/2023	277,131.38	262,158.61	20660.43	35,633.20	88.03
TOTALS	1,344,892.45	1,329,191.05	32,568.28	48,269.68	96.49

JW requested that a Bank Balance Summary of what is to be spent be provided to the Directors, particularly as most of the projects are budgeted for the last 6 months of the financial year.

6. BID OFFICE REPORT**Future Oswestry Group**

Using FOG to push SC to obtain costs for Church Street so we can progress. Gave updates re: Levelling Up Fund Bid by SC.

FOG group still not happy about the proposed footbridge over the A5 and noted it was not fit for purpose.

Heritage Action Zone Group

Alleyway work is ongoing but shopfronts and upper floor re-purposing work is nearly completed. We have requested that SC be quicker on communications, and if necessary, BID can take photos write some copy and issue PRs to get information out to businesses and the public quickly and in an interesting and inviting format.

Vehicle Activated Signage

Vehicle activated speed signs have been ordered and should be installed around the industrial area in August.

EVENTS

Preparations for this year's Balloon Carnival are pretty much all ready, just pushing out posters/PR now to raise awareness of the event.

VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

There have been problems with the data collection and ORP (suppliers) are trying to resolve with their IT company but if not, a full refund will be issued September.

CCTV

Updated quotes and details passed to OTC for proposed extension onto Artillery Business Park and once they have confirmed these are okay, we can progress. They have already approved in principle.

SPORTS DIRECT ALLEY

We have been trying to ascertain ownership of the "Sports Direct" Alley in order to develop plans to improve it in line with other town centre alleys. Contact has been made with Sports Direct, but no response has been received regarding ownership or permission. We are also still chasing SC re: ownership of the alley.

WAYFINDING

We have identified another 16 lamp post positions for additional banners on the industrial estates to enhance the signage. Just waiting for surveys to be completed then we can order and arrange installation.

TAXIs

A meeting took place on 27th July 2022 between key stakeholders and interested parties regarding Oswestry's taxi service. There seems to be a number of restrictions that exist in Shropshire that do not exist in other Council areas. These issues are being considered.

Next meeting will be in September.

RICKSHAW PROJECT

The rickshaw operators have provided an update on their current progress and what they have initially achieved since setting up. They have made a number of community links as well as some important links with businesses.

TRAINING

We have started looking at some other training courses from December through till March 2023. These include a Financial Skills Workshop with Frances Riseley, who has been running our business support program, and a Loss Prevention Training course to help combat shoplifting.

Ongoing issue of many businesses failing to attend courses or cancelling very late notice. We will be reviewing how to deal with these in next few weeks.

PUBWATCH

Still having poor attendance at Pubwatch meetings and it's been agreed that we are going to do a work around with the Police to discuss attendance.

Next meeting 16th August.

SHOPWATCH

We have made contact with a few shops to discuss the DISC reporting system and shoplifting. However, we haven't received a single response to either email sent out to discuss Shopwatch or DISC.

NIGHTBUS

114 passengers for the June, still low, however higher than the last month.

We have met with Tanat (bus operator) to discuss the routes and are looking to make some amendments to see if that can help the figures.

SP suggested Night Bus beer mats to promote the night bus service to customers. These have been thought about, and can be considered again.

WEBSITE

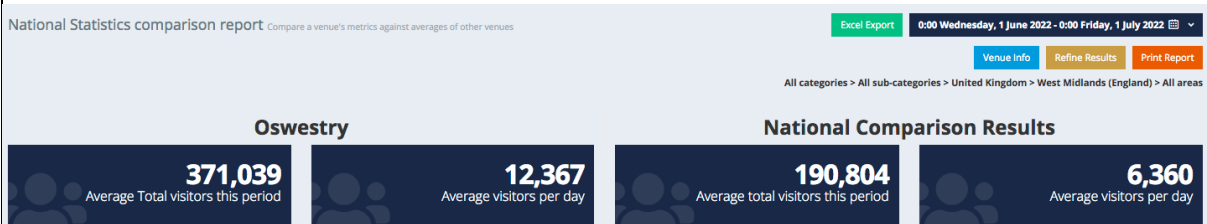
From June to date (26 July) - 8222 users and 15336 pageviews.

SOCIAL MEDIA - previous 28 days
 Oswestry BID - 2133 Page Likes, 15293 Reach
 One Oswestry - 2168 Page Likes, 1563 Insta Followers, 15824 Ad Reach, 7778 FB Reach

FOOTFALL/WIFI

Footfall did increase from previous weeks at the Food Festival, although the following week was even higher, which may partly be due to people returning to the town after the festival. Highest visitor figure for July thus far is Thursday, 7th July, with 14361.

An example comparison of Oswestry footfall with West Midlands towns is presented below and shows that the town is faring well be comparison.



WiFi registered users continues to grow steadily, now at 1,334.
 June – 21,549 connections, average 718 connections/day.

NIGHTBUS WRAP

The planned vinyl wrap to help promote the night bus service is in production and should be installed soon.

7. Church Street

We continue to wait for the costings for the proposed works on Church Street from WSP (SC’s consultants).

There have been ongoing discussions regarding textured print for footpaths versus other more traditional alternatives. Environmental Associates (our consultant) has provided a strongly worded email against the use of this type of finish in a conservation area. Dr Andy Wrigley (SC) has also provided the view that this wouldn’t be acceptable either.

AN will continue to chase

8. BID 2nd Term Campaign – Business Plan

AN confirmed that we have discussed the renewal process with the Elections Team at SC.

Next step is to draft up the Ballot Statement and undertake a Data Base clean-up to ensure the information regarding businesses eligible to vote in the Ballot is correct. Once the 2nd Term Business Plan is finalised on 15th August 2022, we will then also be printing the Business Plan and posting and emailing this out to Levy Payers.

We will also ensure that the BID Ballot is publicised in the Advertiser and Oswestry Life.

AN confirmed that she is attending an OTC meeting in September to present our 2nd Term Business Plan.

9. AOB and Next Meeting

Brown Signs

LL confirmed that the Brown Signs are to be changed on the A483/A5 and Mile End roundabout.

Bus Station Planting

AN has been in touch with SC and the Derwen about planting out by the Railway.

Crime Prevention

AN and IF are meeting with the PCC next week to discuss any funding that may be available for crime prevention in Oswestry.

Next Meetings

Confirmed no meeting in August

September Meeting – tied in with the Open Evening

THURSDAY, 27th September 2022

TIME – 3.30pm

VENUE – Venue Memorial Hall