

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held Friday 13th August 2021 at 2.30pm via TEAMS

Attending:

Oswestry Town Council: Councillor Mike Isherwood & Councillor Duncan Kerr

Shropshire Council: Councillor Steve Charmley

Oswestry BID: Ian Follington & Adele Nightingale

Officers: Andy Wigley, Kevin Aitken, Sarah Jones, Joe Bubb (SC)

Apologies:

Councillor Rob Macey (SC), Arren Roberts (OTC), Corrie Davies, Hayley Owen, Sam Jones (SC)

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr SC welcomed all attending.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Notes of the previous meeting held 1/7/21 were accepted.

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

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Priority Projects

a) Traffic Regulations Review update

Update from Steve Brown & Kevin Aitken

Matters arising from the last meeting were covered in the discussion on taking forward the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Proposals to advertise the TRO for the one-way system on Church Street, proposed 20mph for Willow Street, Church Street and Cross Street, and proposed parking arrangements to be arranged.

AN working with consultants on planter options to prepare formal plan to be shared.

Actions:

- AN to share formal plan for planters to complement proposals.
- SB suggested option to align works as one capital projects – separate conversation to be held SB, AN, KA
- Project Brief for future public realm activities (as included within the Levelling Up Fund) to be prepared and circulated for comment once ready. JB

b) High Street Heritage Action Zone

Update from Andy Wigley

4 grants approved and progressing with a pipeline of projects at different stages. Additional funding of £65,000 has been identified which can be used to support re-purposing applications in this financial year.

Historic England (HE) has highlighted that there could be underspend in other HSHAZ schemes. There will be an opportunity to submit an EOI at the end of September for additional funding, which would need to be spend in this financial year. A decision by HE is anticipated in November o the outcome of the EOI. Board noted the time timeframe for spend. There could be an opportunity to bid for additional funding in future years.

Flagship feasibility study being undertaken by Focus which includes the market appraisal and consideration of potential buildings and their conditions. Presentation to joint FOG and HSHAZ Board to be arranged for 9/9/21.

Preliminary work by Environmental Associates on the public realm study has been shared with FOG including ownership challenges, conditions survey and possible solutions for bin storage. Presentation to FOG to be arranged.

Actions:

- Flagship feasibility - presentation to joint FOG and HSHAZ Board to be arranged.
- Public realm study presentation to FOG to be arranged.
- Officers collating project ideas to feed into EOI to HE.

c) Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy

Update from Sarah Jones, SC

3 additional stakeholder workshops held, and 2 workshops also held with Marches School. Workshop comments have been collated and shared online.

Participants in the previous online survey could not be contacted directly, as the survey had been anonymous,

Market stall events as part of the engagement stage are planned – 3 in August and 2 in September are planned. Events to be promoted. Comments received to be collated and inputted into the data analysis.

Meeting with Allies & Morrisons due to be held shortly to discuss revisions to the masterplan document following additional comments from workshops and market stall events. Anticipated timeline is for revised document to be prepared to enable consultation to progress from October / November, leading to the finalised plan. Members ware keen to progress this work without delay.

Actions:

- SarahJ to confirm timeline following meeting with consultants.
- Results of engagement and work undertaken to be included in September agenda.

d) Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Update from Adele Nightingale, BID

Draft design to be finalised and shared to include location of signage on the business park. Also looking at locations in town for totem poles, which will require permissions.

Actions:

- Survey to be undertaken by WSP to support location of signage in the business park.
- Details of locations of totem poles in town centre to be shared with FOG.

e) Review of the Oswestry Town Bus Service

Dedicated meeting with Future Oswestry members arranged for 14/9/21

Discussed availability of taxis and potential incentives / solutions.

Actions:

- CD to investigate solutions being explored elsewhere
- Rickshaw project – DK, AR, SB
- Conversation with Qube - AN
- Check with licencing committee re timescales for implementing changes relating to accessibility – SB
- Check any changes to numbers of licenced operators – AN

f) Capital Infrastructure Projects

Update from Joe Bubb

Awaiting feedback on the Levelling Up Fund bid – outcome anticipated in autumn.

Newsletter in preparation for the road improvements at Mile End to include anticipated dates for tie into strategic road network. Details to be added to website and promoted.

Traffic modelling work had been undertaken for the improvements on the strategic road network.

5. Governance

Proposal for the Community Representative appointment with draft job description has been shared. Comments received will be added.

Job description to be discussed with Human Resources at SC to progress. This opportunity will be promoted via social media, web pages and SC's portal. Cllr DK proposed selection and appointment be delegated to Cllr SC, AN and HO.

Future Oswestry Partnership arrangements to be reviewed at a later meeting to consider HSHAZ reporting and proposal for community representative reporting to a wider community forum.

Action:

- JD to be shared with HR to progress appointment - HO

6. Communications and Engagement Plan

Calendar of activities (flexible) for next 18 months to be drafted for review by FOG at each meeting. Forthcoming opportunities include TROs, Community Rep appointment, masterplan revisions and next steps, Rickshaw idea.

Actions:

- Andy Morris to be asked to attend for updates
- Calendar to be drafted, which will inform communications and updates to web pages

7. Any other business

High Street Task Force report received has been commented on. Opportunities for training and support from the High Street Task Force will be shared.

Full Fibre draft report by the BID and discussions are ongoing.

OTC has approached Shropshire Council regarding Festival Square.

Skatepark proposal had been included within the Levelling Up Fund bid. Proposal to be progressed to consider next steps.

Discussed idea to increase number of air quality monitoring points in Oswestry. Resources for monthly monitoring and analysis to be considered and idea to be progressed.

Actions:

- HO to follow up on OTC approach re Festival Square.
- Skatepark proposal to be progressed to consider next steps. JB will pick this up with AR
- Air quality monitoring suggestion to be raised with OTC. JB to raise with AR

8. Date of next meeting and key topics

- Flagship feasibility presentation to FOG and HSHAZ Board 9/9/21
- Review of the Oswestry Town Bus Service by FOG 14/9/21
- Next FOG meeting on 16th September at 11am
- Forthcoming FOG meetings: 14th October at 2pm, 11th November at 2.30pm, 9th December at 2.30pm