

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 10th March 2022 via TEAMS

Attending: Oswestry Town Council: Councillor Mike Isherwood & Councillor Duncan Kerr,
Shropshire Council: Councillor Rob Macey, Oswestry BID: Adele Nightingale & Ian Follington,

Community Representatives: Peter Lloyd & Craig Marston

Officers: Arren Roberts (OTC), Steve Brown, Andy Wigley, Andy Morris, Joe Bubb, Hayley Owen, Rose Dovey, Steve Law (SC)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Cllr Steve Charmley, Sam Jones, SC
Cllr RM welcomed all attending.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Amendment to phasing agenda item 6. Notes of the previous meeting held 10/2/22 were accepted.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy

Update from Joe Bubb on the consultation arrangements provided. To date close to 300 people have attended the drop in sessions and events held so far with 140 survey forms received. A presentation to the Civic Society Meeting is arranged.

A pavement survey has been suggested which could identify dropped kerbs and accessibility problems.

Design coding and guidance on standards on quality and design involving local businesses could be considered.

Further interaction with stakeholders has been suggested through a workshop to consider feedback on consultation responses and results.

Action: JB to suggest dates after the Easter break to check availability, and suggest topics/agenda.

5. Communications and Engagement Plan

Andy Morris provided an update - the video presented by the Leader of Shropshire Council on the masterplan and proposals for the alley ways is now live [Oswestry master plan tour - YouTube](#). Planned for next week is an interview on Radio Shropshire, press release and HSHAZ web content to go live. Engagement rate on social media has been good.

Action: Relationship of masterplan work with the LCWIP to be picked up in communications.

6. Updates on Priority Projects

a) High Street Heritage Action Zone

Update from Andy Wigley. Soft start on the alley ways scheme to start this week.

Anticipated that works will be completed in 12 weeks. Grant schemes are progressing with a number of schemes in progress and more in the pipeline.

Video link from the Love Oswestry event [loveoswestry final video - Bing video](#)

Work ongoing to meet financial year spend profile. Ideas are being progressed to identify any works that could be undertaken should there be any HE underspend in other HSHAZ schemes elsewhere.

b) Connectivity update

Update from Steve Brown and Rose Dovey

Agenda item title amended to cover wider activities including TROs, LCWIP and transport activities.

TROs consultation period for Church Street loading bays is due to be completed in June 2022. The BID is considering quotes received for planters. These could be extended to create a gateway to Church Street. AN has emailed the draft concepts.

The hogs are still needed for safety purposes Following receipt of costs and designs, consultation and discussions with businesses to be progressed.

The masterplan and the consultation responses are being fed into the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), with the workshop focussing on Oswestry with key stakeholders held last week. Graphic to show this relationship to be considered.

c) Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Update from Adele Nightingale, BID

Signs are being erected.

Outstanding action: Tree foliage requiring trimming - SB.

d) Review of the Taxi Provision

Working group (as suggested by OTC) to be set up as an informal group. Strategic Licencing Committee looking at policy. Concerns on safeguarding issues will be fed to Frances Darling. Any specific concerns should be raised with the Police and the Licencing Committee, and could be raised at the OTC Police Liaison meeting.

Action: Update to be fed back by HO including if a number be put on the number of taxis that no longer operate in Oswestry.

Free Rickshaw and the provision of free buses (Saturday am and evenings) are being supported by OTC and the BID.

e) Co-working space pilot at the Memorial Hall

Informal visit arranged for 1/3/22. This is part of a wider pilot in Shropshire. The Growth Hub will be working from the space on a regular basis to provide business support.

Action: Could a visit from the MP be arranged?

f) Opportunities for roundabouts

Outstanding action: Update re planting on the Morrisons roundabout - SB

g) Capital Infrastructure Projects

Update provided by Joe Bubb - Mile End junction is now open to traffic with Traffic Management to continue in place for finishing works. Contractual completion is anticipated at the end of April.

Housing developments on the Oswestry Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) are progressing with Reserved Matters for Phase 1 of the primary scheme currently under consideration relating to 277 dwellings. An Outline Planning application for the second developer has been granted for up to 150 dwellings. Work in progressing on proposals for the third developer on land owned by Shropshire Council.

Connectivity from the Oswestry Innovation Park across the A5 is being worked on and will feed into the LCWIP consultation. **Action:** Bridge and connectivity proposals to be shared with FOG.

h) Update from Property and Development Team

Update from Steve Law - The application for demolition made for the former Morrisons site has been withdrawn. Focussed work on options will be fed back to the FOG, including short term use. The site will be re-marketed to scope market interest to inform market appraisal. It is anticipated that a planning application will be put in later this year.

Castle view is seen to be the preferred location for flexible set down space for co-location opportunities such as back office accommodation, shared desks and space for partners to use.

Action: SL to bring update to future FOG.

OTC and SC in discussion on land by Leisure Centre for Skate Park.

Action: Festival Square options to be considered at a future FOG meeting.

7. Governance

Agenda item to be kept on the agenda - review to be undertaken following the consultation and include arrangements for future engagement activities.

8. Any other business

Action: Item to be added to next agenda re opportunities through the Police and Crime Commissioner to help tackle Town Centre shop lifting and crime.

9. Date of next meeting and key topics

Meetings arranged for

Thursday 14th April at 10.30am.

Thursday 19th May at 10.00am

Thursday 14th July at 10.30am