

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 11.00am via Zoom call.

Attendance:

Adele Nightingale, Ian Follington, BID

Cllr Sandy Best, Cllr Chris Scofield, Arren Roberts, OTC

Cllr Steve Charmley, Cllr Rob Macey, SC

Andy Morris, Joe Bubb, Steve Brown, Kevin Aitken, Hayley Owen, Corrie Davies, SC

Apologies: Sarah Jones, James Willocks,

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Notes of the last meeting

Matters arising and key actions from the last FOG meeting 26/02/21 picked up in main agenda items.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Priority Projects

a) Traffic Regulations Review update

Matters arising	Oswestry Transport Assessment update to be provided. Removal of planter	SB to provide AR
-----------------	--	-------------------------

Update from Steve Brown & Kevin Aitken

Existing Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) Church Street - one-way and Parking Restrictions implemented 11 June 2020 to address concerns regarding pedestrian safety and support active travel to help the country emerge from the coronavirus crisis. Consultation closed 11 December, no objections received.

ETRO comprises:

- Two way to one way traffic
- Direction of traffic south west to north east
- From Smithfield Street to The Cross

Changes to Parking Restrictions

The maximum life of an is ETRO 18 months, therefore by 11 December 2021, must either make the order permanent or revert back to original restrictions.

Options moving forward were discussed.

The order may be implemented in part, for example making the one-way rather than 2 way permanent and reinstating the parking restrictions as was. If the original order is reinstated the same experiment cannot be repeated. A new experiment with different restrictions can be undertaken. Could revert back to original restrictions on 21st June (in line with step 4 of the road map out of lock down) and undertake new TRO consultation at any time in the future. Officer delegation to implement the TRO sits with Steve Brown.

Options for design and geometry that should be considered:

Option	Indicative Cost
Basic lining and signing	£20,000
Widen footway on one side only	£200,000
Widen footway on both sides	£400,000
Flush footway and carriageway	£500,000
Plateaus and raised crossing points	£500,000
Changes in horizontal alignment 'S', 'Z'	Could be up to or over £1m
Shared space v mobility / sensory issues.	
Use of conservation materials	

Feasibility study would be needed to consider options and other requirements such as drainage. This could cost approximately £8 – 9,000. The availability of funding for the feasibility work and for the implementation of a selected option such as CIL, HSHAZ and government funding was discussed.

Actions:

- Future Oswestry representatives supported the recommendation that the ETRO is supported and remains in place while options are explored.
- Communications regarding the likely timescale of this proposed work to be shared to ensure the wider public and businesses are aware that the current arrangement will remain in place and work is being undertaken to consider the options for implementing the improvements.
- Feasibility study brief to be drafted.
- Future Oswestry partners to look to contribute towards the feasibility funding.

Consultations on vehicular access restrictions and parking restrictions have been undertaken relating to Bailey Street, New Street, Albion Hill and Arthur Street, Baileys Head. Discussed purpose of the proposed work which was in response to parking issues.

Bailey Street, New Street, Albion Hill and Baileys Head Scheme

1. Provision of new signage for implementation of TRO

2. Removal of automated barrier equipment
3. Provision of physical barrier between Baileys Head / Bailey Street and Albion Hill

Actions:

- Details of physical barrier and operating procedure to be agreed at officer level. Arren Roberts & Kevin Aitken
- Engineer working on signage design over next few months.

b) High Street Heritage Action Zone

Update from Sam Jones, HSHAZ Project Officer

19 EOIs have been received to date – 10 repurposing and 9 shop front scheme grants. 2 repurposing grant applications to go to the HAZ Board in April. As Historic England has specific requirements and grant criteria, a survey has been undertaken to support one of the grant applications to come forward. The April HAZ Board to assess grant applications in the pipeline and future promotion of the scheme.

An embargo is in place by HE on the outcome of the Cultural Consortium bid. The bid developed by the Cultural Consortium includes a freelance facilitator role to support the Consortium and 3 year programme of activities.

Work has been undertaken to develop the proposed flagship development. A feasibility study will be procured to assess options and develop a business case for the development of a flagship building and future end use. Within the HSHAZ submission this included the option for a flagship potentially for supported business pop up uses and business support.

PSG have been commissioned through an existing Shropshire Council framework to undertake conditional surveys for potential flagship buildings identified. These studies will inform any future decision on potential end use and appropriate building to be taken forward.

A brief to support the development of options for alleyways as part of the Public Realm activities will be finalised.

c) Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy

Feedback and testing engagement workshop was held with the Marches School on 2nd March 2021, and Feedback and Testing key stakeholder workshop held on 4th March 2021. Next steps include the planning of themed workshops to discuss vision and proposals developed so far to widen further debate with stakeholders and wider public engagement.

There is a misunderstanding of the process of the masterplan vision, continued engagement will be undertaken with details of the process and dates for the themed workshops to be put in the diary for May to be promoted widely.

Planned activities include:

- Feedback key stakeholder workshop comments (via email and webpage)
- Plan themed workshops which will take place post-election:

- Thriving Town
- Sustainable and Balanced Growth
- Townscape and Public Realm
- Movement and Sustainable Travel
- Website/page launch to include link to the results of the online consultation
- Co-ordinated communications and news

Action:

- There is an opportunity to use the Online consultation to take the proposed vision and ideas to the wider community to seek views and promote future consultation opportunities.
- Route plan with timescales and opportunities to participate to be developed. Ongoing engagement and themed workshops will feed into finalised masterplan vision by summer.

A letter has been sent from Oswestry Community Enterprise Ltd addressed to the Town Clerk and Director of Place regarding the participation of the public in Oswestry Masterplan to be considered by OTC and SC officers. A response is being prepared by Shropshire Council and the letter will be considered by the Town Council at its meeting.

d) Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Regarding the pilot signs, Highways England regulations are delaying the proposed signage – meeting to be held tomorrow.

The suggestion of a Lorry Park proposal is being explored with OTC and the Cattle Market, with support provided by the BID and Shropshire Council. A meeting is arranged for next week.

e) Review of the Oswestry Town Bus Service

The Bus Service Review Survey has been adjusted by James Willocks following our last meeting. We will need to discuss the most appropriate timing for putting this out, in the context of the wider masterplan piece and how we make the survey available e.g. web pages.

With the launch of the National Bus Strategy last Monday and the associated £3bn in funding, this may create an opportunity in Oswestry. James is working his way through those details and will provide a summary in due course.

Action: Bus Service Review to be discussed at next Future Oswestry Meeting in May.

f) Capital Infrastructure Projects

An updated online newsletter for the Mile End junction improvements is in preparation and will be shared when available.

Funding opportunities such as ‘Levelling Up’ and future LEP funding will be coming forward with the need to develop a pipeline of projects.

A hybrid planning application has been submitted for the Oswestry Innovation Park

5. Governance

HAZ Board minutes to be shared with the FOG. To ratify the governance arrangements for the HSHAZ, a report will be presented to SC Cabinet in March.

Minutes of FOG are included on the OTC web site under the OTC minutes for the meeting they are presented to. New SC web pages being developed will provide the opportunity make the Future Oswestry minutes more accessible.

6. Communications and Engagement Plan

The draft web page content that had been shared has been updated and the Shropshire Council web pages are being developed.

Actions:

- Launch date of web pages to be confirmed – Andy Morris
- Communication messages and schedule of updates to be developed - Officers
- Communications regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders to be worked up and shared - Officers

7. Any other business

Study commissioned for Central Car Park is ongoing.

AR has spoken to Shaun McCarthy at SC re feasibility work to consider options for land on the Sustainable Urban Extension for recreation activities. OTC has formally written to Ian Kilby and Steve Law at SC. A question to March Cabinet has been raised regarding provision of a Skateboard facility.

Significant interest received by OTC for the Edinburgh Woollen Mill resulting in strong EOIs.

IT Infrastructure update, Oswestry is within the next 11 towns to receive full fibre – more details to be obtained

8. Date of next meeting and key topics

April Meeting to be arranged if urgent decision or matter arisings require.

Next Future Oswestry meeting on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 11am – Bus Service to be included on the agenda