

## Future Oswestry Meeting - Update meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Oswestry Guildhall

| Partners                                     | Oswestry Town Council (OTC)  | Shropshire Council (SC)                                       | Oswestry BID                        | Community Representatives    |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| In attendance                                | Cllr Duncan Kerr<br>Cllr Mike Isherwood (Chair)<br>Arren Roberts   | Cllr Chris Schofield<br>Joe Bubb<br>Sam Jones<br>Rosie Corner | Adele Nightingale<br>Lindsey Pierce | Peter Lloyd<br>Craig Marston |
| Welcome and apologies                        |  | Cllr Robert Macey<br>Andy Wigley<br>Alice James               | Tim Morris                          |                              |
| 1. Notes of the last meeting                 | The notes were agreed.   |   |                                     |                              |
| 2. Declarations of interest                  | None.  |   |                                     |                              |
| 3. Update from Property and Development Team | <p>Verbal update from Steve Law:</p> <p><b>Former Morrisons building</b></p> <p><i>The consultation on the Beatrice Street Car Park (<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/beatrice-street-car-park-oswestry/">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/beatrice-street-car-park-oswestry/</a>) closes on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023. No issues are expected.</i></p> <p><b>Cambrian Railway Building</b></p> <p><i>Repairs are ongoing to the corbles and more deterioration than expected was found during inspection, it is anticipated that these repairs will conclude without significant delay. Primary focus is to develop the conservation management plan which will inform next steps. Project manager appointed for options appraisal. Funding will be needed to get the building into operation. Cambrian Heritage Railway Trust have taken on the tenancy of the building and are providing an important caretaking/security role.</i></p> <p>Discussion with Members about opportunity to undertake other works while the scaffolding is in place, which will be looked into. OTC offered to be involved in stakeholder engagement.</p> <p><b>Castle View</b></p> <p><i>Plan is to consolidate SC use into one part of the building. Remainder will shortly be marketed through an agent. Receiving positive feedback about the building's unique offer within Oswestry.</i></p> <p><b>Innovation Park</b></p> <p><i>Continues to move ahead.</i></p> |   |                                     |                              |
| 4. Governance                                | Members voted unanimously to rotate the Deputy Chair between the partners in tandem with the Chair position i.e. if the Chair is SC, the Deputy Chair is also SC.  |   |                                     |                              |
| 5. Communications and engagement             | <p>Update from Alice James:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First bimonthly update from the FOG group was released 30/03/23<br/><a href="https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2023/03/update-future-oswestry-partnership/">https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2023/03/update-future-oswestry-partnership/</a> and was picked up by local press</li> </ul>   |   |                                     |                              |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next bimonthly update will be shared on 31/05/23</li> <li>• Recently ran a piece on the Medieval Town Trail<br/> <a href="https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2023/03/update-future-oswestry-partnership/">https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2023/03/update-future-oswestry-partnership/</a>,<br/> also picked up by local press</li> </ul> <p>Members discussed upcoming opportunities for a general FOG engagement event this summer which could tie in with a new/existing project.</p>  |
| <p><b>6. High Street Heritage Action Zone</b></p> | <p>Verbal update from Sam Jones:</p> <p><b>Finance</b><br/> One scheme is now coming forward independently so this money can be redirected to public realm work.</p> <p><b>Alleyways</b></p> <p>Outstanding metal work will begin to be installed next week. <i>Clawdd Du</i> Ironwork supplier identified. Looking at end of summer for installation. <i>Clawdd Du</i> bin store will be free for businesses to use.</p> <p><b>HSHAZ interim evaluation</b></p> <p>Thorough evaluation work currently taking place. Second part of the evaluation will look at how the other four northern market towns can develop similar shopfront schemes. First draft due end of June. A bid has gone to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to extend the Oswestry project for another year.</p> <p><b>Shopfront Guide</b></p> <p>First draft due end of June. Positive document celebrating Oswestry's unique characteristics, contributions from local businesses and Civic Society. The guide will go to SC for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</p> <p><b>Cultural Consortium</b></p> <p>Bid has gone to UKSPF to continue the Cultural Consortium for another year. Goal is to bring in an external company to deliver another large scale event. Group is now well established and is planning ahead to the Summer of Art and Heritage Open Days 2023 (Creativity Unwrapped). Four artists in residence appointed. Greater awareness and promotion of group taking place. Need to seek future funding.</p> <p><b>Llywd Mansion</b></p> <p>Project team meeting fortnightly to work on five strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Acquisition by OTC</li> <li>2) Laser study and engineering studies</li> <li>3) Grant funding for urgent works (e.g. Buildings at Risk fund, Architectural Heritage schemes)</li> <li>4) Replacing the harris fencing with wooden hoarding with photo/historic info wrapping</li> <li>5) Future use</li> </ol> <p><b>BWise building</b></p> <p>SJ meeting with Heritage Lottery Funding next month to look at funding options for BWise/Llwyd Mansion.</p> |

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| <p><b>7. Projects Plan</b></p>   | <p>Verbal Update from Joe Bubb:</p> <p><i>Plan to create an interactive list on Sharepoint to allow all partners to view and update the projects.</i></p> <p>Members agreed to focus next Projects Meeting on reviewing the projects list, establishing criteria for prioritising projects and identifying opportunities for engagement.</p> <p><b>Church Street</b></p> <p>No update available. All partners keen to progress Church Street.</p> <p><b>Bus station</b></p> <p>Update from Zoe Mortimer:</p> <p><i>Painting/construction works will need to wait until Aldi have planning permission and have removed the cantilever structure. Currently seeking further quotes for the painting work.</i></p> <p><b>Festival Square</b></p> <p>Verbal update from Adele Nightingale:</p> <p>Consultation underway with good response to survey and market stall. Overwhelming feeling from public is to remove the car park elements. Next stage is for the consultant to establish options (once outstanding information received from SC).</p> |
| <p><b>8. Future Connectivity Plan</b></p>                              | <p>No update or details shared.</p> <p>Discussion of inclusion of Future Connectivity projects in the Place Plan review.</p>   |
| <p><b>9. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</b></p> | <p>Verbal update from Rose Dovey.</p> <p><i>LCWIP public consultation launched 1<sup>st</sup> May and team visited Oswestry with a market stall on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Most engagement from 65+ group but team will be visiting schools throughout the county next month. Online consultation event will take place 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/622855402722962/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7D">https://www.facebook.com/events/622855402722962/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7D</a>). Limited response from Oswestry residents so far.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>10. AOB</b></p>  | <p><b>Signage audit</b></p> <p><i>ACTION: Chase SC for response. (JB)</i></p> <p><b>Vacant M&amp;Co building</b></p> <p>Member's discussed resident's suggestion to install temporary sculptures or artwork in the empty windows.</p> <p><b>Town Centre Survey</b></p> <p><i>RC has shared with Members. Gives positive picture of high street occupancy.</i></p> <p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)</b></p> <p><i>Rural Fund (applies to all market towns outside Shrewsbury) will be opening soon for bids.</i></p>   |

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| <b>11. Date of next meeting and agenda items</b> | Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 (Projects meeting)<br>Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 (Updates meeting) |
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**ACTIONS**

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| 1  | Share engagement timeframe at next updates meeting.  | SL     |
| 2  | Work with Alice James to alert FOG members to upcoming comms releases.   | SL     |
| 3  | Add new procedure for Deputy Chair role to partnership agreement.  | JB     |
| 4  | Address procedure for when deputies are unable to attend meetings.   | ALL    |
| 5  | Consider engagement opportunities for each project in the list at the next Projects Meeting.   | ALL    |
| 6  | Arrange for SC/contractors to clean behind the harris fencing.   | SJ/AR  |
| 7  | E-mail financial report on the HSHAZ scheme to Members.  | SJ     |
| 8  | Speak to Richard Marshall (SC Portfolio Holder - Highways and Regulatory Services) about Church Street.  | CS     |
| 9  | E-mail CS and JB with list of information required on Festival Square.   | AN     |
| 10 | Arrange online meeting of FOG to discuss options once consultant's report produced.  | AN     |
| 11 | Speak to Richard Marshall (SC Portfolio Holder - Highways and Regulatory Services) about Festival Square information request.  | CS     |
| 12 | Keep FOG updated of the progress of the Place Plan review.   | RC     |
| 13 | Share LCWIP consultation ( <a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/</a> ) | AJ/ALL |
| 14 | Identify and speak to owner about plans for the empty M&Co building.   | AN     |