



Themed Workshop - Better Place to Live

Thursday 10th June 2021

Microsoft Teams

Attendee List

No	Name	Organisation
1	Sarah Jones	Shropshire Council
2	Hayley Owen	Shropshire Council
3	Samantha Jones	Shropshire Council
4	Arren Roberts	Oswestry Town Council
5	Teresa Eccleston	Shropshire Council - Libraries
6	Les Bell	Bus Users Shropshire
7	Elizabeth Jones	Civic Society
9	Adele Nightingale	Oswestry BID
10	Maggie Hill	Oswestry Ramblers
11	Abigail Smith	
12	Ian Follington	Oswestry BID
13	Craig	
14	Phil Brown	
15	John and Sian Tasker	residents
16	David Ward	
17	Peter Lloyd	TARA Trinity Area Residents Association
18	Craig Marston	Ke-design
19	Luke Watkins	Local resident
20	Mike Isherwood	Oswestry Town and Shropshire Councillor
21	Lee Lucks	Oswestry Borderland Tourism
22	Ingrid Knowles	Oswestry Community Enterprise

Feedback and comments captured on the online whiteboard

Key Points

- Good Bus Station - more central location
- Sainsbury car park - useful location - limited use
- More active travel - walking and cycling - lots of cars - need easier way to get around
- Nice and pleasant place - ugly signs, more benches, more outside coffee shops, slow traffic down so walking can be done safely
- Continue to concentrate on redevelopment of town centre - independent shop - affordable rates. Visitors think v important
- Link to national rail line
- Better place to live and visit and work
- Movement - walking - better connections accessed on foot - particularly evening - difficult over road/rail to get to mile end - need to improve connections

- Car - reduce importance. Red Square - island of sociability during pandemic - removed cars and now functional space - need more of that
- Ring roads around the town centre are difficult to cross - castle St, welsh walls etc
- English walls - church St - commercial heart of the town - unclear crossings - car or pedestrian priority
- Independent shops - 2 independent markets to be revamped
- Young people - qualification - not many high-quality jobs - more recreational activities required - no facilities - no climbing walls/cinema - need more choices - need to retain them into adulthood - need to fulfil aspirations in Oswestry
- Review public transport - day and evening time - to industrial estate/climbing wall/industrial estate/jobs
- Bus station is fine where it is - just needs redeveloping
- Need to bring vision up to date with climate emergency
- Look at public transport and active travel - narrow footpaths, difficult to cycle (safe cycleways to connect hinterland to the town), heritage railway connecting to mainline not economically run, buses not attractive to look at. Important to look at how you get there
- More of Oswestry central carpark - huge grey matter! Need town centre car park to make people feel welcome
- Decluttering the town centre - ref signage/furniture
- Old Morrisons store - that site could be utilised for youngsters of the town or a carpark or skatepark. It a key gateway / opportunity site
- Old Morrisons site could be used as a cinema, theatre use
- Lack of hotel offering in the town centre
- Old Morrisons - residential use ideal - lack of some accommodation
- No vision for old Smithfield site
- Oswestry needs to be commercially successful - public realm strategy priority for investment should be in the commercial centre of the town (central carpark, English walls, Church St) - successful businesses are a magnet for footfall and other businesses. This leads to more private investment and spread of innovation

Potential Key Goals

- Movement - around the town and to the town (connectivity)
- Sustainable transport network / Active travel
- Welcome - central car park / visitor attractions / signage / pedestrian right of way (zebra crossings)
- Activities for the Young e.g. cinema, artist offer (art centre)
- Safe - pavements, night time
- Pedestrianised town centre - island of sociability - cafe on pavements / independent retail offer
- public realm - street improvements
- Making more of natural assets
- Climate Change agenda (green and sustainable town)

Others

- 1:1 sessions with groups
- Professional contribution ref proposals

Feedback and comments made in the Microsoft Teams Chat function (please note typos have been corrected)

- The bus station is fine where it is - just needs redeveloping
- In reference to above point - not if you're carrying bags of shopping
- We do have a climbing wall on the Ind Estate
- Both indoor markets are a huge asset to Oswestry & I hope there are plans to revamp both of them. They could act as nurseries for small businesses which would fill the empty shops.
- On the idea of reducing car usage:
 - essential to recognise that Oswestry is a market town
 - - people drive into it
 - - if fewer cars are desired, buses and cycle transport need to be much better
 - - that requires connectivity between villages and town
 - - could be done along the old railway lines
 - - also, need to avoid creating an inner ring road

The above considered points were wrongly summarised as "supportive of fewer cars"

- Get rid of all the ugly street signage and furniture that's not really required
- Central carpark is being reviewed with intention to improve appearance and safety
- Movement within the town - there is always going to be a need for vehicle access along Church St/Willow St. So, we need to alter the way space is shared. Much more pedestrian space, minimum vehicle space, paving to indicate that the car is a stranger in a pedestrian space.
- On making Oswestry welcoming: why are we building a huge and ugly industrial estate on the A483 at the point that one accesses the town? Similarly, why is the 'Oswestry Gateway' composed of ugly fast food shacks?
- If Shropshire Council can buy the Old Morrisons why can't they or the OTC buy the old cinema and Bwise as an investment
- What about Centre North West for music rehearsals
- Could I support point about a cinema - but I'd go further. Oswestry is a centre for high class arts. Make it an arts centre.
- Invest in the markets!
- What is public transport like in the evenings?