

## **Future Oswestry Meeting**

### **Notes of meeting held Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 2.30pm via TEAMS**

Attending:

Oswestry Town Council: Councillor Mike Isherwood & Councillor Duncan Kerr

Shropshire Council: Councillor Steve Charmley & Councillor Rob Macey

Oswestry BID: Adele Nightingale & Ian Follington

Officers: Arren Roberts (OTC), Andy Wigley, Sam Jones, Kevin Aitken, Andy Morris, Joe Bubb, Hayley Owen, (SC)

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Cllr SC welcomed all attending.

#### **2. Notes of the last meeting**

Notes of the previous meeting held 14/10/21 were accepted.

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

#### **3. Declarations of interest**

None

#### **4. High Street Heritage Action Zone**

Update received from Sam Jones:

The grant schemes for shopfront and re-purposing improvements are on target for spend. Interest in the shopfront scheme for next year's scheme have been received. As part of the Discretionary Additional Restrictions Grants, funding was awarded by Shropshire Council as match contribution to offer additional grant support. As the Levelling Up Fund bid for Oswestry was unsuccessful, additional match funding to support the grant schemes will be investigated.

Decision: It was agreed that funding options to support improvements to the Mansion House (Grade 1 Listed) be investigated with Historic England and reported back to FOG.

Work by Environmental Associates to progress the alley improvements are ongoing, and an exemption has been agreed to cover some public realm activities.

The brief for the Cultural Audit has been prepared and advertised.

#### **5. Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy**

Update received from Joe Bubb:

The draft masterplan report has been circulated for comments for review by OTC, BID and SC members. A separate meeting to be arranged for FOG members and Community Representatives to consider the draft and consultation proposals.

## **6. Updates on Priority Projects**

### a) Traffic Regulations Review update

Update received from Kevin Aitken:

To implement the proposed arrangements for Church Street covered through the ETRO, the scheme will be implemented on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Some of the existing hogs will be used to delineate the parking areas which will be included within the parklet proposals. The advertised 20mph has gone through formal consultation and received no objections.

Discussed whether re-surfacing work could be included with the planned lining works.

### b) Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Update received from Adele Nightingale, BID:

Pilot sign to be erected – date to be confirmed.

### c) Review of the Oswestry Town Bus Service

Bus Improvement Prospectus has been shared with FOG which identifies opportunities for further engagement.

### d) Taxi licence

OTC has asked Shropshire Council formally to re-consider the impact of the policy on taxi provisions and suggested the development of a working group.

### e) Capital Infrastructure Projects

Details of proposed overnight work on the Mile End junction improvements to be added to the web page and promoted by the BID and OTC.

### f) Co-working space pilot at the Memorial Hall

Update to be presented in the new year. A visit to the facility is to be arranged.

### g) Cycling project

Meeting with Estates team to discuss availability and suitability of properties arranged.

Brief for Cultural Audit study has gone out and two responses received to date.

Opportunities to offer business support to local businesses in the town that could be involved to be explored as part of the audit.

## **7. Governance**

Following the advertisement for the appointment of a Community Representative, two applications had been received. It was agreed by FOG members that the role could be shared between the two representatives.

At this point in the meeting, Peter Lloyd and Craig Marston joined the call as the newly appointed Community Representatives.

The role of the Representatives and support in communicating FOG activities and the consultation arrangements for the Masterplan document were discussed. A meeting is to be arranged for the Community Representatives to discuss their role further with officers in early December.

The draft masterplan report has been shared and a call to discuss comments / amendments will be arranged for early December.

## **8. Communications and Engagement Plan**

Legal advice to be sought with regard to meetings and communications during the pre-election period. Advice on protocol to be shared.

Dates of meetings to be arranged for December to be confirmed accordingly.

## **9. Any other business**

- Update on Old Morrisons site – options to be investigated to inform any next steps.
- Damage to fencing / barriers by Old Morrisons by pedestrian crossing and car park – has been resolved
- Oswestry Community Enterprise are looking for a venue to offer energy efficiency advice
- BID and OTC funding the Rickshaw pilot. OTC also offering free car parking over the Christmas period. Following work with Tanat Valley, an offer of free town centre bus journeys has been agreed. Results of electric scooter trails to be reviewed.
- Note to be sent re removal of signs / posts to David Gradwell.