

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 12th January 2023 at Oswestry Guildhall

Partners	Oswestry Town Council (OTC)	Shropshire Council (SC)	Oswestry BID	Community Representatives
Attending	Cllr Mike Isherwood (Chair) Cllr Duncan Kerr Arren Roberts	Cllr Robert Macey Cllr Chris Schofield Joe Bubb Rosie Corner Sam Jones Andy Wigley	Adele Nightingale	Peter Lloyd Craig Marston
Welcome and apologies	Ruth Sperring	Alice James Sarah Jones Steve Law Emma Williams	Ian Follington	
1. Notes of the last meeting	The notes of the last meeting were approved.			
2. Declarations of interest	None.			
3. Future Oswestry Plan and stakeholder engagement	<p>Update from Job Bubb:</p> <p><i>The initial draft of the delivery plan and matrix has been shared. The next stage will be to work up the details of each of the priority projects such as next steps, timescales, funding opportunities, lead organisations etc. This could be done as part of a workshop for FOG or through a small group.</i></p> <p><i>Engagement subgroup to be set up – to be discussed in line with later agenda item to be raised by Peter.</i></p> <p>Members keen to see progress on a range of delivery plan projects, not just the top right of the matrix (high priority/short timeframe).</p>			
4. Communications and engagement plan	<p>Update from Alice James:</p> <p>Recent activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Future Oswestry Plan press release went live following Cabinet on 14/12/22.</i> • <i>Shropshire Star coverage of Future Oswestry Plan</i> • <i>Oswestry featured in Shropshire Council's Think, Shop, Buy Local festive campaign</i> • <i>Hadleigh Works press release went live in December</i> • <i>HSHAZ success story – Designs in Mind press release published 4 Jan 23</i> <p>Upcoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Church Street works (January 2023) – in liaison with the BID</i> • <i>Cross Street HSHAZ (January 2023)</i> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council and Oswestry BID will be meeting monthly to discuss comms and PR – we have now created a communications schedule to track and review upcoming content.</i> 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AJ has access to Future Oswestry Facebook and Twitter accounts so will post future updates from those to ensure channels are regularly used. The content then can be shared across SC accounts.</i> <p>Discussion of parking issue on Church Street. BID running comms campaign to encourage people not to park in loading bays as this is impeding deliveries.</p>
5. Updates on priority projects	
a. Transport and connectivity	<p>Update from Job Bubb:</p> <p><i>Comments on the draft LCWIP Oswestry appendix have been fed back. The priority six schemes identified within the LCWIP phase 1 are to be considered as part of a feasibility and optioneering study to work up preliminary designs and deliver the public consultation. Rose has asked if a small group of FOG reps would act as the sounding board for this piece of work to be undertaken by consultants.</i></p> <p><i>Met with Andy Evans (SC Network Solutions Team Manager) to discuss SC's current contractual arrangements for the maintenance of the bus station and opportunities for BID or OTC to provide additionality.</i></p>
b. High Street Heritage Action Zone	<p>Update from Sam Jones:</p> <p><i>Capital Grant Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building on Willow Street - work complete on new signage.</i> • <i>Passed signage grant for building on Bailey Street.</i> • <i>Red Lion application for new windows has passed.</i> • <i>Work is progressing well on building on Cross Street. There are 6 x 2 and 1 bed flats going in. They are now fitting bathrooms, etc. Work to connect the building with BT lines has begun. Swift nest boxes have been installed. Work is due to begin on the shop fronts once the remaining services have been completed.</i> • <i>We have had some interest again and just seeing what we can accommodate now we know other schemes will not be coming forward.</i> • <i>Visited building on Willow Street and we are working on an application for a 4 bed apartment there and work to the exterior. We are just awaiting a structural engineers report before we continue so we can add in any works needed as part of that report.</i> • <i>Writing Comms for the completed pieces of work.</i> <p><i>Public Realm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clawdd Du – We have a resolution concerning the alley that will still allow pedestrian access but will stop bins being able to be stored there. We are working with highways on the next stage and will notify affected businesses soon.</i> • <i>Metal elements are still not in and just waiting to hear when we can expect installation.</i> • <i>We are also just chasing up some small outstanding things such as cleaning and sealing of the paving and gates to the works.</i>

	<p><i>Other</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shopfront design guide meeting with the Civic Society will take place on the 19th January 2023.</i> • <i>Cultural Consortium have set date for Love Oswestry 2023 and put together a programme.</i> • <i>Working on Q3 claim which is due in at the end of the month.</i> • <i>Need to look at flagship match funding.</i> • <i>Meeting with Architectural Heritage Fund to look at possible funding for Llwyd Mansion.</i> • <i>Meeting to look at UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and a possible continuation or expansion of the shop front scheme.</i> • <i>Working on a film and a series of walk leaflets on the history of the town with the research group.</i> • <i>Assisting Historic England with writing their evaluation guidance for the scheme.</i> <p>Llwyd Mansion. Discussion of potential funding options and future uses.</p>
c. Road signage project	<p>Update from Joe Bubb</p> <p><i>Following an initial discussion with Shropshire Council officers, a brief will be drafted for consultants, appointed through Oswestry BID, to undertake more detailed survey work for signage within Oswestry Town. The purpose is to provide a comprehensive list of signs and posts which provides technical details of work required to inform next steps regarding construction and any design requirements.</i></p>
d. Co-working space pilot at the Memorial Hall	No update at this time.
e. Capital infrastructure projects	No update at this time.
f. Restore Your Railway bid update	No update at this time.
6. Update from Property and Development Team	<p>Update from Steve Law:</p> <p><i>The detailed assessment of the Cambrian Building, including inspections from Structural Engineers and Conservation experts, was concluded last year with the extent of works established forming a restoration project specifically addressing the areas damaged by the storms including the high level stonework. This project was commissioned towards the end of last year and the contractor took possession and control of the scaffold and is looking to finish the works in Spring 2023.</i></p>
7. Levelling Up Fund Round 2	No update at this time.
8. Governance	Community Representative Peter Lloyd has suggested a review of FOG's objectives as outlined in the Partnership Agreement as a number of the group's initial ambitions for the Future Oswestry Plan and HSHAZ programme have now been achieved.

9. Any Other Business	Members agreed to invite Cllr Dean Carroll for a meeting in Oswestry on Monday 13th February 2023. Agenda TBD.	
10. Date of next meeting and agenda items	Thursday 9 th February 2023 Agenda items for February meeting: Reviewing FOG's objectives; conflicts of interest; Future Connectivity Plan update.	
Actions		
1	Officers to arrange Delivery Plan Working Group meetings.	JB, AR, AN, SJ, EW, AW, FH, RC
2	Delivery Plan Working Group to update all FOG members on projects' progress at each meeting.	JB
3	Delivery Plan Working Group's work to feed into an Oswestry pack for potential investors and businesses.	JB, AN, EW
4	FOG members to think about up and coming stories and alert the comms team via Sam Jones.	ALL
5	Share photos of new bollard product for Church Street with FOG members.	AN
6	Assemble a 'sounding board' group to provide feedback on emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme (LCWIP) designs for priority schemes.	AR
7	Set up call with Zoe Mortimer (SC Car Park Supervisor) RE the bus station to discuss opportunities to provide additionality.	JB
8	Provide members with list of available funding for Llyd Mansion.	SJ
9	FOG to produce a letter stating that they support OTC taking a lead on assuring the future of Llyd Mansion with specialist support from SC.	JB
10	Invite Steve Law (SC Head of Property and Development) to February FOG meeting to discuss work to the Cambrian Building and comms strategy.	JB
11	Engagement Working Group to meet ahead of the February FOG meeting to discuss how to communicate FOG's achievements to date and future ambitions.	JB
12	Remove Any Other Business section from agenda. FOG members to send RC all items for inclusion in the agenda so that declarations of interests can be declared.	RC/ALL