

**Future Oswestry – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 2.00pm**  
**Oswestry Town Council, Council Chamber**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Steve Charmley (Shropshire Council), Arren Roberts (OTC), Hayley Owen and Julie Ruler (SC Economic Growth) Cllr Robert Macey (Shropshire Council), Cllr Chris Schofield (Town Council), Adele Nightingale (BID), Ian Follington (BID), Matt Potts (SGH), Emma Chapman (SGH).

Apologies: Cllr Sandy Best (Town Council), Joe Bubb (SC)

**1. Welcome and introductions** provided by Cllr Steve Charmley

**2. Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising:

- WIFI-This was discussed and more specific issues are to be fed back in order for Chris Taylor to comment Action Adele Nightingale.
- Mile End Consultation and will continue to feedback through FOG.It was stated that the need for a footbridge had been future proofed.

Other matters arising to be picked up through agenda items.

**3. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Steve Charmley asked that any declarations of interest be noted during the meeting. None declared.

**4.HAZ**

Approval granted for a programme totalling 750k and a visit from Andy Wigley (Historic England) went well he was impressed at the collaboration of all partners. The next stage is community engagement plan. An element of the bid requires match funding, and this will come from SC, OTC and the private sector. The start date for the project is July 2020. It would appear that the project could acquire property, but future monitoring and control of the space would require agreement. This was discussed and agreed as a way forward for pop ups and business trials. It was also stated that young entrepreneurs and engagement with young people is a priority of the project. Emma Chapman (MGH) stated that they could signpost through a programme Life Ready Work Ready and gave a contact of Michelle Ashley based at Telford. [michele.ashley@telford.gov.uk](mailto:michele.ashley@telford.gov.uk)

Andy Wigley (SC) & Jez Bretherton (HE) attend the November meeting.

## **5. Priority Projects**

### **Festival Square**

Halloween event on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October – BID Adele Nightingale reported that take up is high and her team were congratulated for the work put into this. They are working with the town retailers participating in dressing their windows as part of a trail.

### **Traffic Order Review**

This is ongoing AR reported that he has met with the relevant SC and Highways officers. Group acknowledged there is a need to consider the correct parking (disabled parking / loading / signage etc) in place. Also noted that Traffic Wardens are causing concern in enforcement on Sundays this was discussed but agreed that the group were not empowered to affect this.

## **5. Hot topics Empty Properties and Business Support**

Oswestry's High Street survey work has been completed. The results of the survey have been initially shared with the BID who are now looking at space above shops as this is required.

The development of a database of empty buildings that could be promoted through the BID website, which could be linked to the BID promoting investment opportunities. This was discussed Matt Potts (SGH) warned that information becomes out of date quickly and suggested links to local agents more effective as an engagement tool. Accepted that a toolkit of contacts will be useful and confirmed that JR and JB are working on this.

Matt Potts (SGH) provided an overview of their service.

Discussed the need of an indicative masterplan for the town that incorporates key aspects such as re-purposing the empty buildings, review movement around the town to inform the traffic orders and review public realm aims. Agreed that the cost of such a report will be split by OTC, SC and BID. AR to take proposals to OTC and ask for a contribution to this work as part of the proposed re-refresh of the town plan. JB and HO to draft key areas of work that the plan could incorporate and share with the group. Cllr SC to investigate access to 360 tour of town used in Oswestry 2020 and report back to FOG.

The BID held an event for agents in September although attendance was low it was considered worthwhile. Agents had an introduction to the plans of the group and its ambition to tackle empty buildings will be shared. As a follow up, a forum for agents and owners of premises will be set up which will discuss in more detail the incentives, support and deterrents being considered by the partners.

Wayfinding Workshop went is ongoing. Traffic survey will be completed next week and will be reported back at the next meeting.

Emma Chapman from the Growth Hub provided insight into business support initiative.

## **7. Communications Protocol and PR update**

It was agreed that a press release will be developed to build on the retail opportunities within the town and the work of the group. HO and JB to discuss with Gareth Proffitt.

## **8. Any other business**

Ian Follington reported that traffic control is not being enforced on the industrial area and he is working with businesses to see what options are available. Number plate recognition cameras in place to monitor flow of traffic and origin of vehicles. He stated that all reports will come back to FOG before any action taken.

Cllr Chris Schofield reported that new Morrisons store were offering local producers to showcase their goods in the new store that is opening on 17/10/19.

Discussed the fact that with the closure of the existing store there will be no public toilets in that end of town and the Station Building no longer open the toilets. JR to investigate and report back.

## **8. Date of next meetings**

7<sup>th</sup> of November 2pm, 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2pm