

Future Oswestry Meeting

Notes of meeting held Thursday 16th September 2021 at 11.00am via TEAMS

Attending:

Oswestry Town Council: Councillor Mike Isherwood & Councillor Duncan Kerr

Shropshire Council: Councillor Steve Charmley & Councillor Rob Macey

Oswestry BID: Ian Follington & Adele Nightingale

Officers: Andy Wigley, Sam Jones, Steve Brown, Kevin Aitken, Sarah Jones, Joe Bubb, Hayley Owen, (SC)

Apologies: Andy Morris (SC)

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr SC welcomed all attending.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Notes of the previous meeting held 13/8/21 were accepted.

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

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Priority Projects

a) Traffic Regulations Review update

Update from Kevin Aitken

Traffic Regulations Orders – consultation closed on 15/9/21. 10 responses received, with 8 comments in support and 2 comments raising points.

Action: KA to speak to representative of Tenants & Residents Group regarding points raised. SC to speak to individual.

BID shared designs for proposed areas between loading bays. Separate road safety audit needed to be considered for designs.

Action: AN & KA to look at road safety audit, which would feed into the decision report in preparation over next 3-4 weeks.

Routes to school discussion.

Action: To be picked up in the Active Travel discussions.

Lining work at Maes Y Clawdd Industrial Estate is being programmed.

Point raised from engagement work regarding re-doing the box junction lining by the Plough Inn, Beatrice Street.

Action: AN to check and report back to KA.

b) High Street Heritage Action Zone

Update from Sam Jones

Presentation has been provided by consultants on flagship options stage 1. Next steps include looking further into options, working up business case, seek quotes to assess construction methods, check ownership – to lead the follow up discussions.

Public realm final report anticipated later this week. Presentation to be arranged.

Grants spend profile on profile.

There is a pipeline of interest for Repurposing Grants. If the Levelling Up fund application is unsuccessful, then alternative funding sources will need to be pursued.

Opportunity to submit an EOI to Historic England for additional funding for spend by March 2022 being explored – including additional elements linked to the public realm work, and improvements to Castle Mound.

Action: Session with OTC Members to be arranged on the public realm activities.

c) Indicative masterplan and movement / access strategy

Update from Sarah Jones, SC

Last engagement event held 4/9/21 which completes this phase of engagement work. Comments received are being analysed and will be shared with FOG and via the webpage. Communications on the engagement activities are in preparation.

Meeting to be held with consultants on the completion of the Vision document and process / timeline to seek endorsement on the Visions document.

d) Wayfinding including signage for the industrial estate.

Update from Adele Nightingale, BID

Survey completed of lampposts in Shropshire Council ownership, designs and fixings shared, and permission received for 26 posts. Permissions from Highways England required for entrance by AICO. Further work needed to identify ownership by Artillery Park.

New Directory to be launched which will correspond to wayfinding signs and colours.

e) Review of the Oswestry Town Bus Service

Presentation on 14/9/21 on County Bus Service Review was noted.

AN reported that Qube are reviewing their operating licence.

HO to speak to Frances Darling – taxi operators to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

f) Capital Infrastructure Projects

Update from Joe Bubb

Traffic modelling had been undertaken for the Mile End road improvements and is considered for each of the individual planning applications as part of planning process.

An explanation of how the impact of traffic is considered for planning proposals will be sought.

5. Governance

Job Description has been shared with Human Resources. The advert can be shared the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly platform and via social media, as this is a more appropriate platform than the Council's appointment process. Proposed timescale 2 weeks to advertise inviting EOIs from candidates with interview anticipated mid-October.

6. Communications and Engagement Plan

Andy Morris has been invited – unfortunately apologies received for today's meeting. Update on communications and proposed calendar to be shared.

7. Any other business

Festival Square – SB to test revenue losses and prepare some ideas for further discussion.

Skatepark – Sean McCarthy to contact AR.

AR & JB to discuss air quality monitoring idea.

Changing Places Fund – Shropshire Council submitting EOI on behalf of proposers.

Festoon lighting being put up.

Use of Festival Square for events planned

BID working with Oswestry Borderland Tourism regarding benches funded through Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and Welcome Back Funds.

8. Date of next meeting and key topics

Forthcoming FOG meetings: 14th October at 2pm, 11th November at 2.30pm, 9th December at 2.30pm