

Future Oswestry Plan

Engagement Stall Feedback 2021



The Future Oswestry Plan has been supported by a comprehensive programme of engagement activity designed to involve members of the public and key stakeholder groups based in Oswestry and beyond. Engagement activity has included themed events, school and library user feedback and other surveys and workshops. This summary report presents key findings from the feedback provided at 5 face to face engagement 'market stall' events.

228 Postcards and post it notes completed

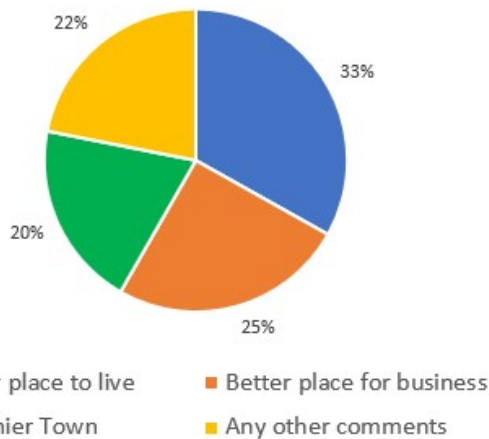
The engagement events:

- Wednesday 28 July, Bailey Head
- Friday 30 July, Bailey Head
- Saturday 31 July, Festival Square
- Wednesday 1 September, Bailey Head
- Saturday 4 September, Festival Square

Members of the public were asked to feedback on key themes from the Oswestry Masterplan. The masterplan will highlight areas of potential development, movement and access strategic thinking and public realm opportunities. Ongoing discussions will help further shape potential proposals and actions that could and should be worked up in the short, medium and long term. The masterplan will support the Future Oswestry Group with the evidence base to enable better informed investment decisions, prioritisation and targeting of resources. The key themes for feedback were:

- Better Place to Live
- Better Place for Business
- Healthier Town
- Any other comments

Engagement Stall Feedback by Theme

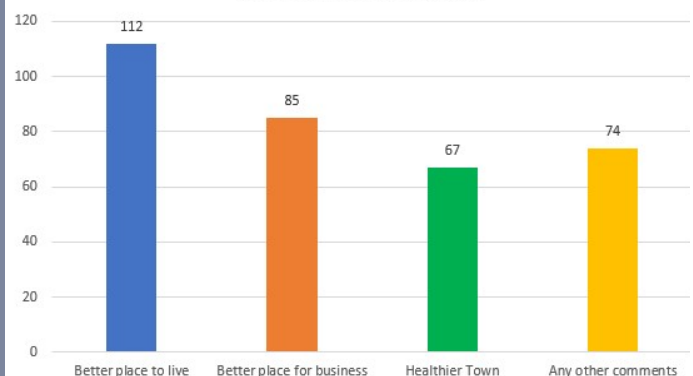


338 Comments from the 228 responses

Members of the community who participated in the engagement events provided a wide range of helpful comments and feedback. Analysis has been undertaken on all of the feedback received to understand the main themes within each of these overall categories. The rest of the report looks more closely at each in turn.

Most comments were received for the 'Better place to live' category, highlighting how important this is for local people. 'Better place for business' received the second greatest level of feedback.

Total comments by theme



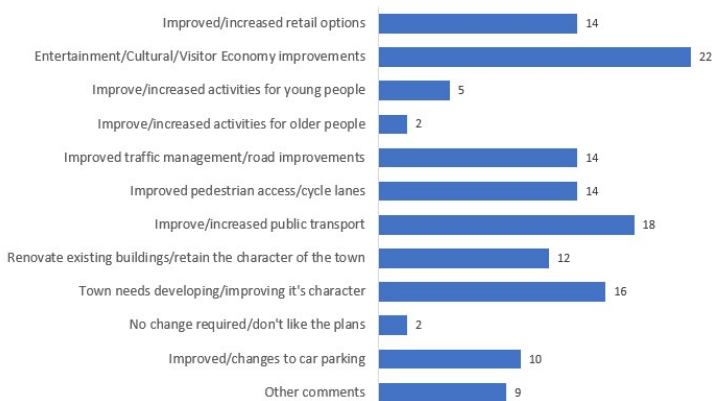
Better Place to Live

16% Of comments ask for more entertainment, cultural and visitor economy improvements.

13% Suggest improved and increased public transport.

12% Request more general developments and improvements

Other main themes (in priority order) included traffic management, pedestrian access, increased retail options, building renovations, car park changes and activities for young people.



Example comments

- "Oswestry looks tired - great character and buildings - but needs TLC."
- "Pedestrianize it - gives it a good feel - create a vibe."
- "Better transport - buses and private cars. Better bin collections and better security in car parks for residents in the town centre."
- "No toilets - need quality toilets near coach/bus station."
- "Festival square need extending into the car park - make it a public space."
- "Need a good circular route for buses if pedestrianisation areas."
- "Park and ride please. Need to improve bike access as cycle lanes are blocked by parking on pavements."
- "Not enough made of the castle and hill fort. Steam trains will attract visitors."
- "More places for youngsters to meet without constantly being moved on. More facilities all round, other than cafes, takeaways and pubs."
- "Older people used to meet in Morrisons and now there is nothing here for older people."
- "More entertainment venues."

Better Place for Business

26% Of comments asked for improved or increased retail options.

15% Of comments suggested lower rent/rates or financial support for local businesses.

10% Asked for other forms of business development and another 10% asked for entertainment, cultural and visitor economy development.

Other themes were increased transport, a focus on character, car parking changes, and employment opportunities.



Example comments

- "Networking space. Hub for business is vital for small businesses. Employment opportunities seem to be limited at the moment."
- "No more charity shops and bargain shops. No more takeaways. Would like more clothes and shoe shops."
- "Fewer/no empty premises. Surely something can be done to prevent landlords from leaving vacant premises?"
- "Tidy up empty shops - no need for out of town retail parks."
- "Grants to resurrect iconic buildings. Catchment will bring people into the town from Wales."
- "Free parking after 3pm or voucher scheme to spend in shops."
- "Free parking."
- "Make it safer for people to visit Oswestry in the evening."
- "Mentorship scheme for young people could be developed in business."
- "Facelift for the indoor market."
- "Pop up food stalls in Bailey Head."

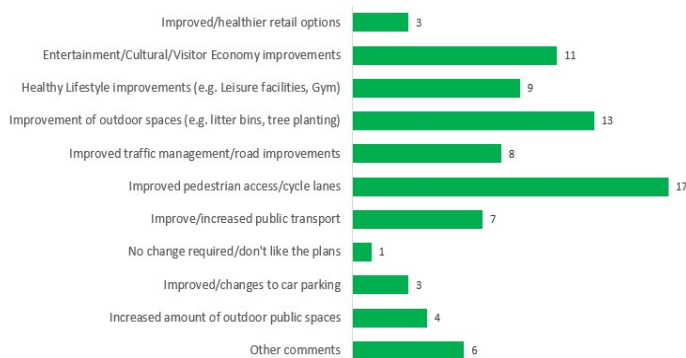
Healthier Town

21% Of comments ask for improved pedestrian access and cycle lanes.

16% Suggest focus on the design of outdoor spaces e.g. tree planting, bins.

13% Request more entertainment, cultural and visitor economy improvements.

Other main themes (in priority order) included leisure services/gym, traffic and road improvements, public transport, more outdoor spaces and healthier retail options.



Example comments

- “Support for existing sports clubs involving young people in sport. Leisure facilities available and affordable.”
- “I like the park - trampoline - more play areas and slide please (resident aged 4).”
- “Park is a credit to the town - a lovely space.”
- “Cycling provision, connectivity, decent width of cycle paths. Intimidating for inexperienced cyclists. The old line to Gobowen could be used for cycling.”
- “Footpath network is great - paths and tow paths to be seen as an amenity- resurface paths.”
- “No traffic, electric buses, vans, cycle paths from surrounding villages ... Smoke Free.”
- “Trees make a big difference and soften the landscape. Sense of wellbeing- health - nature into the town centres.”
- “A safe place for our young people i.e. the centre in Oak Street going back to its original purpose as a centre for our young people.”
- “The radius to walk is 20 mins - electric bikes not necessary in a small place like Oswestry but need safer cycling and walking routes.”
- “More fruit and veg; healthier food shops.”

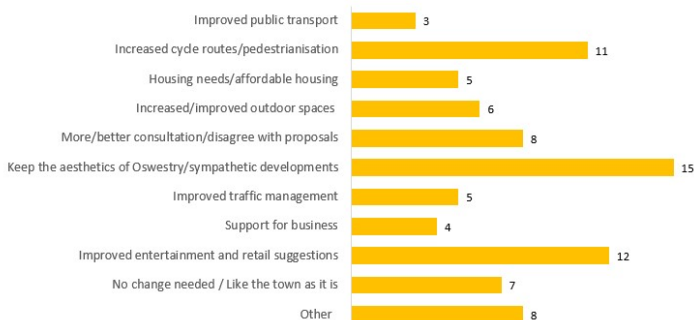
Other comments

18% Asked for sympathetic development and retention of character.

14% Re-emphasised calls for increased entertainment and retail.

13% Suggested pedestrianisation and more cycle opportunities.

Other themes included calls to avoid changes/ concerns over the proposals, outdoor spaces and affordable housing. Repeat themes were traffic management and business support.



Example comments

- “Do not like the new plans. Oswestry needs something to make it more unique. Current plans make it look like any other town.”
- “The indoor market is a particular attraction to all the visitors it brings to town. They and I love it as it is.....”
- “Oswestry is lively - Market is great - Limited job opportunities.”
- “Like the park. Improve connectivity rural to town. Cross border transport for education links.”
- “A lot of empty buildings can be used for social housing - don't build huge houses local people cannot afford.”
- “New buildings should be in keeping with the area. Retain its Georgian/Victorian style.”
- “Cambrian / Morrisons site - should be affordable housing or car parking underneath. Need more for young people - pool tables, table tennis, etc.”
- “I think the new plans are very positive. The town must move with the times.”

