

Mike Willis of Willow Gallery, a Community Interest Company (not for profit).

- 1. Has a query regarding the £48,000 consultancy fee. What was the breakdown of spend, was it all salary?**

Heather Noble: the fee was in relation to consultancy work carried out by PFBBUK to bring Oswestry BID up to the ballot stage. Shropshire Council and Oswestry Council granted monies and loans to BID to carry out the work necessary to get us to the BID ballot stage. It was quite clear that BID was expected to tender out for consultancy work from businesses who have successfully moved BID towns through the ballot process. PFBBUK was one of two consultancies who tendered. PFBBUK have done a significant amount of work on our behalf, from setting out the legislative framework, carrying out on the ground survey and questionnaire work, working with Shropshire Council NSDC on correct data of eligible levy rate payers and identifying the relevant issues that need to be agreed in baseline agreements. We could not have got to the ballot stage without this.

- 2. On the 16th May 2016 at an Oswestry Town Council meeting, there was a reference made to discretionary exclusions of levy payers being possible. Have there been any applications, and therefore exclusions made?**

Heather Noble: the council meeting referred to was one exploring the possible issues should a BID be formed. At that stage, Oswestry BID was being discussed, and no legal entity representing the BID existed. With regard to exemptions, it was agreed by the board that schools would be excluded.

Phil Lewis of Lewis and Holmes.

- 1. What decisions have been made with regard to other exemptions (ie Chalk), and those that have not paid or received summons letters? (At this point Jane Rees of The Oak Furniture Shop) interjected and stated that she had received a summons letter and had contacted the Council to complain in quite strong terms.**

Adele Nightingale: We have currently received levy from 93% of levy payers. We will be having meetings with those who haven't paid. On behalf of Oswestry BID she apologised unreservedly that summons letter had been sent by Shropshire Council NSDC. It was an action that had not been agreed by Oswestry BID and should not have happened.

- 2. Does the Bid have a procurement policy focussing on buying local?**

Adele Nightingale: Yes, the aim is to procure firstly, where possible from the Oswestry business area, then Shropshire, and then wider. However, we have also to keep in mind that it is a balance between local procurement, and best value.

- 3. Have baseline figures been agreed?**

Heather Noble: Yes, completed with Oswestry Town Council, and pretty much agreed with Shropshire Council, barring a few minor points.

No other questions were forthcoming, and Heather thanked everyone for attending.