



Oswestry Bus Station needs a makeover

Bus Users Shropshire

Why?

There are 90 bus arrivals at Oswestry Bus Station every day except Sunday when there are fewer buses. These bring in over 300,000 passengers per annum in and out of the town and this is important to the retail economy. Some of these passengers are visitors to Oswestry and first impressions count. Sadly, the poor state of the bus station does not present a good image, a position which Bus Users Shropshire considers to be unsatisfactory.

In recent months we have had several complaints from members about Oswestry Bus Station, for example, about the lack of information regarding which departure stands to use, overall poor maintenance of infrastructure and the general worn appearance of the shelters.

Therefore we are calling on Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council to review the existing situation and provide the finance to upgrade the bus station.

This will help buses in Oswestry to achieve their potential.

What is wrong?

There are four key problems which make the bus station far less attractive for passengers and as a gateway to town:

1. The shelters, bus stand posts and railings are now looking old, peeling in places and worn in others. This presents a poor visual environment. The walkway between the Aldi side of the station and the central isle is dangerous and needs urgent attention
2. The street furniture in the bus station is not co-ordinated; there is no cohesion or consistency to the different elements providing seating, shelter and ambience
3. The same applies to the uncoordinated information provision in different cases around the station, and in some places there is no lighting. There should be real time provision, but this is not functional at present
4. There is limited planting/flowers to brighten the bus station and insufficient linkage to the town and heritage area around the railway station buildings

These issues are best represented in visual format; please see Appendix One.

What can be done?

Our aim is to see the bus station as a thriving hub for passenger interchange (bus to bus, walking and cycling) and for bringing in visitors to the town.

The elements are there, but there is a clear lack of investment and basic maintenance.

We would like to see the following:

1. A coherent information provision at the bus station including more prominent 'where to board your bus' information, bus stand identification, and a reinstatement of real time information
2. Repair and repainting of infrastructure and a design plan to brighten the bus station including planting
3. A review of the existing street furniture to coordinate facilities in a cohesive design so that people see it as a safe and welcoming place to board a bus. This is particularly pertinent for passengers with a disability
4. Improve the linkages to the adjacent heritage area and into town through improved interpretation so as to encourage visitors into Oswestry without a car. That requires investment and management of public transport terminals and Oswestry bus station sorely needs that right now.

Additional Note

We are also concerned that the principal bus stop at Sainsburys offers a very poor reflection of the town. Yet for a small investment it has the potential to be a state of the art shelter and improvement of the public realm in that quarter.

The current shelter is old, poorly maintained and unwelcoming. See Appendix One. If replaced by a contemporary shelter with a separate seat alongside and a modest amount of planting it could be both functional and present a far greater impact with bus users and visitors to the town.

There is also a strong case for reviewing all bus information in Oswestry and Gobowen especially in relation to bus/rail interchange.

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Contact Details

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Appendix One Images of Oswestry Bus Station and Bus Shelter at Sainsburys









