

A Tale of Two Towns.....



Oswestry -



Localism In Action!

Localism?

We've been doing it for centuries!

Grant of shop in Leg Street -1324!

Transfer of powers from Crown and Lord to local people – Aldermen and Common Council, then Town Council

Series of Acts for Markets & to pave, light and clean streets, water supply secured, even local electricity supply.

Community Action paralleled Civic Action

Society for the bettering of the condition of the poor

Initiatives for a library



Strong Local Community Groups

Arts Association

Sports Council umbrella & *grant making bodies*

Reformed Chamber of Commerce

Tourism Association

In Bloom Committee

Community Alcohol Partnership

Footfall Partnership



Focus on Festivals

(not only, but also!)

Osfest

Food and Drink

Take 2 The Streets

Heritage Weekend

Youth Music Festival

Christmas Music Live

Celebration of Play (Rachel Edwards)



Community Action

making things *happen*, making things *better*

In Bloom – Gold Award 7 years running

Footfall – helping to market empty shops

Oswestry Youth Cafe – diversionary activities for young people

Creating a Museum in Oswestry

Cambrian Heritage Railway – steaming for success?

Station Building Trust – preserving the fabric

Churches Together in Oswestry District - Food Bank

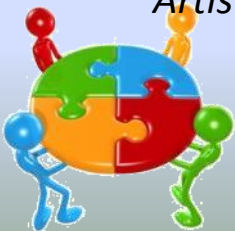
Eastern Oswestry – Building a Community Centre

Cabin Lane Christian Group – Whole Lifestyle Centre

Oswestry School – Recital Concerts

Attfield Theatre – 4 productions a year

PLUS – individual groups (Project Group, U3A, OSCA, Musical Theatre Company, Society of Artists.....)



Oswestry Town Council

Clear vision

“To be a local community champion by seeking to enable and empower local initiatives and opportunities to improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of the town of Oswestry.”

Involved, committed & engaged councillors working with

Involved, committed, professional staff

Active in both direct and indirect support for the
community

Cae Glas Park, paying for and supervising maintenance

Christmas Decorative Lighting, Christmas Music Live, Band Concerts in the Park
Youth Music Festival, Hanging Baskets scheme

Street Lighting, Toilets, Allotments, 2 closed Churchyards plus Cemetery

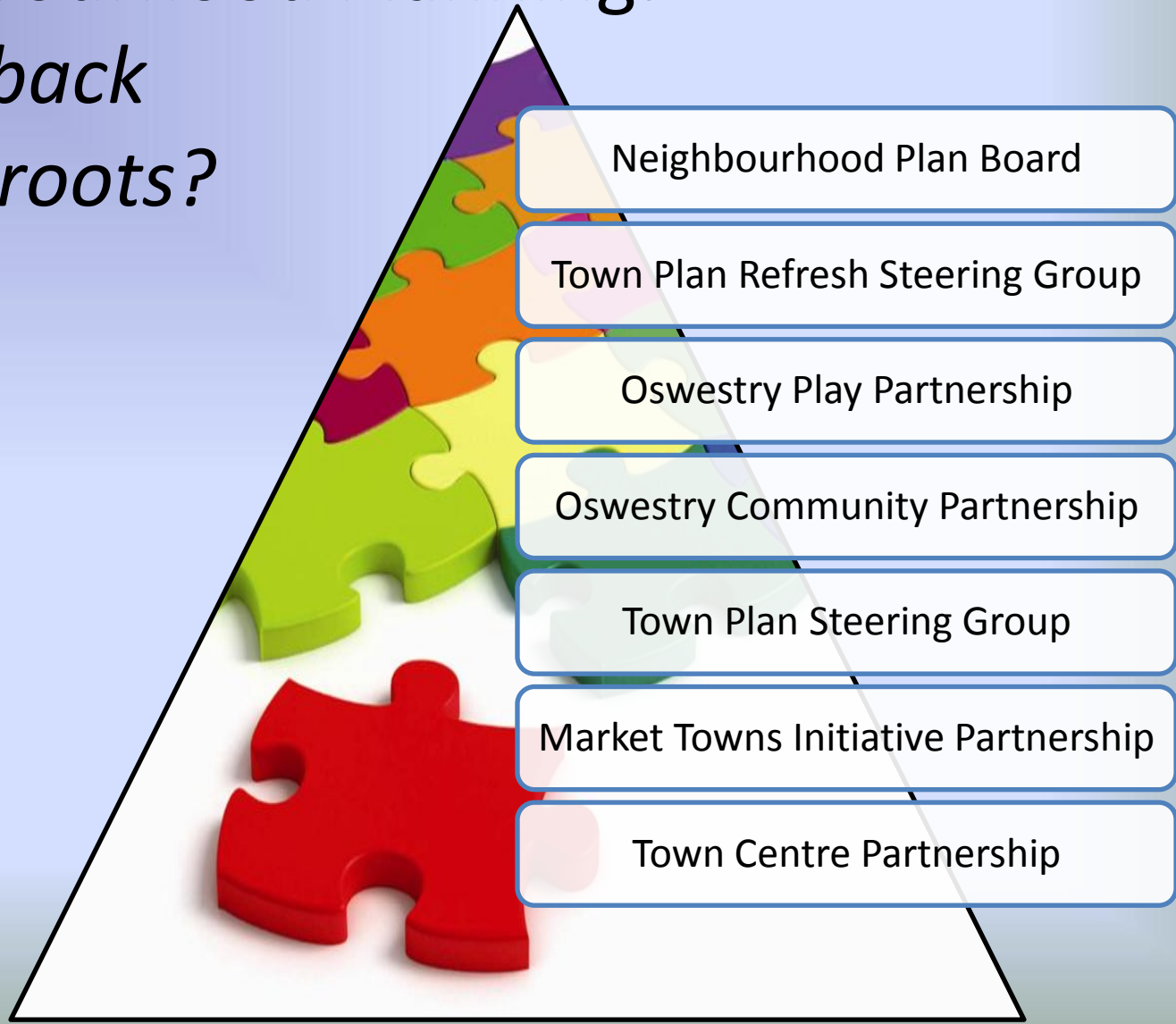
Grants and Donations, plus assistance to community groups in kind as well as
cash

Local spend power - c£250,000 put into local economy

Financially Sound – precept plus income



Neighbourhood Planning: *going back to our roots?*



Community & Voluntary Sector

Oswestry Town Council



Shropshire Council

Energy, Commitment Flexibility

Local Strategic Vision, Direct & Indirect Action, Resources (cash and kind)

Wider Strategic Vision & Intervention, Resources (CAT, MTRP/LJC)

Know Your community

Seize every opportunity that comes your way

Stay flexible and adapt to circumstances



Recipe for Success!

- ✓ Take 1 Town Council, (must be active, informed and engaged)
- ✓ Add generous measure of community groups
- ✓ Season with principal authority
- ✓ Mix together to release necessary resources
- ✓ Pour into an agreed policy framework on a base of a shared vision
- ✓ DO NOT allow to set hard!
Result should not be too runny, but should have a flexible consistency



Localism?

We've been doing it for
centuries!

