

# Town & Community Report to the Annual Town meeting 2020

The Town & Community (T&C) committee has responsibility for all aspects affecting the town and its residents. There are ad hoc working groups and sub committees which report to it.

## The sub committees are:

Events - Cllr. Sarah Miller (Chairman)

## Ad hoc working groups

Bus group

Signage Group

Marketing Working Group

## The committee has responsibility for:

- Police Liaison
- Street Cleaning, rubbish bins, retail & business waste monitoring
- Annual licences
- Resident Parking + Permits
- Tourism, Tourist Info Centre & Council Services
- Twinning
- Markets
- Festivals + Events
- CCTV
- Moorings
- Street Furniture
- Shopwatch
- HTC owned buildings & assets
- Updating booking system

The committee makes representation to Full Council regarding policy on strategic matters relating to above.

## Achievements

### Recruitment 2019/2020

Two new parking attendants, an assistant town sergeant, a new cleaner, caretakers and currently recruiting for a part time info centre officer.

### Events

We continue to organise a number of very successful events in the town including the Annual Town Meeting, Mayor Making, Town Medal, Remembrance Day, Health and Wellbeing Festival and not to forget the wonderful Christmas Festival.

## **Henley Heroes**

Now in its third year, the community awards celebrate the unsung heroes of our town. A hugely popular Town event.

## **Town Tenants**

Continue to work with landlords and local agents to keep the vacancy rate for empty shops below the national average. Working with retailers & hospitality outlets to ensure minimum disruption to the towns businesses and residents.

## **Repair Cafe**

Henley Repair Café hopes to launch on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Repair Café will appear as a 'pop up' in the Over 60's Club from 10am – 1pm. We have over 35 volunteers. The Repair Cafe is a one stop shop in which people **repair** household electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, etc. ... **Repair cafés** are held at a fixed location where tools are available and where they can **fix** their broken goods with the help of volunteers

## **Single Use Plastic**

HTC have abolished plastic water bottles from all meetings and replaced with branded HTC glass bottles and plumbed in water.

## **A Boards + On-street Poster Advertising**

New Policies have been written and protocols revised. Anyone found offending will now be pursued.

## **Library & Information kiosks**

The phone box at Northfield End is now a fully functional tourist information hub.

# **Ongoing projects**

## **Street cleaning**

This project is a priority. We endeavour to have staged cleans throughout the year to keep our streets in and around the town centre looking their best.

Under Henley Housekeeping we are looking at replacement bins and general improvements to the town centre to improve the aesthetics and cleanliness for residents and visitors and funding streams to make this possible.

Thank you to all the shop keepers who continue to contribute by keeping the shop fronts and pavements clean.

## **Street Signage**

We are still looking at signage throughout the town. Losing some signage 'clutter' and improving directional signage.

## **Markets**

Duck Pond Artisan market is popular. We are in addition looking at Antique and Vintage markets as well as organising our own markets to have better control on the quality and variety of goods on sale. Importantly we are looking to have markets which compliment the shops in the town rather than compete with them.

### **Market Place Mews**

The new development 'Gardiner Place' is progressing and should be finished by end of March 2020.

### **Refill**

Encouraging refill of water containers. Cafes, restaurants in the town participate in offering free water refills..

### **Water Fountains**

We have to date considered areas in Henley that we think Water Fountains could be of benefit. In addition we are investigating the possibility of restoring the Phillimore Fountain, outside St Mary's Church. Thames Water have agreed to connect to the mains once due diligence has been done on the feasibility.

### **Northfield End York Paving**

We hope to have this completed by 2021.

We welcome all to attend meetings of Town & Community. Public participation as with all standing committees is at the start of the meeting. We are grateful to the police who attend and update the committee on issues in the town. We always receive a very detailed report.

Thank you to

Sheridan Jacklin-Edward - Town Clerk,  
Helen Barnett - Town & Community Manager,  
Nicci Taylor - Committee Administrator.

To all members of the committee, sub committees and working groups for your significant contribution throughout the year.

**Cllr. Sarah Miller**

**Chairman of Town & Community.**