

Recreation and Amenities Report – Annual Town Meeting of Henley Town Council 2020

Report written by Cllr Kellie Hinton, Chair of R&A

R&A Staff

Estate Manager – Becky Walker

Committee Administrator – Judith Smith

Park Services Manager – Karl Bishop

Assistant Park Services Manager & Horticultural Warden – Kyle Dowling

Park Services – Ben Havers, Joe Postles, Dean Trimmings, Peter Lemaire and Illona Livarski (left March 2020)

R&A Committee

Councillors; Hinton (Chair), Crook (Vice Chair), Arlett (Mayor), Eggleton (Deputy Mayor), Isaac, Hooper, Lambert, Miller, Clark, Plant

Sub Committees

Open and Green Spaces, Henley in Bloom

Projects, Issues and Achievements – May 2019 to March 2020

Allotment Charges

Prices for Watermans and Greencroft will increase as per the table below

12. ALLOTMENTS

The Committee received and considered a report regarding charges for Greencroft and Watermans Allotments for the years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the allotment rents for 2019/20 and 2021/22 are as follows:

Plot Size	2018/19 & 2019/20	2020/21 & 2021/22	Increase
Starter	£17.50	£18.50	£1.00
Starter - Concession	£11.50	£12.50	£1.00
3.5 & 5 poles	£22.50	£24.00	£1.50
3.5 & 5 poles - Concession	£15.50	£16.50	£1.00
7 poles	£32.50	£34.50	£2.00
7 poles - Concession	£21.50	£23.00	£1.50
10 poles	£44.50	£47.50	£3.00
10 poles – Concession	£29.50	£31.50	£2.00

Northfield End

Many improvements were completed after a couple of years of collaborative working with local residents. This led to success in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category of Thames and Chilterns in Bloom.

Henley Lido/Splash Park

Henley Town Council awarded £3400 funding for the Lido working group to spend on topographical studies of two sites to evaluate their viability. The group continue to meet regularly and investigation is ongoing, but as certain available possible sites are privately owned and confidential, there is not much to update on the progress until later this year.

Horticultural Contract

Henley Town Council awarded the horticultural contract to Windowflowers for a further 5 years.

Signage

Members of R&A, continue to work with members of Town and Community and appropriate HTC staff to consider and propose new signage for the town centre and Henley Town Council land. This will be progressed further over the next year.

Anti-Social Behaviour

At various times of year we see increased anti-social behaviour, mainly at Makins and Freemans – particularly since new equipment has been installed. This is of serious concern to the town council and residents of Henley. An externally run meeting was held to try and combat the problems being faced and subsequently, the R&A committee discussed and implemented ways of helping, including inviting representatives from Nomad to the table as part of the discussion.

The committee resolved to recommend the following in September 2019, (ratified by Full Council);

- that funding be provided for additional youth outreach work by Nomad for a three year period from April 2020 to March 2023 at £5k per annum.
- that funding up to the amount of £200 be allocated for the purchase of anti-vandal paint to apply to the roof/walls of Brunner Hall along with appropriate warning signage.
- that the Public Space Protection Order for Henley should remain unchanged
- that further investigations be undertaken to establish whether Makins Recreation Ground car park could be locked to vehicles overnight.

CCTV

The R&A Committee decided to investigate the costs and feasibility of installing CCTV, or portable CCTV on some of our land, particularly areas where we see increased anti-social behaviour. This is still an ongoing project and although towards the final stages, final checks are being made to ensure the CCTV would be fit for purpose before any money is spent.

Toilets at Makins

After lots of debates about toilets (not joking), this proposal is currently out to consultation. The committee will consider responses before deciding whether to install toilets close to the Skatepark by Makins Recreation Ground.

Henley in Bloom

Despite winning many awards at the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Awards at the end of 2019, the committee have decided not to enter the regional competition in 2020. Work will continue on making the town the best it can be and the Henley in Bloom committee will continue to meet and implement new ideas whilst maintaining the standard the town has come accustomed to.

BBQ Ban

After considering a report presented to Open and Green Spaces, it was decided to continue the complete ban on BBQs at Mill and Marsh Meadows.

Electric Car Charging Points

The climate change emergency working group will be looking into the feasibility of installing electric car charging points in Henley Town Council owned car parks, such as Mill Meadows.

Slovenian Hay Rack

Henley have been offered the opportunity of being gifted a tradition Slovenian Hay Rack as a Twin Town with Bled, in Slovenia. The committee decided that should the town be gifted the Hay Rack, it would be best placed on Gillotts Field, in keeping with the area.

Christmas Tree Shredding

Best year ever – Park Services helped to raise £389 towards Henley in Bloom. The service is likely to continue next year.

Freemans Meadow Playground

The playground is finally finished! An official launch will be held in partnership with Nomad on April 16th. We continue to work with Friends of Freemans to improve the recreation ground.



For a full overview of projects, please visit <https://www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Committee-meetings-minutes.aspx> where you will find minutes of all committee meetings. This update is a snapshot of the incredible amount of work done by Henley Town Council Staff with help from councillors.