

Recreation and Amenities Committee - deals with aspects affecting the Town's open spaces and other amenities. The Committee is responsible for the following matters:- Mill Meadows · Marsh Meadows · Mill Meadows Car Park · Outside Contracts · Jubilee Park · Pavilion · Allotments · Cemetery · Recreation/Amenity · Henley in Bloom · Moorings · River and Rowing Museum · Sports Clubs

The last year has been particularly busy and in no particular order I list below our achievements to date;

- The Skate park officially opened in the summer. It's was a long time coming (over 6 years!) It is proving to be a huge success with all who use it. Henley should be very proud of this new facility.
- In September 2017, HTC hired a Conservation Warden as part of the Park Services team. The CW is currently assessing all HTC owned land and is producing relevant management plans with interested and relevant parties.
- The Henley Park Run was finally established on July 1st 2017 in Henley's bid to encourage families to exercise more. The Junior Park run is progressing to begin in Henley over the coming year.
- 20th January 2018 saw the planting of the community orchard. 21 different fruit trees designed to enhance Henley's outdoor spaces were planted by Councillors and residents.
- Grape vines and edible hedges to be planted in the community orchard on Saturday 24th March.
- HTC are actively supporting 'Recording Lost Ways' by sourcing volunteers to this group.
- Henley is still striving toward becoming a 'Walkers are Welcome' accredited town. Official status is imminent.
- In September 2017, a Sycamore tree in Marsh Meadows was designated as a Wishing Tree whereby people tie a ribbon to the tree and make a wish - this is very popular and sits alongside the Healing Glade trees.
- HTC are still investigating uses for the Fairmile Chapel and a meeting is being set up with the architect.
- With so many Heritage Plaques dotted around Henley, we were delighted to install the latest plaque at Singers Park – offering a full history of the Bridge.

Makins

Makins will soon have a new playground – Wicksted were appointed the contract to carry out the improvements. New fencing will be installed.

The outdoor gym will be situated at Makins – currently in the tendering process.

Trees planted to enhance the landscaping of the Skate Park.

Fencing installed to protect the park and surrounding buildings from anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

Freeman's Meadow

Set up by Cllr. Kellie Hinton in her first duty as Mayor, A new group entitled Friends of Freeman's, was established to work with HTC to encourage a greater enjoyment of Freeman's by its residents – but still keeping its tranquil nature. The group aims to ensure the meadow is properly maintained and will recommend improvements to the Council, similar to the partnership we have seen the success of with Gainsborough Residents and HTC.

Work has progressed where possible including the tidying of shrubs on the outside of the park and the removal of the shelter.

Plans are on-going to improve the playground at Freemans.

Mill Meadows

New toddler swings have been installed as well as a shaded area.

New fencing will be erected around the Adventure Playground – excluding the sensory garden side until September because of bird nesting.

Improvements have been made to the Visitor Info Kiosk and this will be re-launched this year.

Northfield End

The Northfield End Residents Association with support of Henley in Bloom have put forward a proposal to improve this area. Now that HTC have control of the green triangle of land in Northfield End, this is an important entrance of the town that will be updated over the next year.

Henley in Bloom

In September 2017 Henley in Bloom were awarded their 6th consecutive Gold Award in the regional Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Awards. Henley were also host for the second year running of the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom Seminar for all regional entries.

Over the past year Henley in Bloom have continued to work with community groups such as Henley in Transition, Henley Allotment Association, Chelsea Fringe and the Gardening Buddies to create and maintain beautiful spaces in the town such as the celebration beds at Mill Meadows and to run events such as the Floral Flotilla on the river and the HIT litter event. Henley in Bloom also works with schools, last year celebrating sustainability and this year celebrating hedgehogs, as well as providing a fund for local schools to apply to for their own projects. Projects for 2018 include a George Harrison memorial garden, celebration beds to celebrate 70 years of the NHS and 100 years of the RAF, and a bed at Red Lion Lawn to celebrate 200 years of Leander Club.