

Report from Henley in Transition for 2018-19

Henley in Transition appears to have had a quieter year in 2018 with fewer meetings. However there are a multitude of things that HiT is involved in which will continue into 2019.

Involvement with Henley Town Council:

Bus Working Group. We put a lot of work into the early stages of this project. The Town Council has contracted a service with a gas powered bus from Reading buses. We will continue to campaign for a more frequent service with low emission buses.

Transport Strategy Group. Again with this group we put in a lot of work earlier on and now many of the proposed projects are in negotiation between HTC, SODC and OCC for funding. We continue to be involved with this group

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: We are taking an active part in the proposed revision of the Neighbourhood Plan. Particularly on Transport, sustainability, infrastructure and air pollution. We have also been asked to look at a Green Living Plan as part of the work on the Neighbourhood plan .

Clean Air for Henley: This group is taking practical steps to implement projects that have come out of the Transport Strategy. They are taking the Air Quality message into primary schools, with a game and crosswords to engage the children. Running a No idling Campaign in Henley, the anecdotal view is that this is beginning to make an impact. We are now finding fewer idlers. Monitoring pollution, both particulates where we are pressing SODC through the town council, for further action and Nitrogen Dioxide where Henley is still above the legal limit.

Henley Schools Environmental Science competition: We had a very successful competition in 2018, with seven schools taking part. We introduced some innovations. The competition is now held annually, as this fits better with the schools. For the prize giving instead of speeches we had a "show and tell" where each team talked to the others about their projects. We also decided to donate a fruit trees to each team taking part, because of the high standard of entries.

South Oxfordshire Sustainability: HiT representatives are taking an active role in this organisation. It gives us a chance to share ideas with other like minded organisations in South Oxfordshire. It is also a forum where we can meet with councillors that are interested in sustainability and the environment and most importantly it provides a collective group for lobbying the District Council

Henley Wildlife Group: HWG is now coming under the umbrella of HIT as the nature conservation arm. We will administer the group and this frees up Sally Rankin to run the Working Parties in cooperation with Ilona, new Conservation Officer at HTC.

Tilebarn Wood: Trees in the Town 'forest' / food wood are growing well. Only a few losses. Ilona will also be helping with management. We will be organising a Working Party for early spring.

Allotments Association and Henley in Bloom: We continue to collaborate with both groups on activities such as the Seed Swap and Plant Sale & Swap.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL): International Campaign for a Carbon Fee & Dividend Policy. In 2018 the group was re-invigorated and took part in CCL UK campaigns as well as meeting with our MP John Howell. Carbon Fee & Dividend is particularly relevant with Brexit looming and possibly a new Carbon policy. We need more volunteers to lobby effectively!

Julia's Plastic Reduction Campaign ; Over 20 cafes and restaurants now subscribe to the Henley Refill Campaign. In July talked to Rupert House about the campaign and importance of going disposable plastic free. The Summer River and Rowing Museum exhibition on A War on Plastics -

was a success. Working with the Henley Festival to help them become disposable plastic free for the next festival

Solar Panels & Energy Audits for Businesses: The Low Carbon Hub are offering free energy audits for SMEs in Oxfordshire. A terrific offer! There are then further grants towards the energy efficiency measures that come out of the audit. This has been done successfully at the Christ Church centre. Katrina Judge has also been working with Reading Community Energy to put solar panels on the roofs of businesses and other organisations. A real win-win. This saves money for the organisation concerned whilst also generating funds for sustainability projects in the town. More roofs wanted!

May Fayre

We participated in last year's May Fayre and will do so again in 2019. Ideas include planting seeds (Grow Your Own) and running a carbon footprint quiz.

2019 and Climate Emergency

HIT first heard the term 'Climate Emergency' used at a meeting in Oxford addressed by 2 local councillors from Darebin, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. They outlined the seriousness of the problems in Australia caused by global warming. In particular, heatwaves with temperatures approaching 50 degrees, record bushfires, drought - even in Winter, food production significantly affected, coral reefs dying and unique habitats destroyed.

Their response was to get their local council to declare a Climate Emergency and to evaluate the climate impact of all the council's policies and projects.

There was a Special Report issued by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change), a UN body which assesses the impact of global warming on the planet, in October last year. Their conclusion was that we have '12 years to avert catastrophic climate change'.

HIT decided that we needed to change our focus. Raising awareness about the Climate Emergency should be our main priority. We would continue with the existing projects outlined earlier and hopefully get new projects going as more people became involved.

We aim to raise awareness amongst the residents of Henley about the science behind the Climate Emergency as well as undertaking to provide information about what people can do. The actions break down into 4 areas:

- Individual
- Community
- Local Govt
- National Govt

We will do this through meetings and workshops as well as reaching out through social media.

Planned Community Projects:

Young Climate Warriors www.youngclimatewarriors.org Already launched. Aimed at school years 4 to 8. Providing ideas for actions to tackle climate change that young people can do with their parents

Repair Cafe
Henley Car Club
Car Share Scheme
Solar Panels to Business / Community Roofs
Local 'Green' Directory

Dave Mc Ewen
Chair, HIT

Patrick Fleming
Treasurer, HIT