

Clean Air for Henley (Henley in Transition) Report to Henley Town Meeting

4th April 2019

Clean Air for Henley was formed as part of Henley in Transition in 2016 by a group of about a dozen local voluntary residents who are passionate about improving the air in Henley. Without them these activities would not be possible.

Activities over the last year include:

Clean Air for Henley

Particulate Monitoring. We have continued to take measurements of the damaging small carbon particulates from mostly diesel vehicles at a lot of places round the town centre. The results provide a major cause for concern especially for childrens' health as they breathe at the height of many exhausts. This has encouraged the Town Council to look at proposals for more formal monitoring and hopefully Henley will be established as the pilot site for SODC's first project.

No Idling Campaign -:

Primary Schools; We have in the past year visited all 6 Primary Schools in Henley. The day involves a talk to the whole school assembly, a game of snakes and ladders that can be played in the playground and a set of crosswords about Air Quality. It is very sad to see the high number of children now requiring inhalers as they suffer from this very damaging environment. After school we meet with parents involved in the school run and parking outside school ('Don't be an idle parent'). They are passed leaflets and car stickers. Behaviour change however does always happen overnight. We will be encouraging them to take part in Walk to School week in May.

Public Transport; We now have a magnificent new Town Bus running on Hydrogen gas rather than diesel. Having also contacted the major bus companies there is a noticeable difference as drivers are now often switching the engines off when in the town centre. Crew Clothing were the first to spot the difference. Taxi drivers are work in progress but the first successes are emerging.

Public Awareness; leaflets, stickers for rear windows of cars when we patrol Kings Road and Greys Road car park Also showing are larger notices in Shop Windows to make sure we all notice. Shops think better air will help bring more shoppers into town. See our signs in shop windows!

We are also pleased to be influencing the Henley Town Council's Transport Strategy with input being given on Trees and Greening for the Town Centre, for the introduction of a 20 mph zone and a restriction on HGVs in the near future. These are only the first steps in achieving the Air Quality standards that the Town has failed to meet for about 15 years now but are extremely encouraged that these initiatives are being implemented. I dream of lots of Electric Vehicle Charge points in Henley and even higher car park charges for diesel vehicles.

David Dickie
Clean Air for Henley