

Town & Community Report to the Annual Town meeting 2019

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)

Townlands Steering Group - Cllr. Ian Reissmann (Chairman)

Ad hoc working groups

Bus group

Waste group

The committee has responsibility for:

Annual licences

Moorings

Street Furniture

Street Cleaning

Events

CCTV/Police

Tourism

HTC owned buildings & assets

Car parks

Twinning

Markets

Festivals

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

Achievements

Henley Bus

The bus working group has seen the successful launch of our environmentally friendly Henley bus. The service has been very popular and just this month the Saturday service was launched. Thank you to Cllr. Stefan Gawrysiak - Chairman of the bus group for bringing this to fruition.

Waste

The waste group successfully addressed the issues with commercial and domestic waste blighting our streets. Time slots were introduced for putting out commercial waste, liaising with retailers and their respective refuse collectors. Domestic waste is monitored to prevent fly tipping and communication has improved, with clarity on collection days and times.

Townlands hospital

The hospital has been successful. The parking was less so, but thankfully this has now been resolved and those attending the hospital may park with confidence.

Street cleaning

We have agreed a contract for street cleaning. We will have staged cleans throughout the year to keep our streets in and around the town centre looking their best. Thank you to all the shop keepers who have contributed by keeping the shopfronts and pavements clean.

Sound, vision & light system

A new system has been installed in the town hall to improve the acoustics and lighting. This will encourage bookings for conferences and concerts.

Festivals

Henley is becoming known for its festivals. We are delighted that a food festival will launch on June 15th this year. The May Fayre has proved very popular and returns on May 6th.

Red Lion Lawn

This has been refurbished, with essential maintenance carried out. Thank you to our parks staff.

Library & Information kiosks

The phone box on the corner of Belle Vue Road and St. Andrews Road has been transformed into a library.

The phone box at Northfield End will shortly be completed and will be a tourist information hub.

Ongoing projects

Street Signage

We are looking at signage throughout the town. Losing some signage 'clutter' and improving directional signage. We will be incorporating 'walking times' to try and encourage walking into the town.

Markets

We have had a new market in the town which has proved very popular - 'Duck Ponds' Artisan market. We are in addition looking at 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 complement the shops in the town rather than competing with them.

Market Place Mews

The new development 'Gardiner Place' is progressing. There will be necessary changes to the Kings Road Car Park. These were instigated on the 25th March to allow works on site. The northern entrance is the only point of entry during construction until mid-April 2020; making the car park driving route one way. The exit onto Bell street however will not be affected.

Refill

Encouraging refill of water containers. Cafes, restaurants in the town participate in offering free water refills. Looking to install drinking fountains.

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 Cllr. Sarah Miller, Vice Chairman & Chair of Events,
Janet Wheeler - 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. Lorraine Hillier
Chairman of Town & Community.**