

Henley in Transition Report to Henley Town Meeting 10th April 2014

Henley in Transition was formed in 2009 by a group of about a dozen local residents. It now has approx 100 corresponding members. No subscription.

We seek opportunities for the community to collaborate in finding ways to move to a more sustainable local economy and to build resilience against shortages of key resources. Our eventual aim is to produce an Energy Descent Action Plan to point the way to Henley becoming a sustainable community, and in particular to becoming self sufficient in its energy use.

HiT is registered as an official transition town - see data.gov.uk/ideas/list-transition-towns

In the last five years, we have :

- 1 carried out an infra red survey of just over 10% of homes in Henley to raise awareness of the extent of, and reasons for, heat loss in the town's housing stock,
2. collected nearly five years' worth of data on the monthly domestic energy consumption of householders in Henley,
3. planted over 300 trees to create Tilebarn Wood, a site leased to us by Henley Town Council, as a start to our Henley New Forest, a long term community woodland project,
4. started planting trees, hedges and wild flowers through the town in collaboration with Henley in Bloom, the Henley Wildlife Group and Henley Town Council,
5. working with Gainsborough residents and our partners on a tree planting programme for the Gainsborough Estate,
6. facilitated a community project to develop, test and install locally manufactured and low cost solar thermal panels,
7. started various educational initiatives in the town's schools,
8. The Health and Wellbeing Group provide complimentary treatments at The Kings Arms Barn every Monday between 12 – 2.00pm. A healing glade has been planted in Mill Meadows.
9. developed a working relationship with the University of Reading's School of Construction Management and Engineering. We are in our third year of working with post graduate students on the Renewable Energy MSc course via their dissertations on subjects related to Henley in Transition's agenda,
10. facilitated the installation by Henley Town Council of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of three buildings which it owns – The 60+ Club, 357 Reading Road (Women's Gym) and 355 Reading Road (Hockey Club) - figures for the first full year (to Oct 2013) are that the return on investment is about 12% and tenants' savings on electricity consumption about 30%.
11. investigated issues affecting the traffic in, through and around Henley using online and face-to-face surveys and presented a report with recommendations in 5 key areas, and
12. established that, excepting for HGVs accessing locations in Henley, HGVs transiting Henley can be banned from so doing by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the traffic authority for Henley, for one or more of seven reasons, including **air quality**. HGVs account for 3% of Henley's traffic but no less than 20% of Henley's traffic pollution. Henley Town Council has passed a resolution to request OCC to enact a Weight Restriction Traffic Regulation Order for Henley.

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