

**Present:**

Chairman, Councillor S Gawrysiak – Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Henley Town Council (HTC)  
Vice Chairman, Councillor Ken Arlett -HTC  
Councillor Sara Abey - HTC  
Councillor Will Hamilton - HTC  
Councillor Miss L M Hillier – South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and HTC  
Councillor Laurence Plant – HTC  
Councillor Ian Reissmann - HTC  
Councillor Jane Smewing - HTC  
Councillor K George – Harpsden Parish Council  
Mr P Fleming, Henley in Transition  
Mr D McEwen, Henley in Transition  
Mr Ian Clark

**In Attendance:**

Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk  
Cath Adams – Planning and Project Manager  
Kirsty Waterman – Planning and Transport Administrator  
1 member of the press  
3 members of public

**1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY GROUP FOR THE ENSUING LOCAL GOVERNMENT YEAR**

The Chair of Planning Committee called for nominations for the election of a Chairman for the year 2018-2019.

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak was nominated and seconded to be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2018-2019 period.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

**that Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak be elected Chairman of the Transport Strategy Committee for the remainder of the municipal year and that this be RATIFIED at Full Council.**

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak took the Chair.

2. **TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY GROUP FOR THE ENSUING LOCAL GOVERNMENT YEAR**

The Chair of Transport Strategy Group called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman for the remainder of the 2018-2019 period.

Councillor Ken Arlett was nominated and seconded to be elected Vice Chairman for 2018-2019.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND**:

**that Councillor Ken Arlett be elected Vice Chairman of the Transport Strategy Committee for the remainder of the municipal year and this to be RATIFIED at Full Council.**

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE, CODE OF CONDUCT AND GDPR**

The Terms of Reference were approved at Planning Committee on 26 June 2018. There will be an amendment to increase the number of co-opted members of the community to 8. Non-Councillor members of the Committee were requested to confirm their acceptance of the Code of Conduct in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, Section 27. All members of the group who are not Henley Town Council members were asked to sign a GDPR form and hand back to Officers.

4. **INTRODUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR GAWRYSIAK**

The Committee **RECEIVED** Councillor Gawrysiak's statement as presented in the agenda. Councillor Kester George asked about the Greys Road crossing which is currently being designed by OCC officers. Harpsden is finding it challenging to move Gillotts Lane improvements on.

The link between this Transport Strategy Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Transport Project Group was clarified. The Chair confirmed there was a cross over but the two groups liaise together ensuring work is not duplicated and are aligned. Each group has representatives from both. The Transport Strategy Group creates actions and projects to consider and deliver, whereas the Neighbourhood Plan Transport Project Group is creating the overview and vision for Henley (and Harpsden as the neighbouring Parish and shared Neighbourhood Plan area) in relation to expanding housing numbers. It was confirmed that Traffic Matters as a separate item is on alternate Planning Agendas and offers the public the chance to raise new issues relating to traffic and road issues within Henley.

5. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Wright (Harpsden Parish Council), Councillor John Halsall (Remenham Parish Council), Councillor Darrel Poulos – (Remenham Parish Council) and David Dickie (Henley in Transition)

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Palmer of Henley raised two questions:

- i) Concern over the proposed 7.5 tonne HGV restrictions for Henley. Would it create a scenario where businesses would use smaller delivery lorries, more frequently?
- ii) The highways area around Friar Park Stables is challenging and he has concerns that there is an accident waiting to happen there between fast traffic and vehicles trying to pull out of the stables. He proposed speed cameras but understands the associated expense. The Chair will request OCC officers visit the specific area and assess the situation.

## 8. **MINUTES**

The Minutes were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting of the Transport Strategy Group on 5 March 2018 with one amendment to change the year on page 1 from 2017 to 2018.

## 9. **LIMIT ON 7.5 TONNE HGVs IN HENLEY AND BURFORD**

The Burford 7.5 tonne HGV limit pilot has been agreed which enables the proposed Henley scheme to be considered.

The Chair answered Mr Palmer's concern on HGVs ability to continue delivering to Henley businesses after restrictions are implemented. Eligible HGVs would continue to be allowed to travel through Henley to deliver to agreed businesses. A process would be used to ensure this was monitored for example a number plate recognition system or something similar would be necessary to monitor and assist with enforcement purposes.

Councillor Reissmann is to provide appropriate policy wording on town centre HGV weight restrictions based on environmental grounds.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND**:

**to formally request that OCC officers design and cost a 7.5T limit for Henley-on-Thames.**

## 10. **REDESIGN OF TRAFFIC FLOWS, REMOVAL OF STREET FURNITURE, SHARED SPACES**

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND**:

**commissioning a study to explore all options in relation to reducing traffic flow, removal of street furniture and creating shared spaces for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.**

The existing working group consisting of Councillor John Halsall, Dave McEwen and Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak are to draw up a framework document to present to consultants.

It is desirable to obtain a minimum of 3 quotes including from Peter Brett Associates and Hamilton Baillie Associates. OCC will be approached for funding.

## **11. TREES and GREENING**

Planters for the town centre were **CONSIDERED**.

Environmental and aesthetic benefits of planters were discussed. Plants would be carefully chosen to securely trap particles in environmentally beneficial ways. Aesthetics of planters are thought to encourage slowing down of traffic as they create a calm, slower, lane like feel in the area.

It was discussed and acknowledged that this is a stand alone project which can occur prior to and alongside other larger projects requiring further extensive studies and findings.

Cost implications of the planters were discussed.

The Chair will circulate data from the survey of 100 people capturing their thoughts on the planters.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to:

- i) **obtain further quotes for 17 planters and their maintenance, and tender for the project.**
- ii) **Use CIL money to pay for such planters. SODC will not fund.**
- iii) **Explore the option of utilizing Parks Dept's skills in producing plants and / or maintaining the plants.**
- iv) **Defer discussing trees to the next meeting.**

## **12. DOUBLE DECKING CAR PARKS**

A request to SODC to re-design Kings Road and Greys Road car parks increasing parking spaces was **CONSIDERED** and **DISCUSSED**.

Discussion points in favour:

- i) More parking spaces would reduce people circling looking for a space
- ii) This would in turn reduce pollution and congestion
- iii) And attract more people into town – better for shops, businesses and vibrancy in town
- iv) Out of town people will need parking spaces and cannot walk or cycle in – this encourages increased footfall

Discussion points against:

- i) More parking would provide a short term solution which would likely be to capacity again in a few years with the increased number of houses being built and encouraging more people to come to town.
- ii) It doesn't address or support a less cars/pollution/congestion in town policy.
- iii) encourages more vehicles to travel to town increasing pollution and congestion
- iv) reducing travel in town should specifically be encouraged for local people travelling 2 miles or less

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to:

ask SODC to design and cost plans for a double deck car park for Greys or Kings Road car parks with reference to and in conjunction with:

- i) exploring a subterranean option,
- ii) moving the road through the Greys Road car park to one side and the car parking to the other side to reduce and manage the circling of cars,
- iii) smart parking for both car parks indicating where spaces are, also with a view to managing circling when looking for a space.

### **13. SODC FUND FOR AIR QUALITY MEASURES**

A report on an Electric Vehicle study will be published in January 2019. This agenda item is deferred until this has occurred and more is known about how locals can proceed with designing the methodology.

### **14. UPDATE ON NO IDLING CAMPAIGN**

The committee **RECEIVED** an update on the Henley in Transition No Idling campaign. It has been well received in schools and from campaigners within the Henley car parks.

The campaign would like to request £1,000 plus from SODC funds for further work.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to:

**Request SODC funding to the sum of £1,000 plus for the idling campaign.**

The Chair thanked Henley in Transition, David Dickie who was not in attendance at this meeting and all those involved in the campaign for their work and time on this.

### **15. CYCLEWAYS**

The implementation of cycleways with appropriate signage and publicity were **CONSIDERED**.

Route 1. Tesco to Northfield End via Trinity.

Route 2. Tesco to Northfield End via the station.

Sustrans submitted research into Henley cycleways in 2008 suggesting several routes taking into account among other things, the busy roads in Henley and creating continuous routes. The report will be circulated.

*19:33 – Councillor Abey left the meeting*

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to:

**design and recommend Henley on Thames cycle routes with signage, routes within Henley and the possibility of Henley to Shiplake taking into account all the constraints and possibilities that Henley offers.**

## 16. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Further items were **DISCUSSED**:

Car free day: Henley: Options for a car free day in Henley were discussed. Which day of the week would work best and whether the Committee should pursue either idea of encouraging a "use your car less day" or a complete "car free day in Henley Town Centre".

Committee members were invited to come up with other ideas and initiatives for improving transport, associated pollution, road congestion and green living in Henley. The committee were also invited to come back to committee if they wish to pursue a car free day further.

Health walks: Signs for walking routes with suggested timings and or distance from the Town Centre was thought to be a good idea. e.g. Distance from St Andrews Road to the Town centre to encourage walking. To be discussed at a further Committee meeting.

## 17. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

The committee **NOTED** a report by Andrew Gilligan called Running out of Road: A study based on Oxford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes Shared Highways Usage.

## 18. FURTHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The committee **RECEIVED** further questions from members of the public relating to items discussed during the meeting:

- i) Geoff Luckett stated he found the discussed topics fascinating but is concerned that every item mentions signage which would lead to cluttering the streets. With reference to car parks he thought as an older population town, residents need more parking spaces as they are likely to want to drive to town rather than have the ability to walk or cycle in and then have to carry their shopping home. People like the convenience of using their car.

The Chair responded that a combined solution would clearly be required to assist all demographics and scenarios.

- ii) Mr Palmer wondered why the Bowls Club on the Fairmile could not have been bought and used as on the edge of town parking. He was informed that Henley Town Council put a bid in for the land for this purpose but was outbid.
- iii) Jackie Walker asked if Bix and Assendon Parish Councils could be invited to attend the meetings as Remenham and Harpsden Parish Councils are represented on the committee.

This was thought a good idea and they will be invited to subsequent meetings.

A meeting will be called in January when further information should be available.

The meeting closed at 20.05

KW/CA

28 November 2018