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Sent: 05 April 2017 15:59

To: Enquiries <enquiries@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Town & Community report to Annual Town Meeting 6 April

Town & Community report to Annual Town Meeting 6 April 2017

The Town and Community (T&C) Committee covers all aspects of the interface between the Town Council and the Community, Police, District Council and County Council. There are a number of sub-Committees and working groups covering specific aspects of Town Council business.

The Traffic Advisory Committee looks at current highways issues such as yellow lines, pedestrian crossings, 20mph, residents parking zones, air quality, HGVs and is attended by the Police, County and District Councils. Trying to find the most appropriate location for a pedestrian crossing on Greys Road, near to the convenience store, is proving to be a challenge. The Committee is pursuing a Town Council wish to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety on Gravel Hill, although the recent informal consultation had a mixed reception.

The Transport Strategy Group is looking at the future of traffic throughout the Town and how the infrastructure can be developed to cope with this. This includes improving the air quality, introducing green walls/more trees, ensuring that the only HGVs who come through Henley are those who are doing business in Henley and the immediately surrounding area, additional river crossing near Reading, additional cycling routes and pavements/footpaths and 20mph zone throughout the Town. Nothing has yet been ruled in or ruled out as we move towards deliverable plans in the short, medium and long term.

The Bus Working Group is looking at how to save the much valued Town services, currently operated by Whites Coaches. Whilst the Town Council is subsidising the services, we are working with our consultant and the operator to find ways of increasing the number of passengers so that the services can run commercially, without the need for local government financial support

T&C looks after our permanent moorings on River Terrace and the temporary moorings at Red Lion Lawn.

The Christmas decorations/evenings & May Fair are wonderful opportunities to show the Town to best advantage and are something we should all be proud of. We live in a glorious riverside town and we promote every opportunity to give residents and visitors the best experience possible. We encourage good quality markets to come here and support the whole range of festivals and events in the Town. We have recruited a Town Manager who is mapping out a programme of activities, liaising closely with the Business Partnership, shops & businesses, festival & event organisers etc as the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. True partnership working.

The Town Council still puts funding to the Police for a PCSO in Henley. A new initiative, soon to be rolled out, are Street Angels who will provide pastoral help in the evenings at weekends.

Street cleanliness is vital to the way our town looks and is presented to residents and visitors. The deep clean is currently in progress. We are in dialogue with the District Council about making sure bins are regularly emptied and are not overflowing. We are also liaising with the commercial waste collectors and shops to ensure that any trade waste is neatly stored for as short a time as possible before collection.

It has been a privilege to Chair this Committee for the last year. I take this opportunity to thank both my fellow Committee members (and the substitutes during the year) and the Town Council Officers for their hard work, helping to drive the work load forward.

David Nimmo Smith