

District Councillors Report for HTC Full Council 23rd March 2021

Councillor Stefan J Gawrysiak

Car parks and the Henley Standard

There was a letter from Paul Harrison of Sonning Common in the Henley Standard which contained a number of inaccuracies.

Car parks Charges

I have for more than 4 years lobbied and emailed for Henley to be fairly treated regarding car park charges. Other town in South Oxfordshire have 1hr free in their car parks; indeed one car park in Wallingford has 2 hr free. I always thought that it was unfair that Henley was treated differently. Henley town council has always advocated equitable treatment and under the previous conservative controlled SODC administration this was refused. This is a scheme that is supported by retailers of Henley. We have had many meeting under the leadership of Cllr Sarah Miller with the retail group and they unanimously wanted this fir change for Henley. Because of Cllr Hinton's, Cllr Arlett's and my advocacy on behalf of Henley the current SODC administration have understood the fairness argument and now all car parks will be treated the same with a free hour in all car parks. This will boost footfall to the Henley high street once covid restrictions allow.

Toilets

Again Paul Harrison is incorrect. The funding for the toilets comes from S106 and CIL money and not from car parking fees. Also Cllr Hinton, Cllr Arlett and meetings with SODC officials regarding the design of the toilets and specifically asked for Gender specific toilets. He might want to have a chat with Cllr Hinton about this. He specifically stated that Cllr Arlett and I "demanded" "politically correct non gender toilets. He really should read the Henley Standard article for accuracy. He should praise us for our persistence in getting these toilets refurbished. I prefer to speak positively about Henley to talk up our town. It is great news that these toilets are being down. I will also positively thank Geoff Luckett of the Henley Society who with Cllr Arlett, Cllr Hinton and I positively work for the town to bring about improvements for our lovely town, this toilet refurbishment is just one of many.

Gillott's School and leisure Centre Now Secure

Gillott's now is more secure due to new fencing put up by SODC.



Grants

I have given my SODC £5,000 grant money to the following organisations Nomad for Developing a Support Group for Victims of Domestic Abuse in Henley, with appropriate training for counselling, Kenton Theatre for water damage repairs, Chiltern Children's centre for a specialist sofa, Riverside Counselling and Sacred Heart preschool for outdoor equipment. I am sure that you will agree that these are worthy recipients of my grant funding. I always remember that this is Tax payer's money and must be spent wisely and prudently.

Particulates

The WHO guideline on PM2.5 is $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which they state could reduce deaths by 15%. PM 2.5 at the bottom of Greys Road is above this limit as you can see from the graph below. 20 days in the month the readings are ABOVE this WHO figure of 10. This adds weight to the argument for a 7.5T environmental weight limit for HGV's.

NOX even in Covid times is High with only 3 days out of 30 below the 40 limit. Cause for concern.

Ref: https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/site/latest?site_id=VS006

