

Oxfordshire County Councillor Report by Stefan Gawrysiak

County Councillor

23rd March 2021

County Councillor 2017-2021

In May 2017 I was elected as County Councillor for Henley on Thames. On May 6th there will be new county elections and I am standing as your Oxfordshire County councillor. I live in Henley and have long associations with many organisations in Henley, from the Henley Show, Cricket Club, Rotary, Citizens Advice, AFC Henley, The Kenton Theatre and many more. I am proud to represent Henley and because I live in Henley I know and hear about the issues relevant to the residents of Henley. Because I am Independent of national party groups I work for, vote for and decide the issues that are relevant to Henley and its residents. I am not tied to any group that dictates to me how to vote or decide. I am Independent.

Henley is a wonderful community, comprising 200+ community groups, it is a great place to work, rest and play. I am dedicated to making Henley a great place to live. We are a community which is why I as part of a team, support the Over 60 Club in the Greys Rd car park, Kellie, Colin and I spearheaded the Skate park for young people and all ages from our community. We saved the Bus twice and now have TK Travel a wonderful family-based company delivering a fantastic local bus service for our residents. This is a vital service used by people to get around the town, come down for shopping in the shops and market, and most importantly providing journeys to the Town lands Hospital and Bell and Hart Surgeries.

We work **as a team in Henley** with many community organisations to deliver the quality of life that we all want.

Covid

On the official figures from OCC South Oxfordshire rate is standing at 45 per 100,000. An improving situation but one when we all have a responsibility to adhere to the current government advice. There are still hospital wards full of covid patients so please stick to the rules. I was talking to a friend who lives in Henley. This person is a fit person who regularly plays tennis and swims in the River Thames and is suffering from long covid. This is a fit person who can barely walk 20m without having to stop and catch his breath. He is getting better BUT it takes a long time. So please continue to be safe.

Our wonderful Bell, Hart and Nettlebed surgeries continue to do a magnificent job in administering the vaccines for Henley and Nettlebed. We have to bear in mind that 2nd Doses of the vaccines are about to start soon as well as the completion of the 1st doses. Louise (Bell) and Michelle (Hart) are doing a great job administratively informing patients of appointments for vaccinations. This week they have secured a

further 1200 vaccine doses which is a tall ask to get these jobs into people's arms. BUT they are magnificent and richly deserve our praise and thanks. YES, I will praise the 50+ volunteers who look after the car parking, helps patients safely into the surgeries so that the health practitioners can do their job. THANKS TO YOU ALL.



Crossings

Greys Road Crossing delivered.

The results of the Gravel Hill consultation were:

- Gravel Hill – 103 in support and 4 objections with 2 concerns on location.
- Marlow Road – 121 in Support and 3 objections.

So, a total of 224 in favour of these crossings to make our roads safer places.

We wait for the OCC officers report and the decision by Yvonne Constance cabinet member for the Environment.

Education

Since I retired from Gillott's School after 30 years of teaching I have kept in close touch. It is good to see that the education of students has started and I will praise the dedication of head teacher Catharine Darnton and all the staff of the schools for their supportive work with all students. During 2019/20 we secured extra funding from the Government for education spending which will help. Great credit goes to Cllr Michelle Thomas for organising Henley' Education March. Recently I helped Catharine with the removal of travellers from the leisure centre site and the erection by SODC of more secure fencing to prevent this happening in the future.

Roads and Potholes

When I was elected Henley's County Councillor in 2017, I cycled every road in Henley to detail all the major defects with Henley roads. After years of neglect they were in a sorry state. Then I sat down with OCC officers to formulate a plan.

In the years 2013-2017 £253,018 was spent on Henley's roads.

During my tenure 2017-2021 £923,500 has been spent on Henley's roads which includes 27 major schemes and 3000 repairs to potholes and minor defects, which includes potholes, kerb stones, drains / drain covers and paths. This is almost £1million pounds spent in Henley.

This does not include the £400,000 resurfacing of New Street and Bell Street to the Marlow roundabout and Hop Gardens complete resurface, Greys Hill which is in the future programme for 21/22.



Hop Gardens Dragon patching, Kings Rd, Harpsden Rd ,Green Lane, Top St Andrews, Wootton Manor, Gravel Hill the dip, Mill Lane Drainage, Watermans Rd Drainage, Leaver Rd Entrance, Cul de Sac at Bottom of Deanfield Road, Bottom of Mill Lane drainage, Nicholas Road , Leaver, Adwell, Clarence, Kings Close, York and Mount View, Elizabeth Rd and Top Valley Rd, Thames Side, Peppard Bridleway, Church Street, St Andrews, Gravel Hill, and Gravett Close Drainage.

ALL DONE!!

Plus...

Plus, the Thameside path completed, Greys Rd Crossing completed and Gravel Hill and Swiss farm brought to Consultation.

These have all been brought about by planning, persistence and conversations with OCC Officers. My thanks go to Lee, Jon, Bob, Daniel and Mark for their fantastic work.

