



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley-on-Thames

Executive Committee Briefing – April 2023

Vol 34

The Committee were delighted with the volume of the response to our [Premier Inn Survey](#), and with the amount and quality of comments that accompanied the voting. Your valuable contributions will inform the presentation that Julian Brookes, our Vice Chairman, is putting together for the Planning Inspectorate prior to the hearing on May 10th. All comments must be with the Planning Inspectorate by April 5th. [Individuals can comment](#) by visiting the Planning Inspectorate website, clicking on 'search for an appeal' and entering ref 3313757, and you are encouraged to do so.

For information, the voting was as follows. For the hotel to be built as proposed by Premier Inn 3.6%, for an hotel but with modifications to the plans to better suit Henley 31.8%, for no hotel at all 64.6%. We had votes from 36.67 % of our Membership.

Julian's full presentation to the Inspectorate will appear on our website under 'Planning' in due course.

We still have places left on [the coach for our trip to the museum at RAF Hendon](#) on Tuesday 18th April. Tickets are £29.50 from thehenleysociety@btinternet.com, or by telephone 07860 145982.

Our AGM was held on March 30th and it was good to see 59 members in attendance against 37 in 2022. Perhaps a Thursday night suits people better than a Friday. Thank you to those who attended.

Highlights – The Baroness Buscombe of Goring was elected as President replacing HRH The Duke of Kent who, after 29 years in office has chosen to stand down. Our Executive Committee Member David Whitehead has chosen to stand down too, but the remaining existing Committee were all re-elected en bloc. Our Treasurer Sandra Moon reported on a successful financial year which showed a surplus, with an improved level of year end finance. The draft Minutes of the meeting will be published on our website shortly.

In accordance with the Constitution the new Committee met on Monday evening and elected a Chairman – Geoff Lockett, a Vice-Chairman - Julian Brookes and a Membership Secretary Veronica Carlton.

To celebrate the King's Coronation 6th May 2023, there will be a large screen on the market square in Henley showing the coverage. Beforehand there will be a showing of local photographs from the last coronation in 1953.

Do you have some photographs from a street party or the decorations around town? Always great hearing stories even if there are no photos as well. Henley Scan will scan the photo for you for free and it will be part of a slide show.

For further information please pop into the shop or contact Eva at Henley Scan, 73 Reading Road, Henley on Thames, RG9 1AX eva@henleyscan.co.uk 01491 579103

There's also a £50 voucher for the 'best' photo judged by Eva and Richard Pinches from Richard Pinches Photography.

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Our AGM Speaker was Alison Foster, Project Director of Royal Berkshire Hospital, who informed Members about the possible changes taking place at the hospital, and the decisions that have to be made as to whether a refurbishment of existing properties will be undertaken, or a brand new hospital on a greenfield site will be built. Alison fielded many of our members questions, but for those who didn't get an opportunity to pose a one and would like to, she and her team are available to answer if you email yours in via the RBH website.

We still have **outstanding issues with public bodies** and we await answers from the EA on the Friday Street Slipway and the Marsh Head footbridge, from Oxfordshire County Council re the unfortunate condition of the Reading Road (A4155) surface and the Bridge graffiti, and from SODC on the unresolved matter of the tarmacked pavement on the Marlow side of the bridge. We will further update Members when (if !) answers are received. Following our recent meeting with the Mayor, Cllr Michelle Thomas, and Town Centre Manager, Paul Carey, we are monitoring the cleanliness of the town's streets and pavements, and we always welcome Members comments on this matter. We are also in consultation with NHS Property Services regarding the upkeep of the historic Pest House on the Townlands site, and the owners of the Imperial Hotel re their current plans for the property.



At the AGM we mentioned one outstanding project – **the Solar Compactor Bin trial**- which the Society is funding. I am pleased to report that the two bins are in place now-at Singers Park and the top shops in Greys Road. Our offer to pay was made two years ago so this has been a long road. The bins compress the rubbish put in by solar power and they send a message back to base indicating when they need emptying which should deliver savings in terms of manpower, truck usage and pollution and congestion reduction. The trial will last from April to September therefore encompassing the Regatta and tourist season. (Photo -the solar compactor bin at the Top Shops).

Membership – since we last reported we have welcomed the following to Membership- Mr & Mrs Bill Alexander, James Green, Mrs Grainne McGrath, Tina Dalzel, Anne Fitton, Joan Bland, Michael Porter and Gill Dodds.

Date for your diary

The 2024 AGM is scheduled for Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7pm

.....until next month

Valerie Alasia, Julian Brookes, Veronica Carlton, Dr Jeny Copeland, Karen Grieve,

Geoff Luckett, Catherine Notaras, Sandra Moon and Nora Scanlon

The Executive Committee