



HENLEY RESIDENTS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Henley Residents Group: www.hrg.org.uk

Email: info@hrg.org.uk

Townlands – Rebuild to start in 2010 ?

TSG hope for Award of Contract later this year

The advertisement in the European Journal for expressions of interests in redeveloping Townlands closed on March 3rd. The result is an **excellent response from over 30 potential bidders**. These responses are now being examined by the Townlands Procurement Subgroup.

This shows how far we have come in the last few years. We initially faced imminent closure of Townlands:- today, we've kept Townlands open and by 2012 we hope to have a modern new health centre catering for everyone living in and around Henley.

The initial aim is to reduce the number of bids to about 4-6 before entering into detailed discussions to provide the existing services in a redeveloped Townlands. Bidders have been given a fairly open brief. The critical part is that ***all the existing services have to be retained***. This is the major achievement of the struggles over many years.



Townlands: Rebuild starts in 2010 ?

We've achieved this by **acting together** as a community to make our voice heard and we've got our message across that the services at Townlands are desperately needed. We needed to communicate the strength of feeling to the PCT. Over the last six years the Townlands Steering Group have been doing just that.

The TSG is a non political group, but it was HRG who **recognised the threat** and the need for a group to act as a channel for the strong feelings about the possibility of a Townlands closure. So in 2003 it was **HRG's vision that caused the TSG to be established**. Without that, we would not be where we are today.

Nothing is guaranteed of course, so the TSG is committed to continue its work by doing everything it can to make sure nothing goes wrong between now and the day the new Townlands opens its doors.

Seen But Not Heard ?

HRG Cllrs Continue Supporting Young People

Because HRG has a majority on the Town Council it has been able to support many projects for young people. Makins, Mill Meadows and Freemans playgrounds. (which was officially opened last month) have all seen big improvements in recent years.

Funding, facilities and loans from the HRG led Town Council have also enabled many of our sports clubs to improve their offering to young people. This has included Eyot canoe centre, rowing, cricket, football, rugby and tennis.

HRG set up the Henley Youth Council a few years ago. Each school and youth association

elects its own councillors and they meet 4 – 5 times a year.

HRG members are also supporting the largest ever consultation and market research in the Transforming Henley for Young People (TH4YP) Project led by the Henley Youth Centre.

Thankfully the old Victorian attitude that children should be seen but not heard has now become very outdated. HRG has been listening and continues to recognise the needs of our young people. It is all too easy to generalise about teenagers – usually a case of the few getting a bad name for many.

HRG will continue to support young residents - after all, they are our town's future.

HRG's Liz Hodgkin to be next Mayor

Life gets even busier for Liz

11th May 2009 will be an important date in the very crowded diary of HRG Cllr Liz Hodgkin. On that Monday, Liz will be officially elected by her fellow councillors to become Mayor of Henley-on-Thames.

Is she looking forward to the big day? "You bet I am" says Liz, "It is of course a great honour to be nominated for Mayor. When you look at those boards in the Town you realise the tradition and history associated with the job, and now my name will be added to the long list."

How will Liz fit in her new duties as Henley's First Citizen with her busy family and working life? Before Liz was elected to the Town Council in 2003, she was already a well known "Henley lass" through her work as Administrator of the Youth Centre, Secretary at the Eyot Centre, school governor and member of church choirs. Liz made an immediate impact on Henley Town Council by taking on many duties. Her special interests revolved around better facilities for our young people and improving the look of the town, both of which have resulted in top awards for Henley over the past six years.

Liz has lived in Henley since 1959 when her parents, two brothers and two sisters moved to the town. She attended Trinity and Gillotts Schools and in 1972 married Richard at Trinity

Church. Liz and Richard have brought up their four children, who have now flown the family nest. This past year they became the very proud grandparents of two new members of the Hodgkin clan. Joining Henley Residents Group in 1999 was an important step for Liz, as she wanted to make

a difference to our town and represent a wider range of residents' interest in local government. What are her hopes (and fears!) on being the 13th HRG Mayor?

"I guess my most important job is to continue to try to boost our town by having an active programme involving all our residents

and businesses. In this difficult economic climate, especially, we all need to pull together to help Henley prosper. On a lighter note, it will be great to have my own parking place in the Market Place for the year - pity I don't get a car as well, but at least I will save on car parking tickets. However, I will obviously need some new outfits! So there is a silver lining. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for Richard and me and I am determined to do my best".

Liz takes over as Mayor from HRG member Gill Dodds "In the role of Mayor I have had a unique opportunity to meet a surprisingly large number of organisations in this relatively small community of ours", says Gill "I have been struck by the energy, talent and selflessness of Henley people. With great support from my husband Malcolm, we have had a truly marvellous year and wish Liz and Richard the same".



Mayor Elect Liz Hodgkin and husband Richard

Stop Press :

HRG Defend Gillott's Field

HRG oppose South Oxfordshire District Council's land grab to put houses on Gillott's Field. There are other sites for affordable housing.

Just like the unpopular proposals for refuse collections, HRG want SODC to think again.

Tell Us What You Think ! Three things I want HRG to do are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I [would]/[would not] like to join HRG (delete as appropriate)

Please return to

Allan Follett, 8 Chiltern Close
Ian Reissmann Flat 3, 5 River Terrace
Or send to: info@hrg.org.uk