

Highworth Town Council

Topics considered recently by the Town Council include:

Children's Centre: Mrs Urban, Head Teacher, briefed councillors that Westrop Primary School has been selected as site for a new Children's Centre for Highworth. This multi agency organisation will cater for families with young children aged from 0 to 5 years. The first plans should be available from 3rd April and it is hoped to commence work in the autumn. The plan will also offer pre-schools the opportunity to relocate to purpose-built buildings on the site. While this will be funded by the local authority, the pre-schools will remain wholly independent. Councillors agreed to discuss the proposals at its General Purpose and Finance Committee in June.

Rotary: Alan Fletcher and Peter Hinton told councillors that the North Wiltshire branch of Rotary had been renamed North Swindon branch. The club would focus on Highworth, Blunsdon and Abbey Meads. Their aim is to be directly involved in these communities. In Highworth, they aim to revive youth services in co-operation with the existing youth services/workers and to bring an alternative approach as well. Councillors gave Rotary their full backing.

Travellers camping near Blackworth roundabout: Swindon Borough Council has offered to install a mound on the verge of in the vicinity of Blackworth roundabout to Sevenfields to prevent travellers from camping there. But the Borough would expect the Town Council to meet half the cost in order to make it a priority project. The total cost would be up to £30,000 depending on the scope. Councillors heard from a Borough officer that, although the work would prevent camping in the immediate vicinity, travellers were likely to camp elsewhere with possibly more serious consequences.

High Street traffic management: The Town Council has done a survey of residents and business people in the High Street regarding their views on traffic management and parking in the High Street and Market Square. Business people tend to favour keeping it two-way, while residents tend to prefer a one-way system, with opinions fairly evenly split. The majority favour keeping parking in Market Square as it is, but would like up to one hour parking. Councillors agreed to erect signs in the Market Square allowing parking up to one hour and no return within two hours. There would be random inspections over a three-month period to identify and issue notices to abusers. The Town Council will review it after three months.

Rubbish in Northview open space: The Borough will be asked to get on with cleaning up.

April meetings (Tuesdays)

- 8th: Planning Committee at 7pm
and Leisure Committee at 7.30pm
- 15th: General Purpose & Finance Committee at 7pm
- 22nd: Full Council Meeting at 7pm.

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