

Stratford on Avon District Councillor's Monthly Report for October 2024

Mike Rice, Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Henley-in-Arden

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More parking for patients

Two more special parking bays are to be allocated in the Medical Centre car park off Prince Harry Road, Henley.

The first will be an extra patients' parking bay alongside the existing spaces for patients, while the second will be an additional disabled parking bay. This will be located next to the two disabled parking spaces already provided.

The changes are in response to complaints from patients unable to park in the Medical Centre car park due to the existing patients' parking bays and the disabled parking bays all being full, along with the rest of the car park.

As well as new road markings, the additional patient bay will have the same prominent signage as the existing patient bays.

The work will be carried out in the latter part of November after the mobile Barclays Bank facility has visited the car park on 15 November. This facility currently uses the spaces alongside the two disabled bays, one of which will become the third disabled space.

Most Henley residents are satisfied

Nearly nine out of 10 residents in the Henley and Studley area are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, but improvements could be made in terms of road and pavement repairs, levels of traffic congestion, availability of affordable decent housing, better health services and amounts of crime.

Despite these reservations, 89% of residents in the Henley and Studley area are satisfied with their local area, the highest proportion in Stratford District. This compares with just 76% in the Stratford area of the District, according to the latest residents' survey carried out by the District Council in the summer.

Overall, 83% of District residents were satisfied out of the 1,669 responses received, a response rate of 17%. The proportion of satisfied District residents

was down from 86% in 2022 and was the lowest recorded in the past 10 years. Similarly, dissatisfaction levels were the highest seen in the past decade, says the 136-page survey report.

Used to measure what people think of the area in which they live, what they think about Stratford District Council services and the way in which the District Council works, the survey asked residents to name the five most important factors that make somewhere a good place to live.

The top five were low levels of crime, mentioned by 62% of respondents, good health services mentioned by 60%, easy access to countryside on 35%, clean streets on 33%, and road and pavement repairs on 32%.

When asked to indicate the five things that most needed improving in their area, 63% of respondents mentioned road and pavement repairs, 49% the amount of traffic congestion, 32% activities for teenagers, 32% public transport and 31% levels of crime.

Residents of Henley and Studley agreed with the rest of the District in highlighting road and pavement repairs and levels of traffic congestion as their biggest bugbears.

But affordable decent housing scored higher in Henley and Studley than for the District as a whole, both in terms of its importance and in its need for improvement.

For the purposes of analysing the survey results, the District was divided into six areas: Henley/Studley, Alcester/Bidford, Stratford, Shipston, Wellesbourne/Kineton and Southam.

Nearly half – 47% – of Henley and Studley residents felt that the District Council provides value for money, which compared with only 39% of residents in the Shipston area and 44% overall. Only 39% of younger respondents in the 18-34 age group agreed with the statement.

Meet your District Councillor

Please come along between 10.00am and 12 noon on Saturday, 12th October 2024, to the Community Library, Methodist Church, 115 High Street, to meet your District Councillor, Mike Rice.

Bring your local or private issues, or simply come along to have a chat about what's going on in Henley.

