

Henley Municipal Charities

Henley Municipal Charities provide almshouse accommodation for people who are in financial housing need and live within the areas of benefit being the town boundary of Henley-on-Thames and the ecclesiastical boundaries of Rotherfield Greys and Bix. The Board of Trustees is made up of 13 Trustees together with a Clerk and a Treasurer. The Trustees are 2 ex officio being the Town Mayor and the Rector of St Mary's Henley, 3 nominative Trustees one each being appointed for a four year term by the Town Council of Henley, the Parish Councils of Bix and Rotherfield Greys, and 8 co-operative Trustees who through residence, occupation or employment or who have a specialist knowledge of the areas of benefit are appointed for a 5 year term by the Board.

The Almshouse Charity

Offers a high standard of accommodation for independent living at an affordable cost within a supportive community for those who have a need.

There are 3 locations in Henley. These are Church Avenue which has 13 almshouses, 5 for couples, (4 terraced bungalows and 1 two storey terraced house with garden attached) and 8 two storey terraced cottages for single occupancy. There is no parking for any of these. Recently the two storey terraced cottages have been extended at the back to provide a WC and a room with opening velux windows. The garden in the end double occupancy property has been created into a small garden and additional storage area.

Vicarage Road has 4 terraced two storey houses for double occupancy with front and rear gardens and no car parking. Western Close has 3 blocks of semi-detached bungalows for single/double occupancy with a front communal garden and their own patios. These have car parking.

Almshouse applicants should be resident within the areas of benefit as described above. There is no age specified but preference is given to those over 55 years of age. The residents do not pay rent and they sign a Licence to Occupy and pay a monthly maintenance contribution. The residents are responsible for the payment of their own service bills/Council Tax/telephone bills. TV licence fees are paid by the Charities for those between 60 and 75 years old. After

that the licence is free. Current projects include the installation of a personal alarm system in all almshouses.

Education Fund

The budget for the Fund is derived from annual dividend income. To promote education of children and young persons who are resident in the areas of benefit and who are in need of financial assistance including among other subjects awards for scholarships, bursaries, purchase of books, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments to assist in the pursuit of their education, a trade, profession or occupation. Also to provide special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the local Education Authority.

Relief in Need

The Charity has a small income that can be used for making grants including allowances/payments for a particular need, meals on wheels, household goods, service bills etc. Grants from this Fund will not replace such benefits as already exist and applications will be examined very closely to ensure compliance.

Louise Lloyd

Rotherfield Greys representative to the Henley Municipal Charities