

## **Bix and Assendon Parish Council**

### **Henley Municipal Charities 2025-2026**

Henley Municipal Charities (HMC) comprises the following five individual charities, The Almshouse Charity, The Relief in Need Charity, The Educational Charity, The Bridge Charity and the Church Charity which are managed on a unified basis and governed by a scheme dated 1984. The first three charities offer assistance to people living in the areas of benefit by way of almshouses and grant allocations

The management of the HMC is the responsibility of the trustees, who are 13 in number and include 2 Ex-officio trustees (the Mayor of Henley on Thames and the Rector of St Mary the Virgin Church, Henley on Thames) 3 Nominative trustees one from each of the Parish Councils of Bix and Assendon, and Rotherfield Greys and from the Town Council of Henley on Thames, and there are 8 Co-opted trustees.

The day to day running of the HMC is carried out by the clerk who liaises with the chairman, treasurer and committees of trustees who oversee particular areas of activity i.e., grant applications from educational establishments, planning issues, and property development. All the residents are visited on a monthly basis by a trustee and a meeting of all the trustees also takes place monthly.

Commercial rents are received from 8 properties in Henley on Thames and the income received is applied to meet the objectives of each of the named charities.

The areas of benefit for the HMC are the parishes of Bix and Assendon , Rotherfield Greys and the Town of Henley on Thames.

**Almshouses** The HMC is responsible for the administration of 23 almshouses (11 for double occupancy and 12 single) which are situated in Church Avenue, Western Close and Vicarage Road, Henley on Thames. This year we have filled a vacancy with one single female. At this time there are no vacant properties. Currently there are 29 residents. Regular property maintenance of the alms-houses took place and was a key activity this year. Also work has been completed on 1-3 Duke Street, and work has started on the renovation on the flat at 24 Hart Street.

**Grants** Grants were made to Nettlebed Community School, Valley Road School, Sacred Heart School, Henley Youth Choir, Chiltern Arts Festival and Gillotts, all for specific projects. Also the Henley Youth Festival as well as Christmas grants to alms-house residents. The Relief in Need charity had more applications this year to give support with energy bills for almshouse residents, and individuals living locally who also had need.. The Church Charity gave its annual grant for the update and repairs to the Church Wardens of St Mary the Virgin Church.