

# TOWN CRIER



Telephone: 01582 708540

E-mail: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)

Web: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Find us on     



## Don't Forget the Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, 1st April 2023  
Between 10am - 1pm**

**Also inside -  
POH Awards - Pages 2 and 3**

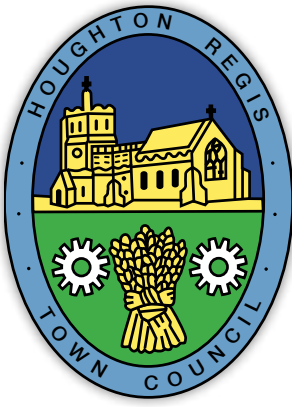
**Understanding the Annual  
budget - Page 5**

**Vacancies - Page 7**

**MAKE A  
CHANGE  
BECOME A  
COUNCILLOR**

Your 'Town Criers' are still free, delivered straight to your door, You'll disappoint us for sure, if it stays on the floor! So open it up and explore, all the FREE events and more that you don't want to ignore!





## Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council  
Peel Street, Houghton Regis  
Bedfordshire LU5 5EY

Telephone: 01582 708540

Email: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)  
Website: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/hrtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hrtowncouncil)

 [pinterest.com/houghtonregistc](https://www.pinterest.com/houghtonregistc)

 @HRCouncil1

 @HoughtonRegisTC

 [Houghton Regis Town Council](https://www.youtube.com/HoughtonRegisTownCouncil)

### Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708 542
Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager	01582 708 544
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708 523
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer	01582 708 540
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services	01582 708 540
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 708 540
Zunaira Sabih Administrative Support Officer	01582 708 540

### Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward	
Cllr Susan Goodchild	01582 708 540
Cllr Yvonne Farrell	07915 088 302
Cllr David Jones	01582 708 540
Cllr Ray Morgan	01582 708 540
Cllr Ken Wattingham	01582 705 830
Cllr Susan Thorne	07847 702 499

Parkside Ward	
Cllr Jimmy Carroll	01582 708 540
Cllr Pam Burgess	01582 708 540
Cllr Clare Copleston	01582 708 540
Cllr Elaine Cooper	07376 583 892

Tithe Farm Ward	
Cllr Tracey McMahon	07948 532 662
Cllr Martin Kennedy	01582 708 540
Cllr Abby Slough	01582 708 540
Cllr Chris Slough	01582 708 540

Central Bedfordshire Councillors	
Cllr Antonia Ryan (Parkside)	0300 300 8518
Cllr Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8525
Cllr Yvonne Farrell (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8537
Cllr Patrick Hamill (Tithe Farm)	0300 300 8567

## Pride Of Houghton Awards

The Pride of Houghton Awards returned after a three year break, to celebrate the achievements and success of some truly remarkable residents of the town. The award nominees, local businesses and the Mayor were just some of the guests that attended the event held at Houghton Regis Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th February 2023.

The Pride of Houghton Awards was first held in autumn 2003 and has been held annually since then, except for the recent break owing to COVID-19. Nominations for the Pride of Houghton Awards are invited from residents and the scheme is advertised on fliers, Social Media, the Town Council website and the Town Crier Newsletter. The nominees are from all walks of life and of all ages, their achievements are remarkable and an inspiration to us all.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Yvonne Farrell opened the event to the audience of almost one hundred and ten special guests, which included Dr Joan Bailey, JP, MBE, DL, Mayor of Dunstable Councillor Liz Jones, Mayor of Flitwick Councillor Snape and the Deputy Mayor from Kempston, Councillor Terri Conway.

The event included a table buffet, 'Rock n Roll Bingo' hosted by Craig Lithgo of Perfect Personalised Parties and a video presentation of previous winners.

### The following awards were given out on the evening;

**Individual Award - Joint Winners** - Sue Pethybridge and Felicity & Russ Upwood  
*Sponsored by Central Bedfordshire College and presented by Sarah Mortimer of Central Bedfordshire College.*

**Local Group Award Winner** - Houghton Regis youth Council  
*Sponsored by Central Bedfordshire College and presented by Sarah Mortimer of Central Bedfordshire College.*

**Carer Award Winner** - Sarah Luikaj  
*Sponsored by Houghton Regis Town Council and presented by Clare Evans, Town Clerk.*

**Local Business Award Winner** - Disability Resource Centre  
*Sponsored by Spicer and Co, Chartered Accountants and presented by Steven and Suzanne Spicer.*

**Local Business - Joint Highly Commended** - Jewels and Frugal Frog Flowers  
*Sponsored by Spicer and Co, Chartered Accountants and presented by Steven and Suzanne Spicer.*

**Key Worker (During COVID-19) Award Winner** - Jennie Sanders  
*Sponsored by Houghton Regis Town Council and presented by Clare Evans, Town Clerk.*

**Young Person - Joint Winners** - Layla Luikaj and Maddison Long  
*Sponsored by Houghton Regis Memorial Hall and presented by Cllr Ken Wattingham*

# Pride Of Houghton Awards....continued

## Community Facilitator/ Local Hero Award Winner

- Denise Woodstock  
Sponsored by The Safer  
Luton Partnership and  
presented by Dr Joan  
Bailey, JP, MBE, DL

## Community Facilitator/Local Hero Award Winner 'Highly Commended'

- Tina Williams  
Sponsored by The Safer  
Luton Partnership and  
presented by Dr Joan  
Bailey, JP, MBE, DL

## Mayor's Choice Award Winner - Nikki Ladds

Sponsored and presented  
by the Town Mayor of  
Houghton Regis, Councillor  
Yvonne Farrell.

## Mayor's Choice Award 'Highly Commended'

- Mario Yates  
Sponsored and presented  
by the Town Mayor of  
Houghton Regis, Councillor  
Yvonne Farrell.

**Houghton Regis Town  
Council would like to thank  
the following sponsors  
of the event for all of  
their support and help in  
making this year's Pride of  
Houghton a real success:  
Central Bedfordshire  
College, Frugal Frog  
Flowers, Houghton Regis  
Memorial Hall, The Safer  
Luton Partnership and  
Spicer & Co Chartered  
Accountants.**

Photos by Joanna Cross Photography





# CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



## HOUGHTON REGIS NEEDS YOU!

### MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:  
Houghton Regis Town Clerk - 01582 708540

#### WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local (parish and town) council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include introducing solar panels, setting up dementia-friendly groups, organising community buses, creating neighbourhood plans, implementing suitable housing, establishing youth projects, managing allotments and open spaces, maintaining footpaths, public seating and litter bins.

#### BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.

Local councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

#### CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION?

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary

**FIND OUT MORE AT:**  
[www.nalc.gov.uk/makeachange](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/makeachange)

The  
Electoral  
Commission



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID  
Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280



Organised by HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Free  
**Easter  
EGG HUNT**

Saturday 1st April 2023  
10am to 1pm

Houghton Regis Library  
\*16 and under  
for the Easter Egg Hunt

Craft Market  
10am-1pm  
Bedford Square Atrium

Last time to collect  
entry forms is  
12.45pm

Houghton Regis Town Council Tel: 01582 708540 [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

Vegan / Free from Easter Eggs available!

# Committee Dates



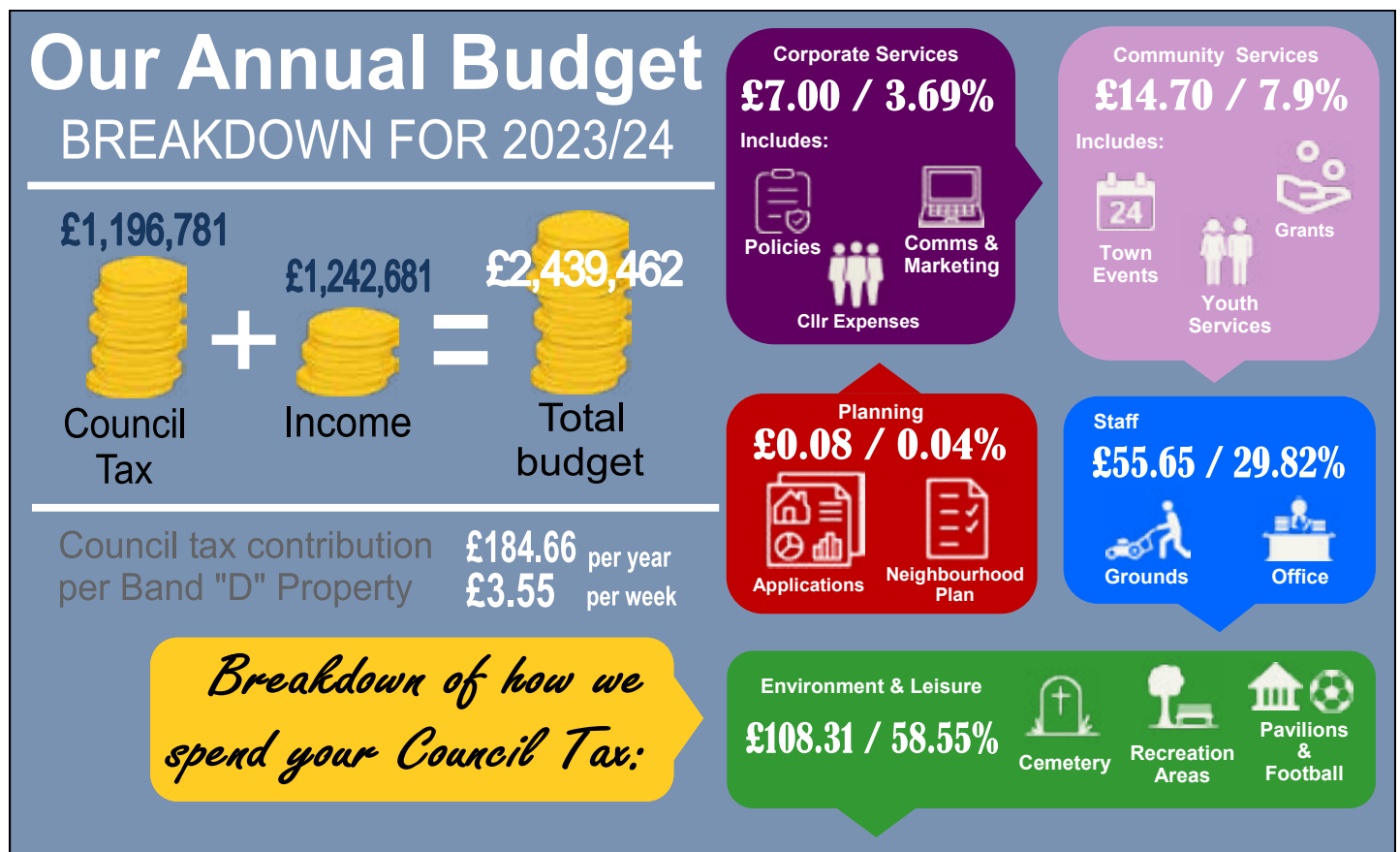
Please find below the calendar of meetings for the town Council from March 2023 to the 17th May 2023.

All council meetings are at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated and are open to the public. Due to ongoing Covid concerns, members of the public who wish to attend the meetings are encouraged to do so remotely. Members of the public may also attend in person and, if doing so, are requested to socially distance as much as possible. The links for the virtual meetings can be found on our website under each meeting agenda: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

The agendas for forthcoming meetings can also be found on the notice board outside The Town Council offices.

Date	Month	Day	Committee	Time
<b>2023</b>				
13th	March	Monday	Planning	
20th	March	Monday	Town Council	
3rd	April	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub-Committee	6pm
3rd	April	Monday	Planning	
24th	April	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
24th	April	Monday	Planning	
25th	April	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
15th	May	Monday	Annual Towns Meeting	
17th	May	Wednesday	Town Council (AGM)	

subject to confirmation. Please see website for updates.





# Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan

Before submitting a proposed Neighbourhood plan to the local planning authority, the plan must be subject to a Regulation 14 consultation. A Regulation 14 consultation in simple terms means consulting with anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposals contained within a neighbourhood plan and this consultation lasts for a minimum period of six weeks.

Now, some may remember this consultation took place in the Summer of 2021 however, upon reviewing the detailed comments received along with taking into account changes to planning legislation and guidance, it was decided to review the content of the Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, along with support from the Town Councils newly appointed Planning Consultant, have reviewed and updated all relevant policies. On the 19th December 2022, the Town Council supported the updated Plan and recommended it should be subjected to a further 'light touch' Regulation 14 public consultation.

Following this meeting it was agreed that the public consultation should start on Monday 23rd January 2023 and end on Monday 6th March 2023. However, due to the lateness of the receipt of the Policies Map, which was received on the 7th February, it has been decided to extend the consultation period by a further 2 weeks. Therefore, the consultation period will now end on the 20th March 2023.

You are encouraged to revisit the plan, now that the Policies Map has been inserted, to allow you the opportunity to make any further comments.

Please follow the link to the town councils Neighbourhood Plan website page: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan)



**About Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan**

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011 as a way to allow local communities to identify the challenges facing their areas and to put forward potential solutions. The Steering Group presented a draft Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation in the autumn of 2021. Following that consultation, the plan has been extensively revised based on the comments received, including adding some items due to changes in the law. This revised draft is now ready for another public consultation.

This represents a statutory 6 week period of consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The 6 week consultation period will run from Monday 23rd January to Monday 6th March 2023.

**Consultation date extended to the 20th March 2023**

Following this consultation, the Neighbourhood Development Plan will need to be amended and then submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council, as required, for Regulation 16 consultation and following that an independent examination will be carried out. The Plan, if successful at examination, will then proceed to a local referendum to ensure that it receives local support.

Contact Details for the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan:  
Jemma McLean: 01234 834932 (please leave a message)  
[jemma@bedrcc.org.uk](mailto:jemma@bedrcc.org.uk)

[www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)



**Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan**

Regulation 14 Draft Neighbourhood Plan Consultation  
Monday 23rd January to Monday 6th March 2023  
Comment on the revised draft Neighbourhood Plan

**What we would like you to do:**  
A copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan can be found by visiting:  
[www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)  
Please look over the draft plan and then complete the consultation questionnaire by Monday 6th March 2023  
**Consultation date extended to the 20th March 2023**

**How to have your say:**  
Complete the questionnaire online:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bedneighbourhoodplan>  
Or scan the QR code:



If you would like to discuss anything in the plan, please use the contact details overleaf.

To receive a paper copy of the questionnaire with a FREEPOST return envelope, contact Jemma McLean on 01234 834932 (please leave a message) or email [jemma@bedrcc.org.uk](mailto:jemma@bedrcc.org.uk)

[www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)



## Warm Spaces



With the weather temperatures up and down, remember that there are a number of Warm Spaces in Houghton Regis that are free to use, including our Council office chamber every Friday till 31st March from 10am to 3pm.

Find the full list of Warm Spaces in Central Bedfordshire & Houghton Regis is available via Central Bedfordshire Councils website: <https://bit.ly/3Qe0scU>

## New Website Press Release

Houghton Regis Town Council, are thrilled to announce that we will shortly, in the not-too-distant future, launch a new website.

Clare Evans, Town Clerk commented 'we started this project with the intention of not only updating and refreshing the look and feel of the old website, but also the enhance the user experience and to make it easier to find the information that is important to our residents and visitors'

We invite residents and visitors to explore the new website when it goes live. Similar to before we will still have pages with our core services, Agendas and minutes and also how to reach out to your Ward Councillor, as well as information about events and upcoming projects etc.

We also have improved publications pages and news pages, so visitors can see what's happening throughout the year with updates and content being posted regularly. People can also keep up to date on social media through our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter channels.

We cannot wait for our new website to go live, so please keep a lookout on our social media pages for our Launch announcement.

## Vacancies

Due to our rapidly expanding town, we are excited to be offering the following new job opportunities:

**Head Of Environmental & Community Services (Permanent)**  
Full Time (37hrs/week) - Starting at £40,478

**Finance Officer (Permanent)**  
Part Time (21hrs/week) - Starting at £25,409 Pro Rata

**Democratic Services Officer (Permanent)**  
Part Time (20hrs/week) - Starting at £25,054 Pro Rata

**Cemetery & Allotments Officer (Permanent)**  
Part Time (20hrs/week) - Starting at £25,409 Pro Rata

**Lead Youth Worker (2 year fixed term contract)**  
Part Time (approx. 8hrs/week) - Starting at £27,852 Pro Rata

**Youth Support Worker (2 year fixed term contract)**  
Part Time (approx. 6hrs/week) - Starting at £23,194 Pro Rata

These are fantastic opportunities for passionate, energetic and enthusiastic people to join Houghton Regis Town Council's well established team.

**All positions are offered with excellent terms and conditions of employment including access to the Local Government Pension Scheme, generous annual leave entitlement and flexible working opportunities.**

**The closing dates vary but are during April 2023.**

**For further details please contact us.**

## Committee Updates

### Town Council

Of particular note:

The Town Council has set its budget and precept for 2023/2024 and is able to advise that the precept has been set at £1,196,781

The approval of the audited annual governance and accountability return 2021 - 2022

Adopted the Houghton Regis Town Council Draft Neighbourhood Plan

### Town Partnership

Many issues continue to be considered at this joint meeting, ranging from environmental health matters, car parking to the provision of services including updates on All Saints View.

### Corporate Services Committee

Continued provision for central services such as accountancy and investment fees, councillor services and support, IT and communication cost, insurance, advertising and property maintenance costs along with officer salaries and training.

### Community Services Committee

Organised and produced community support packs with generous grant funding received from Ward Councillors.

Have received regular updates about the youth work and Pop-up Youth Cafes in Houghton Regis, supported local community groups under the HRTC Grant Scheme, developed a Programme of Summer Activities, continued to improve community safety and reduced fear of crime.

### Environment & Leisure Committee

Ongoing provision as been made to manage and maintain public open spaces, sports facilities, play areas and the cemetery. The committee has continued to support the provision of Allotments and have received regular updates on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.

### Planning Committee

This committee considered in excess of fifty planning applications, some were supported, some were objected to and some were commented on. Professional support was given to guide the Council in relation to the planning developments.

## Dates for the diary

Coronation Celebrations - Saturday 6th May

Carnival - Saturday 8th July

Please see social media or banners (nearer the time) for more details.

To enquire please contact  
[sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk)





## Thorn Springs Luxury Care Home

Residential and dementia care

### Feel part of a friendly new community ...

With exceptional standards of 24 hour residential and dementia care with an all inclusive fee, Thorn Springs will make a real difference to the lives of our residents, assisting them to remain independent and ensuring they enjoy an active lifestyle with likeminded people.



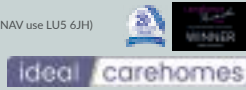
### Expect more ...

- ✓ Purpose built home with spacious, en-suite bedrooms and plenty of social areas
- ✓ Inclusive fees for complete peace of mind
- ✓ Full and varied daily programme of activities
- ✓ Nutritious food, daily laundry and housekeeping

### Thorn Springs Care Home

Collie Place, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 6TW (for SAT NAV use LU5 6JH)  
thorn.springs@idealcarehomes.co.uk

0113 465 4082  
idealcarehomes.co.uk



## Allotments

The Town Council is pleased to announce that allotment land, situated on the Northwest edge of Houghton Regis, has now been transferred into the ownership of the council with all plots having been fully allocated.

Whilst there is currently no availability at this site, residents who are interested in being placed on a waiting list for an allotment can email [allotments@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:allotments@houghtonregis.org.uk) or visit the allotment section on the town councils website [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk) to register their details. For information the cost for an allotment for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 is currently set at:

**Allotment Plots in the region of 125m2 (half plot)  
£75 per annum**

**Allotment Plots in the region of 250m2 (full plot)  
£100 per annum**

The rent has been set to fund the operational costs for providing this service and is comparable to other Town Council services.

# New Foodbank Distribution Centre in Houghton Regis

opening at  
**Houghton Regis Baptist Church  
Hammersmith Gardens, Houghton Regis  
LU5 5RG**

**Thursdays 1:30pm-3:30pm  
(from Thursday 19th January 2023)**

For more information about becoming an E-Referral Partner with  
Dunstable Foodbank and to refer clients to us, contact us on  
[info@dunstable.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.foodbank.org.uk) or 07874200056



Terra Croft Gardens Site



Terra Croft Gardens Location

## Follow us

You can use the following platforms to Follow, and keep in touch with Houghton Regis Town Council.

[www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)



@HRCouncil1



Houghton Regis  
Town Council