



TOWN CRIER

Telephone: 01582 708540
E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

Web: www.houghtonregis.org.uk
Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Find us on     



Our 2018 year of events in pictures

page 4



Don't Forget the Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, 20 April 2019
Between 9am – noon

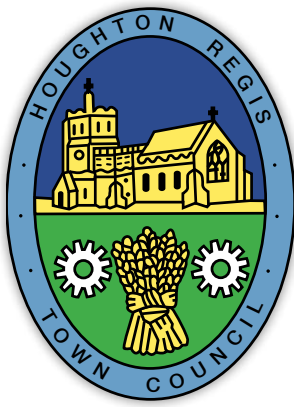


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My Mayoral Year
Words from the Town
Mayor - Page 3

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Dates for your diary
of upcoming Spring/
Summer events - Page 4

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
Fax: 01582 861102

Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk
Website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

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

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

@HRCouncil1

@HoughtonRegisTC

Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager	01582 708 544
Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708523
Tara Earnshaw, Community Development Officer	01582 240 252
Sonia Stennett Accounts & Cemetery Officer	01582 708541
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 240251
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services	01582 945697
Matthew Oliver Office Apprentice	01582 708 540

Councillor contact details:

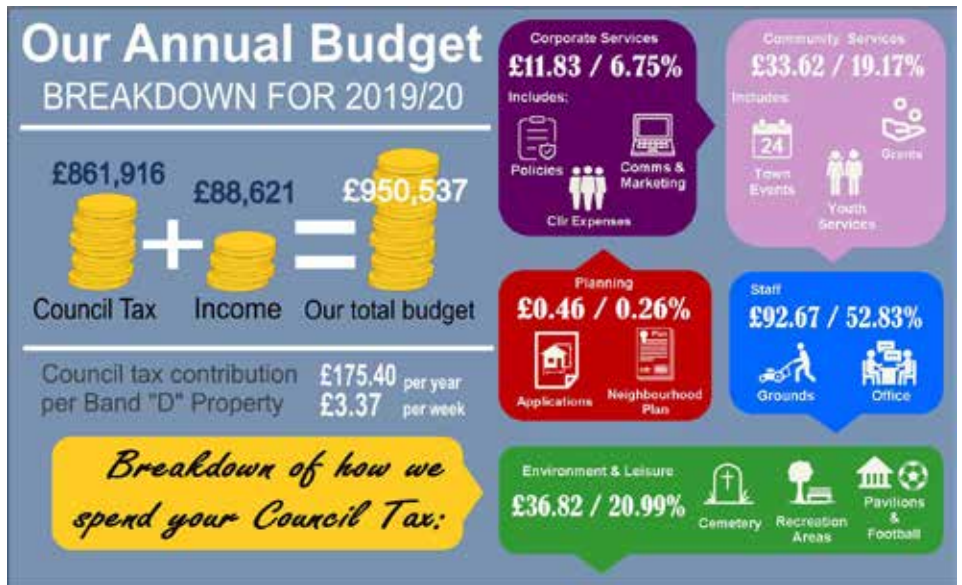
Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr. Laura Ellaway	01582 537 105
Cllr Yvonne Farrell	01582 897 520
Cllr Tim Welch	01582 861 090
Cllr. Chris Slough	01582 751 881
Cllr. Susan Thorne	07847 702 499
Cllr. Ken Wattingham	01582 705 830

Parkside Ward:	
Cllr. Jimmy Carroll	01582 868 006
Cllr. Don Dixon-Wilkinson	01582 529 554
Cllr. Joanna Hillyard	07748 440 901
Cllr. Martin Kennedy	01582 702 274

Tithe Farm Ward:	
Cllr. David Abbott	01582 894 060
Cllr. Tracey McMahon	07948 532 662
Cllr. Tony Swain	01582 522 952

Central Bedfordshire Councillors:	
Antonia Ryan (Parkside)	0300 300 8518
Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8525
John Kane (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8537
Tony Swain (Tithe Farm)	0300 300 8567

Houghton Regis Town Council - Budget 2019/20



After much deliberation and hard work over the last few months the Town Council has set its budget and precept for 2019/20 and is able to advise residents that the precept has been set at £861,916 which will enable the Band D charge to remain the same for the fifth year running.

The budget which has been set makes provision for the delivery of the projects identified within the Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision, including:

Corporate Services Committee:

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

Environment & Leisure Committee:

- Ongoing provision has been made to manage and maintain public open spaces, sports facilities, play areas, the cemetery and All Saints churchyard;
- Capital provision for projects including the establishment of the new area within Houghton Regis Cemetery.

Community Services Committee:

- Provision for Easter and Summer Holiday clubs, for the Youth Pop Up Cafe, for town centre toilet cleaning, for Christmas lights, Council communications and a community grant scheme;
- Continued provision of community events;
- Local retailer support (Shop Local Campaign and town centre events);
- Improved community safety and reduced fear of crime.

Planning Committee

- Professional support to guide the Council in relation to the planning developments;
- Completion of the Neighbourhood Plan

For further details on the budget, please contact the Town Clerk on (01582) 708540 or by e-mail on info@houghtonregis.org.uk

My Mayoral Year

At the time of writing this address, I only have a few more weeks serving you as your Town Mayor. I still have a number of functions to attend in addition to my own Mayoral Charity Dinner, Civic Service and an Afternoon Tea at The Bowls Club all of which I am really looking forward to.

When I was duly elected to the Town Council in 2015, I never believed that this would provide me with the opportunity to be nominated as Town Mayor. It is a role which I have embraced and served you to the very best of my ability.

I will treasure the many memories, in terms of the Events I have attended and the friendships I have made along the way. Some of my most precious memories include the Remembrance Service, 70th Birthday of the NHS, Pride of Houghton Awards, Celebration of Christmas, the finale was amazing as they had a "baby shark dance" which was a complete surprise. The

joy on the children's faces will stay with me for many years to come.

It was a great personal privilege to visit the local schools and the various care settings in our Town. Lighting the Beacon was very special, the opening of the new play equipment on the Village Green, the Carnival and many other community events, which are so important to our Town and are well attended.

I attended many other civic and celebratory events across Central Bedfordshire, some of which included Civic Services, Carol services, Fire Service Awards, Cheering Volunteering and various quiz nights.

I am very grateful for the support which you have given me throughout the year which has enabled me to raise a large amount of money for my chosen charities – Headway, Kids in Action and 1st/3rd Scout Group.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and Town Council staff who have given me so much support throughout the year.

I would like to thank the residents of Houghton Regis for the support you have given me throughout my Mayoral Year 2018/19. I sincerely hope my successor enjoys their year as much as I have.

Councillor Ken Wattingham
Town Mayor 2018/19



Looking back at 2018 in pictures



Spring / Summer Events 2019

20TH APRIL Easter Egg Hunt

9am - 12noon

Bedford Square Shopping Centre

Take part in a free children's Easter Egg Hunt around Bedford Square Shopping Centre. Find the pictures from the clue sheets in the local shop windows and then collect your Easter Egg.

4TH MAY May Fair

12noon - 3pm

The Village Green

Marking the start of warmer weather and blossom filled trees and flowers. Come along and help us celebrate this tradition, with the Crowning of the May queen and dancing around the maypole.

13TH JULY Carnival

9am - 4pm

The Village Green

The Village Green is the setting of the Houghton Regis Carnival, with the Theme for this year being "Rhythm of the World" presided over once again by its very own Carnival Court.

25TH JULY Skate Park Comp

12noon - 3pm

Tithe Farm Recreation Skate Park

Take part in this exciting event and show off your talent, be it BMX or Scooter.

31ST AUG Houghton Rocks

12noon - 6pm

Parkside Recreation Ground

Live music played alongside a Car show display and food stalls make this event one not to be missed.

12TH OCT Pride of Houghton

7pm - 10pm

Memorial Hall, Houghton Regis

Recognising those special people/groups for their efforts, skills, talents, perseverance and commitment.

Committee Updates

Since November 2018:

Town Council

The town mayor continued to provide updates on the fundraising events he had held and on the community and civic events he had attended. Other councillors provided verbal reports from meetings they had attended of outside organisations or from training courses they had attended on behalf of the council.

Of particular note was:

- A request from CBC to consider a list of facilities that the town council would like to see come forward within the town as it grows. It is hoped that this list will be used as support as developments come forward.
- The approved budget and precept for 2019/20.
- The approval of the draft neighbourhood plan for formal consultation with Central Bedfordshire council, other stakeholders and the public.

The council also decided to have examined, by an external investigator, the circumstances which led to an out of court settlement being made to a former contractor.

Town Partnership

Many issues continue to be considered at this joint meeting, ranging from environmental health matters to car parking to the provision of services.

Although still behind the scenes work is continuing within CBC for the development of the independent living scheme in the centre of the town and excitingly CBC have been asking local people to suggest names for this landmark building. Did you submit a name? The final name will be revealed and work on site will commence spring 2019.

Corporate Services Committee

This committee have:

- Reviewed the committee draft the council's/employees' memberships of other bodies, existing contracts, charges for 2018/19 (and agreed that there would be no increases in fees for 2019/20);

- Considered revisions of various town council policies and introduced a flag flying protocol and a policy for marking the death of a senior national figure or local holder of high office.

Community Services Committee

This committee have:

- Received reports about the youth work and pop-up youth cafes in Houghton Regis;
- Discussed Easter/summer playscheme including increasing the number of people who can join in with the family trip. Check our website and facebook to keep up to date with this information;
- Councillors were also told that the shop local project had increased in uptake and agreed to continue with the scheme;
- Given the go ahead to a graffiti project to run in April / May (check out our facebook page);
- Agreed to continue the door to door delivery of the town crier. Editions will be sent out in April & October this year and will be 8 pages of local information and updates.

Environment & Leisure Committee

This committee have:

- Successfully established a process for councilors to report enviro crime matters for the council's grounds team to rectify
- Carried out tree works within our areas of the town, some of these works are still in progress
- Refurbished Parkside pavilion
- Investigated energy efficiency measures for our pavilions, workshop and office
- Repaired and maintained the play areas and outdoor gym equipment
- Installed skate park lighting
- Completed the end of season maintenance for Orchard Close cricket square
- Some members of the grounds team have also received training to maintain inhouse items of smaller machinery and to use the digger
- Purchased new grounds maintenance equipment to save ongoing maintenance works

Planning Committee

This committee have:

- Considered 57 planning applications, some were supported, some were objected to and some were commented on
- Discussed street naming options
- Received updates on strategic development sites in the town and on the local plan.



Houghton Regis Town Council

Responsible for:

Town Mayors Christmas Cards • Consultee for planning • Local elections • Civic & Mayoral events • Recreation grounds

- Dog Kennel Down & former railway line
- Recreation Play Areas & Sports Facilities (including multi use games area & skate park) • Football pitches • Bowls • Burial Grounds (Houghton Regis Cemetery, All Saints churchyard) • Noticeboards, Seats, Litter bins, Dog bins • Community events (Inc. Carnival, Pride of Houghton Awards, Fireworks, Santa's Grotto) • Fair visits, Circus visits • Social Media & Website
- Town Crier Newsletter • Town Guide
- Town Centre Public Toilets • Community Grants Scheme • Community Services
- Community Safety

Tel: 01582 708 540
Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk



Central Bedfordshire Council

Responsible for:

Housing • Council Tax • Benefits • Elections

Schools & Education

Highways (roads, pavements, footpaths, verges & trees) • Parking (car parks, permits, disabled parking passes & bus passes)

Environmental Health & Trading Standards

Waste Collection • Street Cleaning & Recycling

Children's Services • Social Services

Leisure & Libraries • Planning Matters

Registrar & Coroner • Leisure & Countryside

Community Safety • Children & Young People

Business Support • Health & Social Care

T: 0300 300 8000
E: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Pride of Houghton 2018

The annual Pride of Houghton Awards returned in 2018 to celebrate the achievements and success of some truly remarkable residents of the town.

Congratulations to the following winners;

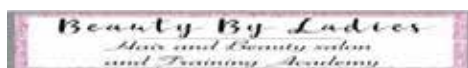
- **Individual Award Winner – Dean Russell**
Sponsored by Perfect Profiles and presented by Damian Edwards of Perfect Profiles.
- **Individual Award ‘Highly Commended’ – Sandra Gibb**
Sponsored by Perfect Profiles and presented by Damian Edwards of Perfect Profiles.
- **Local Group Award Winner – Kids In Action**
Sponsored by Beauty by Ladies presented by Amanda Millard of Beauty by Ladies.
- **Local Group ‘Highly Commended’ – 1st/3rd Houghton Regis Scout Group**
Sponsored by Beauty by Ladies presented by Amanda Millard of Beauty by Ladies.
- **Carer Award Winner – Julie Hoye** Sponsored by D&I Family Butchers and presented by Dean Rudelhoff of D&I Family Butchers.
- **Young Person Award Winner – Savannah Gladden**
Sponsored by Vauxhall Motors. Presented by Cherie Denton of Vauxhall Motors
- **Young Person Award ‘Highly Commended’ – Leyton Palmer** Sponsored by Vauxhall Motors. Presented by Cherie Denton of Vauxhall Motors
- **Local Hero Award Winner – Sarah Carey**
Sponsored by Zebra Properties and presented by Kieran Burman of Zebra Properties.
- **Local Hero Award ‘Highly Commended’ – Paul Cremin**
Sponsored by Zebra Properties and presented by Kieran Burman of Zebra Properties.
- **Local Business Award Winner – Jewels**
Sponsored by Spicer & Co Accountants presented by Claire Snushall of Spicer & Co Accountants

- **Local Business Award ‘Highly Commended’ – Frugal Frog Flowers** Sponsored by Spicer & Co Accountants presented by Claire Snushall of Spicer & Co Accountants.
- **Special Award – Houghton Regis Hub Cafe**
Sponsored by Hair.comb and presented by Zoe Johnson of Hair.comb.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award – Kathy Doran**
Sponsored by Houghton Regis Town Council presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ken Wattingham.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award – Paul Bowen-James, BEM**, Sponsored by Houghton Regis Town Council presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ken Wattingham.
- **Mayor’s Choice Award – Go Houghton**
Sponsored and presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ken Wattingham.

The Olive Burgess Shield for the most support on, or before, Carnival Day was presented to Zebra Properties for their support with the sponsorship of the Carnival and Town Council events, and the St Vincent’s Trophy, for the most help and support from an individual at the Carnival, was presented to Dean Russell for his help and support with playing Regis the Lion at the Carnival and other Town Council events.

Houghton Regis Town Council would like to take the opportunity 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: D&I Butchers, Beauty by Ladies, Creative Decorations, Frugal Frog, Hair. Comb, Perfect Profiles, Vauxhall Motors and Zebra Properties.

Photos by Joanna Cross Photography



Grants for local Organisations and Charities

The Town Council is pleased to announce its continued support for local community and voluntary groups and charities through a range of grant schemes. Grants are available for small and large projects.

The grants scheme for 2019/20 will be launched shortly. There have been some alterations to the scheme to help the council support more local organisations so please do check out the details before you apply. Information can be found on the Town Council's website, www.houghtonregis.org.uk or contact the Town Council for information and an application form on 01582 708540 if you prefer

Last financial year the following capital grants totalling £5,885.05 were awarded to:

Parkside 50+ Club	£500.00
Groundwork East	£385.05
Hawthorn Park School	£500.00
Houghton Regis Hub Café	£500.00
Meaningful Education	£500.00
Networking at Dunstable	£500.00
Academy of Central Beds	£500.00
Magpas Air Ambulance	£2,500.00

And the following revenue grants were awarded to Key partners who deliver their services across Houghton Regis:

Dunstable & District CAB	£4,000.00
Full house Theatre	£3,000.00
SORTED	£4,000.00
Keech Hospice Care	£5,000.00
Comm Action Bedfordshire	£3,000.00
South Beds Dial-a-ride	£2,251.00



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Houghton Regis Town Council remains committed to providing a flexible and easy grant scheme for local community groups and organisations to apply to for capital funding. Whether it's to purchase new equipment, publicity, organising of an event, training, starting a new group or development costs.

SMALL GRANTS - UNDER £500
Under this scheme applications can be for up to and including £500 and must be for projects only.

LARGE CAPITAL GRANTS - OVER £500
Under this scheme applications are for £501 up to £1000 and also must be for projects only.
Applications must be received between April and October in any financial year. This is to enable the Town Council to suitably budget for Large Grants.

PLEASE NOTE: No more than 50% of the total cost of the project can be awarded for either grant.


For more information or to apply for a grant please visit
WWW.HOUGHTONREGIS.ORG.UK/COMMUNITY-GRANTS-SCHEME
email us at info@houghtonregis.org.uk



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from April 2019 to the end of May 2019. All council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Offices on Peel Street at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. The agendas for forthcoming meeting can be found on the notice board outside the offices and on the Town Council website. Copies can also be obtained from the office.

Date	Day	Committee	Time
2019			
23rd April	Tuesday	New Cemetery Sub-Committee Planning	6.30pm
30th April	Tuesday	Town Partnership	7pm
7th May	Tuesday	Planning	
15th May	Wednesday	Town Council (AGM)	

Stand as a Local Councillor



Polling Day: Thursday 2 May 2019

Make a difference in your Town

- Get involved with your community
- Have a say about the local issues people care about
- Influence local service delivery
- Decide how local money is spent to improve your community

For nomination packs contact:
Central Bedfordshire Council
Email: electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Phone: 0300 300 6284

Pride of Houghton Awards 2019

Do you know any individual or groups of people, young or old, who deserve recognition for their efforts, skills, perseverance or commitment? This is their chance to get the recognition that they deserve. Use the form below to forward your nominations to the Town Council Office, Peel Street, Houghton Regis by **5pm on 26th August 2019**

*Nominees must be residents of Houghton Regis and nominated for their work within the town. Nominations can also be received from people outside the town and for immediate family, (nominations **cannot** be made for Town Council Staff, Town or Central Bedfordshire Councillors) Previous winners can be considered again.*

I would like to nominate:

For: *(please tick appropriate box)*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> | Young Person (under 18) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carer (The extra mile award) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Facilitator/Local Hero | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Group | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Business/organisation in Houghton Regis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Care Home Workers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime achievement/special award | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Your Name:

Your contact number:

Your address:

Name of your nominee:

Nominee address:

Why do they deserve an award? *(use extra sheets of paper if required and affix to this form)*

Follow us

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



www.houghtonregis.org.uk



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