

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     



HOUGHTON ROCKS page 8



SANTA'S FLOAT ON THE STREETS OF HOUGHTON REGIS page 9

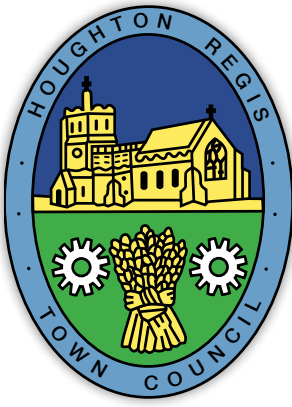
Also inside -
**Words from the Town
Mayor - Page 2**

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Page 10**

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
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Website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

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

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@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 |
| Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations | 01582 708 543 |
| Sarah Gestthorp 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 |
| Emily Gibson Administration Apprentice | 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 Clare Copleston | 01582 708 540 |
| Cllr Elaine Cooper | 07376 583 892 |
| Vacant | |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

Kindness - together we can make a positive difference!

It feels like Christmas is already a distant memory, because January seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye and as I write this, we are already in February with those crisp but bright sunny mornings.

Reflecting on the past few months, fills me with joy as it really was a wonderful time to truly make a positive difference with acts of kindness over the Christmas season. I attended many events and visited many local organisations, Schools and care homes.

The Town Council asked local Schools if the children would like to take part in a Christmas Card Competition to design the official Mayor's Christmas card and it was wonderful to see the entries coming in, in their bold and beautiful colours and thoughtful messages too. The theme for the Christmas Card design was "Kindness at Christmas". I had the honour of looking over all of the entries and was tasked with choosing the winner and the runner up. This was very difficult as the children's designs were all truly amazing and I loved them all.

I attended Thornhill Primary School to present the winner - Brooke aged 10 years old and runner up Tinisha also aged 10 years old with their prizes and to personally thank them for their creative and kind designs. The kindness at Christmas didn't stop

there! During the Christmas period, these Christmas Cards were sent to our local residents over the age of 65 years old with a voucher as a Christmas gift from myself as Mayor. I also visited (where possible) our residents in supported living and local care homes, to take gifts and cards for all residents to enjoy over the Christmas period too.

Since becoming Mayor in May 2021, it truly has been the most amazing experience and I have loved every minute. I have worked hard to be a super proactive Mayor attending many events, functions and meetings, doing all that I can to support our local residents, businesses, organisations and charities. I have had the honour of meeting so many inspirational and amazing individuals, who I will cherish my time meeting them.

I am working hard to bring to fruition many events to raise money for my chosen charities which are the Firefighters Charity and SSAFA. I would like to thank Houghton Regis Town Council staff for all their continued support and hard work. I would also like to thank my fellow Town Councillors for all that they do for our town and for their continued support.



All Saints View Phase One Completion

All Saints View, Central Bedfordshire Council's brand-new independent living scheme, has almost completed it's Phase One works!

Central Bedfordshire Council would like to thank the people of Houghton Regis for their patience over the past few years during the construction period which has produced a beautiful building and transformed the townscape of Houghton Regis.

All Saints View is a modern and welcoming building which will be open to the local community. The building has hireable spaces to book and use. Once open to the public, we would very much encourage you to visit and use the facilities and outlets which will include a salon, retail outlets and



a restaurant which will be open at a later date.

For those looking to move to All Saints View, there are 105 affordable one- and two-bedroom apartments for rent and shared ownership for the over 55's. Within the development there is access to communal activity spaces, landscaped gardens and access to 24-hour on-site care should it be required. There will also be

an opportunity to view the show apartment which can be booked on the website.

Phase Two works will see the inclusion of a further 63 apartments as well as additional facilities. All works are expected to complete in Spring 2023.

To find out more and apply to rent a property, please visit our website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/all-saints-view. We are also offering extra support over the phone for those who would like help filling in an application and this can be booked through the website. Shared ownership applications are being managed by our estate agent partner Spicer Haart, so please direct all enquiries to them on [01582 569020](tel:01582569020) or allsaintsview@haart.co.uk.

Committee Updates

Town Council

December sadly saw the passing of serving Councillor Dixon-Wilkinson. Of particular note:

- In line with government guidelines, virtual meetings ceased and hybrid meetings were introduced, allowing both in person, and virtual attendance at meetings.
- Consideration was given to supporting the digitalisation of council documents
- The approval of the audited annual governance and accountability return 2020 – 2021
- Agreed the provision of seating on Parkside Recreation Ground

Town Partnership

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

- Continued discussions on the community building
- Grant funding had been granted for a new Community and Leisure Centre

- Continued updates on All Saints View

Corporate Services Committee

This committee have:

- Considered revisions of various town council policies.
- Reviewed various ongoing contracts

Community Services Committee

This committee have:

- Received reports about the youth work and Pop-up Youth Cafés in Houghton Regis during Covid-19
- Improved the services and facilities on offer to the Youth Café
- Introduced the Bulk Waste Removal Scheme
- Supported local community groups under the HRTC Grant Scheme
- Introduced the Houghton Regis Later Living Social Group
- Developed a Programme of Summer Activities

Environment & Leisure Committee

This committee have:

- Continued to address environmental crime matters reported by councillors.
- Repaired and maintained existing play areas and outdoor gym equipment
- Continued to support the development of Allotments
- Received updates on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project

Planning Committee

This committee have:

- Welcomed a new Planning Consultant to support Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- Considered in excess of fifty planning applications, some were supported, some were objected to and some were commented on
- Received updates on strategic development sites in the town and on the local plan.
- Provided feedback on various Traffic Orders throughout the town

Community Grants

Are you involved in a local organisation with some ideas for future projects but are unsure how to fund them? HRTC may be able to help. We offer local not for profit organisations the opportunity to apply for up to 50% grant funding up to a maximum of £500 from HRTC.

The purpose of the grant must be in keeping with the organisations aims and objectives and must be able to demonstrate that it is of benefit to Houghton Regis residents by providing either support, entertainment, information or a service.

Whether your project is to purchase new equipment (sports kit, IT etc), to create publicity for your organisation, to arrange an event, provide training for volunteers, to help start up and develop a new group – please do get in touch as we would love to be able to help.

Full details of the Grant scheme can be found on our website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk/community-grants-scheme

The council would love to support organisations in delivering projects which support the Council's Vision for Houghton Regis – Our Vision Our Town (2020-2024). These are the Visions main themes:

Grow Your Own – could your project encourage healthy eating and food awareness, increase edible planting, enhance biodiversity and support wildlife? From growing herbs, sowing wildflowers to cookery courses – the options are endless.

Houghton Goes Green – does your project help us do our bit to go green? Does it cut down on the use of resources, encourage recycling / re-use / re-modelling? Does it help to get us outside, get fit, enjoy our open spaces? Let's get out there and protect and enjoy what we have, could your project help make it any better?

A Safe & Vibrant Town – could your project help to make us all feel that bit safer? Would it provide something for young people to do? Could it help reduce low level crime, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, speeding? We all look for these improvements, lets work together to see them happen.

Our Community – could your project help strengthen what we have, could it improve the offer to our community with enhanced facilities, services and options. Whether it's activities for young people, families and older people or improvements to facilities for accessibility, adaptability and usability, we would love to support you.

Houghton Regis is amazing, and it is the people and groups within it who make it so.

Working together and supporting each other will take us from strength to strength.

The HRTC Grant Scheme is there to help, please do get in touch!

Family Day Trip for Residents of Houghton Regis to Woburn SAFARI PARK
Wednesday 6th April 10am-4.30pm

Over 100 will be driven through the expansive parkland reserves to see some of the world's most endangered animals, including Elephants, Tigers & Lions, before arriving at the leisure area to carry on exploring!

ONLY £15 pp*
travel included

* Children under 3yrs or a carer/companion will gain FREE entrance to the park (payment of only £3 will be required for your coach seat)

This event will be undertaken following the most up to date COVID - 19 guidelines which will be provided nearer the time.

Booking Forms available from the Council offices
Peel Street, Houghton Regis, LU5 5ET (please check opening hours)
For More Information call 01582 705540 or email info@houghtonregis.org.uk

See You & Stay Wild!

ALL RETIRED RESIDENTS WELCOME

Time for Tea & Crumpets

Enjoy a change of scenery, FREE tea, crumpets & croissants along with conversation and laughter. Followed by a leisurely walk around Houghton Hall Park (optional)

1st Tuesday of Every Month 11am - 12.30pm
Starting Tuesday 1st March 2022

Jewels, Bedford Square, Make new friends!

For more information please contact:
Tara Earnshaw - Houghton Regis Town Council
01582 705 540

*If transport is a struggle we may be able to assist, please contact the above number for details.

Vision Update

Aspirations

A1 To develop and enhance partnerships between HRTC, stakeholders, partners, community groups and residents

Partnership working is growing and enhancing all the time. We actively work with;

- Local sports clubs, the Beds F.A and the Football Foundation
- Local community groups such as Full House Theatre, South Beds Dial A Ride, Houghton Regis Heritage Society, Citizens Advice, SORTED, Houghton Regis Memorial Hall, the Singing Café, Groundwork, Bidwell West Community Association, HRN2 Community Development Officer, Houghton Regis Helpers, local Churches
- Strategic organisations such as Bedfordshire Police and Central Bedfordshire Council

A2 To effectively and proactively represent our community

- We continue to push for community enhancements, the development of facilities and services, and to respond to consultations affecting our town and residents.
- Over the last 2 years or so significant work has been conducted on the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan, pressing for a new cemetery, pushing for new allotment provision, and on progressing the all-weather sports facility at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground.
- We also consider and respond to all planning applications within the parish. No mean feat when you consider all the development taking place!

A3 To positively promote the town

- The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor have continued to represent our community at civic and social events inside and outside of Houghton Regis, whilst also hosting events and fundraising activities. All funds raised go to local organisations to support the work they do.

A4 To develop a new cemetery

- The Council was deeply saddened not to be able to continue to offer new full body burials anymore. We recognise the importance of personal burial choices to families.
- However, work has continued on searching for a new cemetery site. Despite it feeling like a real uphill struggle, we have identified a piece of land to investigate further, and we are nearly halfway through a 12 month monitoring exercise of the ground water conditions on a piece of land at the end of Grendall Lane. Although the land has environmental / ground water considerations we are hopeful that there may be mitigation measures which can be put in place to enable the site to be developed as a cemetery.

A5 To ensure the council is fit for purpose and efficient in its delivery of services

- National restrictions have speeded up this aspiration. The council has invested heavily in telecommunications and in IT. Councillors have been provided with tablets to work from, staff are equipped to work effectively from both home and the office. and we offer remote access to council meetings.
- The paper use has dramatically fallen alongside photocopying charges, helping both finances and the environment.
- Hybrid council meetings have improved time efficiencies and have encouraged greater engagement by the public in the democratic process
- We use social media more and more to keep you updated, we share posts from our partners, tell you about what we are doing and offer you opportunities to join in. During lock down we even ran some mayor events purely through social media, it made the 2020 Virtual Carnival one of a kind and one we will always remember.
- A major new project for the council has been the launch of the Town Ranger scheme. Under this scheme you can report in issues of concern such as small scale fly tipping, vandalism, graffiti. Our Ranger operates under a 'See It, Sort It' philosophy. The amazing work completed under this project is highlighted in our social media pages.
- Councillors and staff have completed various training course, attended conferences and seminars to keep up to date and learn from best practice.

Objective 1: Grow your own

1.1 To support HHP kitchen garden

- Our staff team provide ongoing support to Houghton Hall Park whether this is help on the ground or help with operational matters. This project rally is a jewel in the crown for Houghton Regis.

1.2 To support appropriate management of the Woodside Link Community Orchard

- This is more of a work in progress... it took a while to determine ownership but now established it is hoped to develop a partnership arrangement to bring this site forward to reach its potential.

1.3 Establish allotments within new housing developments

- This really has been an exciting facility to see coming forward within Bidwell West. In total the town will have 3 allotment sites in this area, this is amazing seeing as the town does not currently have a single site. The council have worked hard with the developer to ensure that the site is of a gold standard. Hopefully this won't be too far off being available for use.

1.4 Encourage healthy eating and food awareness

- Supported by grant funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner, we have revamped our Youth Café. With a much more modern look, the setting is equipment with all things useful to help young people learn to make healthy and nutritious food. In addition to this the young people are linking in with the Houghton Hall Park (HHP) Kitchen Garden.

Objective 2: A Greener Cleaner Houghton Regis

2.1 To reduce the use of paper by the council

- Our use of paper has diminished beyond words. Staff and councillor access agenda papers and minutes online and 90% of documentation is stored digitally.
- Recycling bins are available throughout the offices

2.2 To increase recycling by the council

- Recycling facilities are available at all community events
- We encourage the use of enviro friendly products ie recyclable coffee & drinks cups,
- The use of single use plastic bottles has been greatly reduced by sourcing alternative products
- Ways to support food retailers and vendors with making more environmentally conscious decisions are being investigated.

2.3 To provide outdoor fitness equipment in parks and open spaces

- The Village Green now has an outdoor suite of fitness equipment from resistance trainers to cycles
- Not to overlook Orchard Close recreation ground which also hosts some equipment funded by Fields in Trust
- We are hoping to provide more of this type of equipment in other recreation grounds, watch this space

Objective 3: A safe and vibrant town

3.1 To reduce the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and crime levels

- Operation Hana continues, affording residents with additional high visibility policing in the town.
- Work on crime and anti social behaviour also continues in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council Community Safety Team

3.2 To reduce enviro crime

- As mentioned already, our new Town Ranger sets out to rectify enviro crime issues. He has removed graffiti, cut back hedges, picked up fly tipping.

Please do get in touch with the Ranger to seek his assistance to help make Houghton Regis cleaner, smarter and tidier.

3.3 To improve access to bulk waste removal services

- Flytipping is a nationwide problem, and this is true also in Houghton Regis. To try and reduce incidences the council set up an arrangement with Central Bedfordshire Council to offer a subsidy to Houghton Regis residents to get their bulk waste removed. It is not possible to measure the success of this but we very much hope that in this way we

have made the disposal of bulk waste more affordable to residents and also reduced the levels of fly tipping.

3.4 To seek to reduce speeding around schools

- The Town Council's 'Combating Crime Working Group' has been working hard with Central Bedfordshire Council to tackle safety issues around schools. With the closure of the schools during lockdown this initiative has had its challenges but hopefully it will be onwards and upwards from here.

3.5 To provide Christmas lights

- We hope you enjoy our Christmas lights display and the Christmas tree – combined they really do brighten up the town. We are thinking of planting a living Christmas tree to help with our environmental objectives and of extending the light display further.

3.6 To communicate well with residents and stakeholders

- We try to communicate out well to residents using social media, website updates, the Town Crier newsletter and our noticeboards and banners. Hopefully using this array of communication measures means that we do reach out to everyone regardless of their communication preferences.

3.7 To support local businesses and retailers

- Over the last few year's we have run various 'Shop Local' campaigns, working with retailers to provide you with offers and incentives. The scheme is continuing as we go forwards. We really do have an amazing town centre, so please support our local businesses whenever you can.

3.8 To welcome new residents

- With all the new housing going up and new residents moving in we wanted to provide a welcome letter to help families feel part of the town and to let them know what's going on. With the speedy take up of new homes, it's been a challenge....

Objective 4: Our community

4.1 To create or enhance community facilities which support community development and cohesion

- The main focus of this work has been on developing the all-weather sports provision at Tithe Farm Recreation ground. This is a huge project, but it is moving forwards positively and we hope to deliver on it in the not too distant future.

4.2 To enhance existing facilities to enable improved community use and accessibility

- This aspect overarches much of what we do – the Village Green pavilion improvements, all-weather sports provision at Tithe Farm Recreation ground, the refurbishment of Orchard Close pavilion are the more substantive examples.

4.3 To provide activities for young people, families and older people

- This is going from strength to strength. We have expanded our community events programme to include an open air cinema screening, we provide family events during the Easter and Summer holidays and the October half term, there is the Pop-up Café for young people, the Youth Council and an emerging older persons group.
- We will offer activities and events as part of the Queens Jubilee celebrations.

4.4 To provide high quality green spaces for leisure and recreation, healthier living, urban attractiveness, improved air quality

- We have an amazing grounds team who look after most of the large areas of parks and recreation grounds, play areas, open spaces and the cemetery and churchyard. They work tirelessly to ensure these facilities are great places to visit.

4.5 To provide a range of play facilities for all to enjoy

- We have installed a family area on the Village Green offering exercise equipment, family games and new seating.
- We have improved the surfaces at the Village Green and Orchard Close making the sites more useable for all.
- And finally, we are currently working on installing a family & youth area on Parkside Recreation ground, made possible through Ward Councillor funding and Police & Crime Commissioner

4.6 To support local organisations

- For many years the council have offered a grants scheme to local organisations whose work covers

the town. This scheme continues. However during the pandemic, the scheme also enabled the council to support local groups providing hands on assistance to those in need, we supplied activity packs and food parcels to supported living accommodations, assisted Houghton Regis Helpers deliver their services and provided funding to food banks, Ongoing HRTC Grant Scheme. We reached out as far and wide as we could to help those in need during this unprecedented time.

4.7 To support HHP to seek to develop the site to its full potential

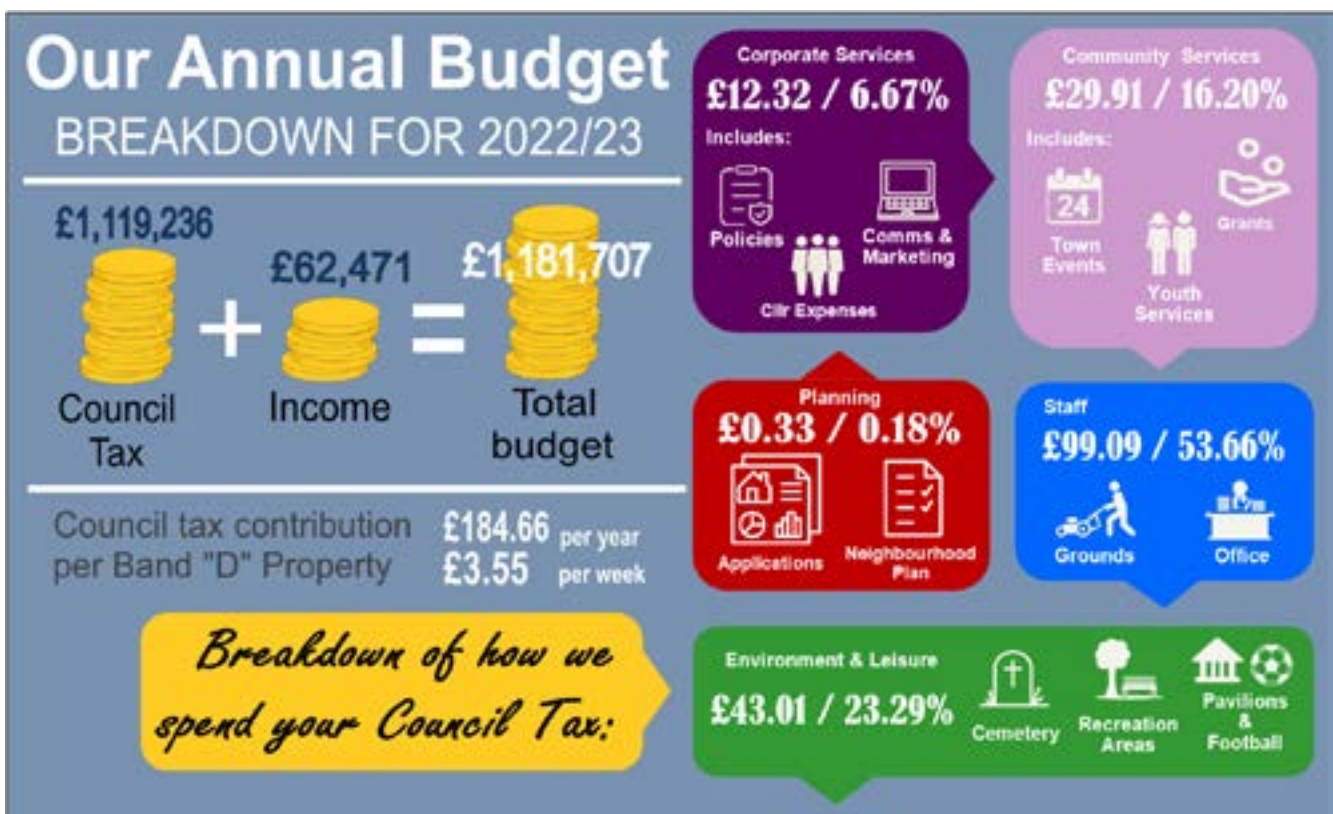
- The Town Council is a partner in the delivery of this project with Central Bedfordshire Council. We worked hard to bring the project forward and we will continue to work hard to ensure its continued success.

4.8 To complete the extension of the existing cemetery to provide a beautiful and tranquil place of rest for future generations

- This site is now fully operational, and we have had many positive comments. It is a beautiful and tranquil area in which your loved ones can rest.

Overall

The Vision of the Council was ambitious when it was set. The Aspirations and Objectives were far reaching and challenged the council to think about the services it delivers and how it delivers them. On top of this was added Covid, with the world as we knew it turned on its head the council had to rethink its operations. We have adjusted to the challenges posed and we very much hope that you, as our customers, support and value the work that we do.



Tithe Farm All Weather Sports Project – Update

Good news on this project.....

Planning permission was granted on 16th February 2022

- The pitch contractor has been appointed
- The pavilion contractor has been appointed
- The Football Foundation grant application (£950,000) is submitted – a decision is due towards the end of May
- We are looking to partner the Beds FA in terms of the day to day management of the facility

All being well contractors will begin to get on site come Autumn 2022 and the facility should be ready to use come summer 2023. Fingers crossed.

The funding for the project is from a range of sources -

Central Bedfordshire Council developer funding £198,020
Central Bedfordshire Council Community Asset Fund £25,000
Houghton Regis Town Council funding £390,916
Football Foundation £950,000
Public Work Loan Board £500,000

HRTC will need to borrow £500,000 from the Public Work Loan Board. This will be repaid on an annual basis using budget already included in the councils revenue budget.

This facility will be amazing – a first class provision for Houghton Regis.

Houghton Rocks!

After starting back in July with the Skate Park Event and the Film Screening, the Town Council held the Houghton Rocks Music Festival and Classic Car Show in September. It was brilliant to get back to running the events in the sunshine and what a reception it received!

The Town Council would like to thank the host, Billy Lee for introducing all the amazing bands and for his fantastic vocal performances throughout the day.

Guests at the event listened to music from 'The Cheats', 'The Long Riders', 'Little Chino', 'Sweeney Todd', 'Supersonic', Roberts Family



Band', 'Tess and the Durbervilles' and the headlining band - 'The Trollies'. There was a great selection of music from different eras and some amazingly talented performers.

There were stalls, food, a bar, a sweet bus and some fairground rides at the event, as well as Classic and Vintage Vehicles in display. The winners vehicles from the show were:

Pre-War - James Giles (Ford Model T)
1948- 1968 - Keith Miler (Ford Cortina)
1969 onwards - Bob Buckby (Bond Equipe Convertible)
Commercial - Tony Harrison

(Dodge Pilothouse Pickup Truck)
Motorbike - Philip Butcher (Ariel KG500)
Mayor's Choice - James Giles - (Ford Model T)

The Town Council was grateful to Zebra Properties for sponsorship of the event and Autolusso for their kind sponsorship of this event.

Photos courtesy of Joanna Cross



Fireworks Display

On Sunday 7th November, Houghton Regis Town Council teamed up with the award winning Fantastic Fireworks, to host a spectacular display which saw a crowd of over 3,000 enjoy the free family event. There were many additional health and safety considerations to put in place for this event, in light of COVID-19; but it was our pleasure to be able to make this event happen.

A sparking display of fireworks lit up the sky accompanied by a soundtrack filled with fitting and inspiring music, wowed the audience at Tithe Farm Recreation

Ground and we were pleased to welcome back DJ Big Man Craig from Perfect Personalised Parties to host the occasion. DJ Craig counted down with the audience to the eagerly anticipated opening fireworks, whilst a whole host of rides, food stalls and glow items were also on offer throughout the evening for everyone to enjoy.

Houghton Regis Town Council would like to thank all of the staff, councillors, co-opted members and volunteers involved with the organisation and smooth running of the event.



Christmas Gifts for Schools

As the Santa's Grotto was unable to go ahead, the Town Council delivered gifts to each of the Primary Schools, plus the Chiltern School and The Children's Centres!

Here are just a few of the bags, which the Grounds Team helped to deliver!



Santa Float

On 6th and 8th December, the Town Council teamed up with Santa, to bring the Santa Float to the streets of Houghton Regis!

Streets in the centre of town, plus Bidwell West and the Tithe Farm and Parkside areas were visited by Santa, Regis the Lion and the team of Elves and festive characters!

A big thank you to the staff and Councillors of Houghton Regis Town Council, Santa, Regis the Lion, Tim Haines (Community worker for Bidwell West), the Youth Council and the SOS Bus and Crew helping these visits to take place!

Santa had a lovely time and looks forward to visiting Houghton Regis again soon!



Update on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Martin Small, who had been consulting with us, has withdrawn and the Town Council has appointed a new consultant to continue the work. I want to thank Martin for all his hard work with us and to wish him all the best for the future.

The regulation 14 consultation on the draft plan was held between 9th August and 24th September 2021. A survey form collected community feedback. Three drop-in events were then held in August and September. The draft plan was also sent for comment to a long list of statutory consultees, including all the surrounding towns, villages, and parishes.

Consultation responses were collected and then collated by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, who had helped with the survey design and at the public consultation events. The final report was presented to the Steering Group. Steering Group

members have been working through the responses and, where needed, have been amending the draft plan.

The public comments were very supportive of the plan. The feedback included some points of public disagreement, and these issues are being removed or amended in the Plan.

On the open land at Windsor Drive, comments strongly stated that nothing should be built there. The draft plan also strongly seeks to protect that space in its current form. This land and several other green spaces in the parish may be formally designated, process permitting, as a Local Green Space, which will give it the most protection that we can.

On Thomas Whitehead School, comments were against the school having to move. The draft plan did not suggest that the school should or must move; the

Steering Group wanted to ensure that if the school ever did want to move, then their town centre land should not just become another site for housing alone. We are amending the wording to make this clearer in the next draft.

Ideas like the suggestion that housing could go on the Peel Street Medical Centre site should the centre move/close, or that gravestones might be removed from the churchyard are being revisited and, in some cases, deleted from the next version of the draft plan.

There are a few more steps to go through before the plan is finalised. If successful, the plan will then go out for a parish referendum vote which we hope will be no later than spring 2023.

David Gibbons
*Chair, Houghton Regis
Neighbourhood Plan Steering
Group*

2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

9th April

Easter Egg Hunt

Jubilee Event

details to be revealed soon!

2nd June

9th July

Carnival

Houghton Rocks

3rd September

6th November

Fireworks

TBC!

Santa's Grotto

10th December

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant



Fancy organising a street party with your neighbours to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee?

Tea, cake, games, bunting, fun and laughter – celebrate with your neighbours and friends and mark this amazing historic event in a truly British fashion.

The Town Council is delighted to be able to offer you a donation towards the costs of holding a party, up to £200.

For tips and advice on organising a party search online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

And to apply for a grant to help you celebrate, look on our website under [OUR COMMUNITY > COMMUNITY GRANTS](#).

Its quick and simple to apply, tell about your party and who you are going to invite, show us your receipts and we'll provide a funding contribution of up to £200 towards your event.



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from February 2022 to the end of May 2022. 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 meeting 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

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

| Date | Day | Committee | Time |
|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|------|
| 2022 | | | |
| 21st February | Monday | New Office Provisions Sub | 6pm |
| 21st February | Monday | Planning | |
| 28th February | Monday | Corporate Services | |
| 14th March | Monday | Planning | |
| 21st March | Monday | Town Council | |
| 4th April | Monday | Planning | |
| 11th April | Monday | Annual Towns Meeting | |
| 19th April | Tuesday | Personnel Sub-Committee | 6pm |
| 25th April | Monday | Proposed new Cemetery Sub | 6pm |
| 25th April | Monday | Planning | |
| 26th April | Tuesday | Town Partnership | |
| 16th May | Monday | Planning | |
| 18th May | Wednesday | Town Council (AGM) | |

*subject to confirmation. Please see website for updates.

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



www.houghtonregis.org.uk



@HRCouncil1



Houghton Regis
Town Council

Pride of Houghton Awards

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

*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"/> |
| Key Worker during Covid-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Innovation during Covid-19 | <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)