



TOWN CRIER

Telephone: 01582 708540

E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

Web: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Our 4th Classic Car Show takes place between 12 - 4pm

The event features a fantastic display of vehicles from Pre-War to modern classics. There will be entertainment throughout the day.

Find us on 



CLASSIC & VINTAGE MOTOR SHOW 2015

Sunday 13th September



Houghton Regis Carnival & Skate Park Event

July was a busy month with our two events, our "Summer Vacation" themed carnival and a skate park event. Highlights from these events can be found on page 6 and 7.



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

Officers:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Clare Evans Town Clerk | 01582 708542 |
| Stuart Oliver Deputy Town Clerk | 01582 708543 |
| Sarah Gelsthorp Promotions & Communications Officer | 01582 708523 |
| Sonia Stennett Accounts & Cemetery Officer | 01582 708541 |
| Chantel England Administration Officer | 01582 708540 |

Councillor contact details:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Houghton Hall Ward: | |
| Cllr. Laura Ellaway | 01582 537 105 |
| Cllr. Robin Hines | 01582 759 026 |
| Cllr. Rob Shimmin | 01528 933 538 |
| 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 | 07542 201 115 |
| Cllr. Martin Kennedy | 01582 702 274 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Tithe Farm Ward: | |
| Cllr. David Abbott | 01582 894 060 |
| Cllr. Tracey McMahon | 07948 532 662 |
| Cllr. Richard Scott | 01582 708 540 |
| 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 |

The Town Mayor



Sunday 13th September is the Houghton Regis Classic Car Show on the Village Green and I am very much looking forward to seeing all the cars, polished and ready for show. I will be faced with the challenge of choosing one of these vehicles as the overall winner (who will win the Mayor's Choice Award). There will also be categories for Pre War, 1948-1969, 1969 onwards, Commercial, Military and Motorcycles and I am sure that it is going to be difficult to choose!

Since my Inauguration as Town Mayor in May, I have attended many events in the town and the local area. These have included the Installation and Licensing of the new Vicar of All Saints Church, Father Diego Galazino, The Cheering Volunteering Awards and the 1st/3rd Houghton Regis Scouts AGM. I have also received visits from the children of St Vincent's and Thornhill Primary Schools (who took part in a 'Council Meeting' in the Council Chamber) and held fund raising events in aid of my nominated charities.

Events that I will be hosting over the next few months are:

- Friday 23rd October 2015 – An Evening of Clairvoyance at St. Vincent's Social Club (please see the Town Council website or Facebook pages for more information about how to buy tickets)
- Tuesday 24th November 2015 – A Celebration of Christmas at the Grove Theatre
- Saturday 5th December 2015 - Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Parish Church.

There are lots of events happening over the next few months, especially as Christmas comes around, and I look forward to meeting you all on these occasions.

Councillor Robert Shimmin

Town Mayor

If you have an event that you would like the Town Mayor to attend, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp, Town Mayor's Secretary on 01582 708540 or email sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk

Town Clerk



Well I can't believe we are in September already! I hope you have had a good summer despite the somewhat variable weather.

Since the July edition of the Town Crier the town has continued to see its landscape change as construction vehicles reshape land for the A5-M1 link and the Woodside Link. In addition Central Bedfordshire Council have approved, with various planning conditions, the mixed use development known as HRN2 and the employment development with associated infrastructure and ancillary works on the land at Thorne Turn. More information on these planning permissions can be found inside.

In addition the Town Council have been pleased to host the "Summer Vacation" themed Carnival and the 2015 Skate Park Competition. Both events were really well supported, we hope you managed to come along and join in the fun. On pages 6 and 7 you will find a selection of photographs capturing the days. These events take a huge amount of organising by the Town Council and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped organise, run and clear up after the events. There are far too many groups, organisations and individuals to name but please be assured how much we value all your help and assistance and enthusiasm.

There is a lot more to look forward to in the upcoming months including our Classic & Vintage Motor Show on **Sunday 13th September** on the Village Green. This is the fourth year for this event, with over 80 vehicles already booked in it is all set to be bigger and better than ever before. **Make sure you put it in your Diary!**

We also have our School Choir "Celebration of Christmas" show on 24th November to look forward to. This will again be held in The Grove Theatre thanks to the generous sponsorship of the promoters of HRN1. This is always a hugely popular event so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment

Clare Evans

Town Clerk

If you are aged 65 or over, you can register for the Mayor's Christmas Card.

Please contact Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708523 to ensure that you are on the list.



Our Parks – Free Fitness Opportunities

The CBC Community Physical Activity Team is working in partnership with a company called Our Parks.

Our Parks is a brand new initiative bringing FREE, group exercise classes, led by experienced, fully qualified and insured instructors, to parks near you.

Classes are running at Tithe Farm Park, Houghton Regis on a Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Visit www.ourparks.org.uk for more information or to book your free classes.

The Community Physical Activity Team also offer the following fitness opportunities for the community in Houghton Regis:

Dance Machines 50+
Mondays 10.30 – 11.15am
Houghton Regis Leisure Centre
14 people attend regular
£2.00 per session

Walks 50+
Thursdays 10.00 – 10.45am
Houghton Regis Library
8 people on average attend
FREE

New - Badminton 50+
Mondays 11.30 – 12.30pm
Houghton Regis Leisure Centre
4 people attend regular
FREE

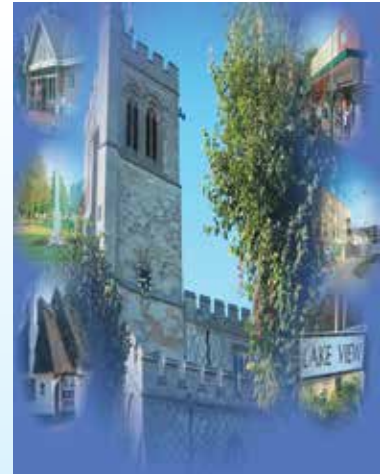
Up Above The Streets and Houses – New Book About Houghton Regis

Up Above The Streets and Houses, by Sarah Gelsthorp, contains 140 pages filled with some 'never published before' photographs from local people and archives, combined with facts and information about the three residential areas of Houghton Regis, Houghton Hall, Tithe Farm and Parkside.

Did you know that a street in Houghton Regis was named after an Olympic athlete? Or that a Second World War Cooking Depot was once located on Easthill Road? How about the historic artefacts that were found at Easthill Farm during the 1950s, or the Victorian business women who owned premises at Bedford Road? These are just a few of the stories, which have made Houghton Regis the town that it is today, and Up Above The Streets and Houses documents the history of the area through its people and buildings, which have given their names to many of the streets.

The book will be available to purchase soon, priced at £8.99 (plus postage and packing if applicable), and all proceeds (after printing costs) will be donated to Houghton Regis organisations, but principally, Houghton Regis Heritage Society.

For more details, and to purchase your copy, please visit www.upabovethestreetsandhouses.co.uk, or email upabovethestreetsandhouses.co.uk



Council & Committee Reports

The Agendas and approved Minutes can be found on the Town Council website, <http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/town-council>

Town Council met 22nd June to consider a very full agenda. Of particular note was:

- The agreement to purchase 2 redeployable CCTV cameras and to arrange to have these sited at various locations across Houghton Regis to help to deter crime and nuisance behaviour;
- Not to continue to consider Orchard Close Recreation Ground as a possible location for a new cemetery;
- To approve the year end accounts and Annual Return for 2014/15;
- To consider the Internal Auditors report for 2014/15;
- To approve the Annual Report from 2014/15; and,
- To approve the following policy documents: Standing Orders, Internal Controls, Health and Safety Policy, Equality & Diversity Policy and the Chairmanship Policy.

The Corporate Services Committee in June undertook a budget review, considered and confirmed arrangements for insurance cover for the Town Council, completed a review of land and assets and agreed to undertake a Job Evaluation process subject to funding detail.

The Community Services Committee at the end of May received an update report from 4YP (the Youth Services Provider in Houghton Regis), awarded 2 community grants to the Parkside 50+ Club and the Recycled Teenagers and agreed to contents schedule for the Town Crier.

The Planning & Licensing Committee held three meetings in the last 3 months and 16 applications considered. Of these, only 3 were objected to.

Highways Projects & Improvements

As we all know from the array of construction vehicles sited along the Thorn Turn and at the top end of Sundon Road for the A5 – M1 Link Road and the ground works being undertaken around Sandringham Drive/Poynters Road for the Woodside Link, Houghton Regis is in the midst of two significant highways projects.

However the Town is also set to benefit from a number of local highways repair and improvement projects. These are being completed by Central Bedfordshire Council and are as follows:

New Improvement Schemes

- Works substantially complete to date:
 - ◇ Site 26 Park Road North Toucan crossing and footway widening
 - ◇ Site 43 Sundon Road to Hammersmith Gardens footway widening
 - ◇ Site 39 Dog Kennel Path drainage
 - ◇ Site 1 Dog Kennel Path CCTV
 - ◇ Site 33 Drury Lane cycleway/footway widening
 - ◇ Removal of low lying vegetation along Sundon Road
- Works currently on site (September 2015):
 - ◇ Site 5a Parkside Drive raised zebra crossing signs
 - ◇ Site 5b Parkside Drive raised zebra crossing signs
 - ◇ Site 5c Sundon Road raised zebra crossing signs, resurfacing, Buff high

friction surfacing and Easthill Cycle contraflow

- ◇ Site 10 Parkside Drive road hump warning signs

- Works currently being designed:
 - ◇ Site 27 Cycle network signing and lining works

General Maintenance of Existing Highways Assets

- St. Michaels Avenue: Footway resurfacing around the entrance to the school (work begun)
- East End: Resurfacing of footway from The Green to Chequers pub (one side only on the pub side). This work has yet to be programmed but will hopefully be completed this financial year.
- Plaiters Way: Short section of footway resurfacing outside No. 110
- Eddiwick Ave: Re-profile footway to side of No. 37 to prevent ponding
- Angels Lane: Replace broken kerbs, resurface footway, carriageway patching and patch footway directly outside the school. Works commenced Monday 17th August
- All gullies in the area have received their routine (3 yearly) cleanse in March/April 2015
- The CBC white lining subcontractor have refreshed worn white and yellow road markings.

Strategic Projects

At the Central Bedfordshire Council Development Management Committee meeting on 22nd July the following planning applications were granted approval subject to various planning conditions:

Planning Application No. CB/15/00297/OUT

Address : Land West of Bidwell (Houghton Regis North Site 2), Houghton Regis

Outline 'hybrid' planning application with details of main access routes, primary road network and associated drainage in detail only and layout in outline with details of landscaping, appearance and scale reserved for later determination. Development to comprise: Up to 1,850 residential (C3) dwellings (including affordable housing), 2FE Primary School (D1), employment land (Use Classes B1 (a-c), B2 & B8), local centre comprising retail (A1, A2, A3, A4 & A5) and community/leisure uses (D1 & D2), layout of public open spaces including sports pitches and changing rooms, natural wildlife areas and all associated works and operations including engineering operations and earthworks.

Planning Application No. CB/15/01928/REG3

Address : Land at Thorn Turn, Thorn Road, Houghton Regis

Outline application: B1, B2 & B8 employment with associated infrastructure and ancillary works. All matters reserved except means of access.

The associated agenda, committee reports and subsequent minutes can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council website: <http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=631&MId=4878&Ver=4>



SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Business interview with



Store Manager: Kunle

1. How long have you been in Bedford Square for?

Since about the year 2000, which will be approx 15 years ago?

2. What are the changes you have seen?

I have only worked for Poundstretcher for the past 4 years and I have not seen many changes. Few that come to mind, are businesses closing down and a few other coming along. Customers shopping habits have changed, which meant discount retailers became an option for consumers looking for a bargain, other than just the traditional retailers. The minor road construction didn't help with customer access to the square. The closure of Tesco store within the square meant the place lacked a local store for customers to buy their groceries, frozen, fruit and vegetables, tobacco and alcohol. This had resulted in less customer presence within the square, which is currently affecting sales turnover for all existing businesses.

3. How would you like the Square to change in the future?

The development of the square will help. A modern shopping mall infrastructure will be ideal for the benefit of both the consumers and businesses.

The square is extremely unpleasant when it gets dark and during the day, because of the presence of wayward kids/youths. These kids cause a lot of trouble by their actions, which are a burden to business owners and also a hindrance to those who may want to visit the square especially anyone vulnerable. A good police presence would help or a form of security measures put in place to defer the presence of these kids/youths.

4. What is your most popular product / brand?

We have many products that majorly appeals to our customers. Our Cosysoft Tissue range, the memory foam product range, our vintage home-ware decorations, vintage gardening range, garden solar and Christmas lights just to name a few.)

5. What are your opening hours?

We open at 8:30am in the morning Mondays to Saturday and at 10am on Sundays. On occasions we welcome our customers to come into our stores as early as 8:00am to browse around while we prepare the store for opening.

6. Have you any special plans for the business this Christmas?

We do great things every year in terms of the range of products we make available for our customers. Poundstretcher is always keen on product development and also the introduction of better product range and this Christmas will not be an exception. The biggest excitement for us this Christmas will be the launch of our new store extension, which I am hoping will take place at the latest before Christmas. This will mean a much better increase in product range, also in terms of quality, bigger store space for our customers to enjoy, and newer and better store facility. Overall we hope to enhance a better customer experience in our store as a result of the store expansion.

7. Is there any special message you would like to give residents of Houghton Regis?

The store will definitely be looking forward to being of service to everyone and anyone that visits us during the Christmas period. Our business is planning great savings for all our customers across all the range of products which

includes Christmas decorations, Christmas novelties, many ranges of food and toiletries, a much improved range of home-ware, bedding and many more, which will be great gift ideas during the festive period. We will like our customers to know "that we aim to do better in everything we do and we will like to be told if there is anything we are not doing right." We as a business believe that our success will depend on the satisfaction of our customers so we are determined to "ensure that our customer have a good shopping experience every time they visit us".

Free business adverts sponsored by HRTC in support of Local businesses

Alan
Internal & External Painter
07914379308
alanbunting@hotmail.co.uk
Also Clean and Gutter Repair. Work undertaken, free quotation on request!
AB Services

ALL-WHITE'S
Pet Care

Dog walks
Pet sitting in your home caring, trustworthy, individual, local pet care.

Contact Helen to discuss your needs
07949 159013
helenwhite28@live.co.uk
www.allwhitespetcare.co.uk

SUMMER VACATION Carnival



Skate - BMX - Scooter Competition



Current Consultations

Central Bedfordshire Council are currently consulting on a number matters. Details can be found following:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say>

Of particular note is the current consultation on the Land at Kirton Way. The land is currently owned by a developer but has become problematic over time as the grass area contains concrete structures and ironwork which have deteriorated and are unsightly. Central Bedfordshire Council has been informally maintaining the site by cutting the grass for a number of years.

At a meeting of the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee (comprising the four Houghton Regis Central Bedfordshire Council Councillors and four nominated town councillors), there was agreement that efforts should focus on removing the concrete and ironwork, and the land leveled and seeded. CBC would like to know your thoughts about this piece of land. You can have your say on the land by completing the online questionnaire by following the link above.

The Consultation starts on 24th August 2015 and closes on 30th September 2015.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH SNOOSC

Do you enjoy working with young people and children with Special Needs?

We are looking for people passionate about the need to help a popular expanding organisation that offer services for young people and their families.

We know that time is precious for people, so we will work with you to ensure that it is advantageous for club members as well as yourself.

If this sounds like you, we would welcome you to contact SNOOSC office
01582 868244 or snooscgmail.com
we look forward to hearing from you.

Laurette Bygrave
Manager SNOOSC



The Disability Resource Centre



Services for Disabled People

The Disability Resource Centre provides a range of FREE services empowering people of all ages who are affected by disability or health conditions to fulfill their potential and aspirations. We help disabled people, carers and families across Bedfordshire and Luton.

Disability Advice Services

Information on many disability-related topics
Equipment advice from trained staff
Equipment Showroom
view, purchase or hire equipment from us
Welfare Benefits
help with applying for disability-related benefits
Disease-specific support groups

Personalisation

Services to help you manage your direct payments for recruiting and employing a Personal Assistant
Personal Assistant register
Payroll
Holding Accounts
Services for Self-Funders

Health, Learning and Work

Part time courses
including personal development and IT
Specialised workshops
including 'disability' and 'health and social care'
Training Academy for Personal Assistants
Support into employment
Support for businesses
Health and wellbeing
Sports projects

Poynters House

We house a number of relevant groups and services
Meeting rooms and tenancies available
IT training suite and social enterprise hub

We are located just off the A505 between Dunstable and Luton, and are easily reached from junction 11 of the M1. Our premises are fully accessible, with disabled access toilets. We have a dedicated car park for Blue Badge holders at the front of the building. Other visitors should use the car park at the rear of the building (see map).

The Confident Carer Service

Advice and support for unpaid carers living in Luton, or caring for someone who lives in Luton.
www.confidentcarer.org.uk



Call: 01582 470900
Website: www.drcbeds.org.uk
Email: information@drcbeds.org.uk
Poynters House, Poynters Rd, Dunstable, LU5 4TP
Registered Charity No 1041712 Our Patron: The Duke of Bedford



2015 Christmas

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 24th November
Grove Theatre, Dunstable
"A Celebration of Christmas" - Christmas songs old and new from our Houghton Regis Primary Schools plus performances by other Special Guests.

Saturday 5th December
All Saints Church, Houghton Regis
Christmas Carol Service & Christmas Light Switch on

Saturday 12th December
Houghton Regis Library, Houghton Regis
Santa's Grotto

Spotlight on the Community...



Houghton Regis Helpers
07587 004514
houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk

What kind of services do the Helpers offer?

The aim of the good neighbour scheme is to provide to residents in Houghton Regis, occasional assistance such as shopping, gardening, minor DIY, walking the dog or providing transport to the doctor, hospital or other appointments, if they have no family or friends nearby to help. We can also provide a befriending service to lonely, socially isolated neighbours, dropping in for a cup of tea or a chat.

How long have the Helpers been offering their services to residents of Houghton Regis?

Our voluntary scheme was launched in December 2011, so we are in our 4th year.

How do people get in touch with you?

There are various ways to get in touch:

Telephone: 07587 004514

Email houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk

Website: houghtonregishelpers.co.uk

Facebook group page - Houghton Regis Helpers

Or you can come and chat to our volunteers at a community event, such as the Carnival, May Fayre, other fairs or through the Town Council. We do frequently receive inquiries from Social Services, Family Support Workers, OT's, Housing, Bromford Support and other agencies on behalf of local residents, however we prefer, where possible, for residents to make contact themselves.

Is there a charge for your volunteers' services?

We are a voluntary organisation - non-political, non-religious and not-for-profit. Most of our services are free – the only exceptions are: for our drivers, who should charge a nominal amount for petrol, and for follow-up more regular gardening work for which we ask a donation of £5. Any charges are subject to an ability to pay.

If someone would like to volunteer as a Houghton Regis Helper, what do they need to do?

We welcome volunteers of all ages (under 18's will be under supervision) and for whatever hours/ times he or she can spare. Volunteers do not need to be a resident of Houghton Regis, but should be willing and able to support the residents of our town. Anyone interested should make contact by phone, email, via the website, via Facebook or in person and they will be provided with a Volunteer Welcome Pack. This Pack provides information and guidelines on volunteering with our group and includes an application form and other documents. All our volunteers require enhanced DBS checks, which we arrange with them free of charge. They will also be given a photo ID card and all our volunteers are covered by Public Liability Insurance.

What's the strangest thing you have been asked to undertake?

We have had unusual and unexpected requests - one of the earliest was a request from a lady in California, USA asking for a befriender for her elderly mother who lives in Houghton Regis! Accompanying a client to a funeral in Bedford was unusual. Several volunteers were involved last year in packing up and moving 2 disabled residents who were home-swapping. One late evening recently we had to respond quickly to a medical emergency, and we had a strange incident when someone was given a lift to the busway to go to the airport and left part of their luggage in the volunteer's car, leading to him chasing them all the way to the airport himself!

What have you had the most fun doing?

Our volunteers who enjoy gardening have had fun tackling several very overgrown wilderness gardens, working as a team and appreciating the help that some residents are able to give themselves. Volunteers enjoyed decorating in a client's house, and especially the home-made cakes and teas the resident provided. Our volunteers who regularly befriend local residents enjoy the friendships that have developed and some have had fun accompanying their 'friend' to shows and events. As a group we have had fun providing the teas at community events, such as the Jubilee on the Green, May Fayres, Craft Fairs and MacMillan Coffee morning with the Craft and Coffee Club. Another fun event our volunteers have helped with has been the Celebration of Christmas at the Grove theatre - as runners backstage and programme-sellers we really feel part of the community and local schools.

Why do volunteers join Houghton Regis Helpers?

We have asked this question to our volunteers when we have met together - responses range from:

'I wanted to give something back to the local community'

'I was new to the area and volunteering has helped me make new friends'

'I wanted to meet like-minded people'

'Just wanted to help out where I live'

'It helps me to feel a sense of belonging'

'I can offer skills I learnt from my work'

'I'm a glutton for punishment'

'My wife made me do it!'

Crime & Anti Social Behaviour in Houghton Regis

Houghton Regis is fortunate to have a police station on Sundon Road and to have an enthusiastic and committed policing team. To assist the police and to help our residents the Town Council fund additional high visibility policing. The annual budget for this is £33,000 per annum. For this the Town receives approximately 50 hours of additional policing per month. To monitor this contract the Council meet with the police on a monthly basis and review Crime & Anti Social Behaviour, problem areas and opportunities for further partnership working. The following figures were reported to the Council for May and June:

Crime

| | Population | Recorded Crimes in May & June 2015 | Ratio |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Houghton Regis | 17,000 | 243 | 1:70.0 |
| Dunstable | 35,000 | 506 | 1:69.2 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 40,000 | 342 | 1:117.0 |
| Luton | 203,200 | 2,860 | 1:71.0 |

ASB / Transport

| | Population | Recorded ASB in May & June 2015 | Ratio | Recorded Transport in May & June 2015 | Ratio |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Houghton Regis | 17,000 | 394 | 1:43.1 | 65 | 1:261.5 |
| Dunstable | 35,000 | 365 | 1:95.9 | 122 | 1:286.9 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 40,000 | 181 | 1:221.0 | 97 | 1:412.4 |
| Luton | 203,200 | 1,474 | 1:137.9 | 682 | 1:297.9 |

Anti-Social Behaviour

As a frequent cause of complaint and concern from residents the following provides advice and information from the Central Bedfordshire Council website:

What is Anti-Social Behaviour

Put simply, anti-social behaviour is something that disturbs others, diminishes their quality of life and the peace and quiet of a neighbourhood.

Anti-social behaviour can mean different things to different people. For example, people living on a large housing estate may be more tolerant to young people playing football outside their property than elderly residents living in sheltered accommodation who may find this intimidating and distressing. Although this is distressing and may be a nuisance, it is not necessarily anti-social behaviour.

Tolerance to noise may also be different. A family with children may accept higher noise levels than a person living alone working nightshifts, who may find the same noise levels unacceptable. Again, although this is distressing it is a nuisance, not anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour can manifest itself in a variety of ways but some of the common problems include:

- intimidation, shouting, swearing
- Graffiti, vandalism and damage to property
- Using and selling Class A drugs
- Using a house to sell drugs or for any other illegal activity.
- Verbal and physical threats and abuse
- Animals not being kept under control
- Harassment including incidents based on race, gender, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Loud noise

Approaching the person causing the problem

It is generally better if problems are discussed and a solution is found before both parties get too annoyed.

If the problem is not too serious then try and talk to the person yourself, particularly if they are a neighbour or someone you know. In most cases this will resolve the problem and a compromise may be reached. Speaking face to face can sometimes be more effective than writing letters. A resolution and agreement made between both interested parties will often be reached more quickly and work better than one imposed by a third party. Issues to consider are:

- Before approaching your neighbour, you should give some thought as to what you are going to say.
- Be clear about the problem and how it affects you and your family.
- Do not stray away from the main problem.
- Think about what the outcome is likely to be and stay calm and friendly. Being aggressive at any point will not help.
- Try not to bring up incidents from the past, unless they are relevant.

Report Anti Social Behaviour

When you report an incident or make a complaint the council will not take any action or speak to anyone else about the problem without agreeing this with you first. All reports made to the council are treated in the strictest of confidence.

Housing Services deal with issues affecting their tenants and the Community Safety Anti-Social Behaviour team deal with complaints involving people in private accommodation.

Contacts

- Community Safety ASB Team – 0300 300 8302 (Private tenants and home owners)
- Landlord Services Tenancy Officer – 0300 300 8302 (Anti-social behaviour involving a Central Bedfordshire Council tenant)
- Local Policing Team – 101
- Environmental Protection Team – 0300 300 8302 (domestic noise, smoke and light nuisance such as litter)

Who can help?

Both the Community Safety Anti-Social Behaviour team and the Housing Services team tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Housing Services team will take all reasonable steps to ensure their residents comply with their tenancy agreement.

The Community Safety Anti-Social Behaviour team deals with complaints affecting home owners and private rented tenants and larger issues affecting communities. Generally the council’s tenancy enforcement officer will deal with complaints affecting their tenants.

Incidents of fly-tipping, excessive domestic noise and litter are considered environmental crime.

Mediation

If you find that a direct personal approach does not work, the next step is to try mediation. Mediation is a way of sorting out both neighbourhood and community disagreements; an independent mediator will listen to each individual’s issues and will work through them, seeking understanding and explore how they can be resolved for the future.

The aim of mediation is to help both parties to find an appropriate outcome that they can live with. The council may be able to arrange mediation for you – it does not always have to be face to face, but it is usually more effective this way.

Contact the Council’s Housing Services team on 0300 300 8007 for more details if you live in council accommodation or the Community Safety Anti-Social Behaviour team on 0300 300 8302 if you live in private rented accommodation or are a home owner.

Avoiding Anti Social-Behaviour

The best way to prevent causing anti-social behaviour is to avoid behaving in a way that might cause a nuisance to others:

- Try not to carry out DIY jobs between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am, particularly if you live in a flat – this could include vacuuming.
- Warn your neighbours if you are intending to have a party, and try to limit the noise during late hours.
- Do not play music, audio equipment or the TV loudly, especially if you live in a flat or maisonette where noise travels more easily. If you have difficulty hearing, consider wearing earphones.

- Keep your pets under control and clear up after them, particularly if you share a garden.
- Talk to your children and visitors if their behaviour is likely to cause either nuisance or harassment to others.
- Dispose of your rubbish and unwanted items in the right way or contact the council’s Waste Management team for advice.
- If you live in a flat or maisonette, try to avoid the slamming of your front door and communal doors.
- Be considerate and ensure you behave as you would want others to behave towards you and your family.

If you find yourself being accused of anti-social behaviour, think about whether you are responsible for the distress being caused to the complainant. You may not be aware your behaviour is causing a problem. There may also be an easy way to solve the problem, such as closing your windows when playing music and keeping the noise down when most people are trying to sleep.



Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from October to the end of December 2015. 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 |
|---------------------------|---------|--|--------|
| 12 th October | Monday | Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.15pm |
| 19 th October | Monday | Town Partnership | |
| 2 nd November | Monday | Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.15pm |
| 9 th November | Monday | Environment & Leisure | |
| 10 th November | Tuesday | Community Services (Grants) | |
| 16 th November | Monday | Community Services | |
| 23 rd November | Monday | Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.15pm |
| 30 th November | Monday | Corporate Services | |
| 7 th December | Monday | Town Council | |
| 14 th December | Monday | Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.15pm |

Community Calendar



Monday's, 6pm – 7pm
Community Centre,
Bedford Square, Houghton Regis
For more information call 07846 421756

Community Café



Tuesday's 1.30 - 3.30pm
Sandringham Hub, Sandringham Drive,
Houghton Regis
For more information
call Right Track 07999 859 980

Pop in for a Cuppa & Cake!

Houghton Regis Youth Club

Tuesday's & Wednesday's
6pm - 8pm Ages 12 – 18 years
Community Centre, Houghton Regis



For more information
www.4ypuk.com



Dunstable Sea Cadets

The Old Mill, Dunstable



Sea Cadets (12-18 yrs)
Royal Marine Cadets (13 -18 yrs)

Wednesday / Friday 7.15 – 9.30pm

Junior Cadets (10 -11 yrs)

Friday 7.15 -9.30pm

Please Contact 01582 605686

1st/3rd Houghton Regis Scout Group



| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Beavers | Thursdays | 6.00 – 7.15pm |
| Cubs | Thursdays | 7.15 – 8.30pm |
| Scouts | Mondays | 6.30 – 8.30pm |

Cemetery Road, Houghton Regis

For more information
call Dick Short 01582 666629