

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     

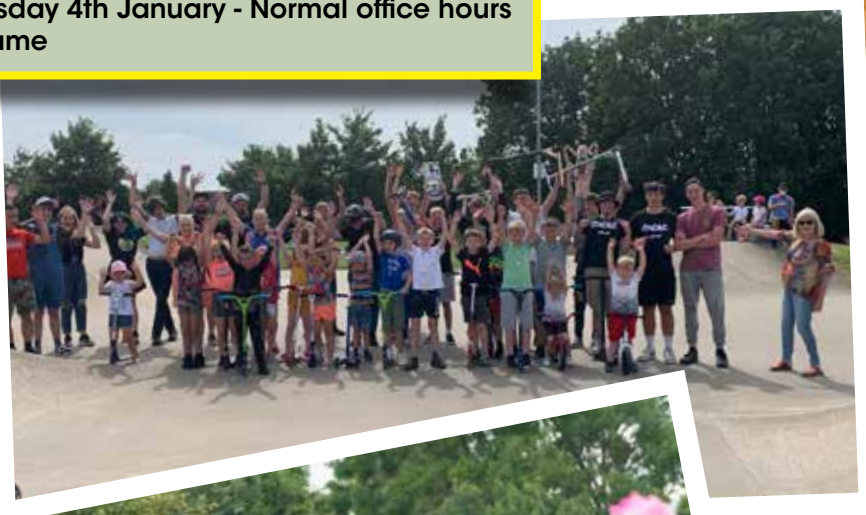


Christmas 2021 Opening Hours

We are pleased to say that the Council will remain contactable over the Christmas period by phone, email and social media. You can contact us on 01582 708540 or info@houghtonregis.org.uk or find us on social media and drop us a message.

The Council Office reception will be open as follows:

Friday 24th December - Open 9am to 1pm
Monday 27th - 31st December - CLOSED
Monday 3rd January - CLOSED
Tuesday 4th January - Normal office hours resume



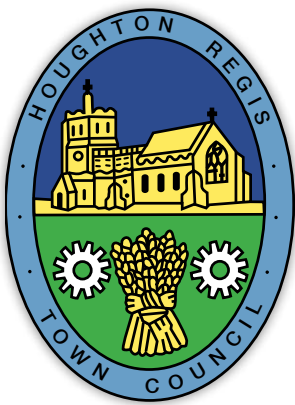
Included in this edition:

Review of previous Events

Houghton Regis Town Ranger

Committee Updates

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



Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

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

Telephone: 01582 708540

Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

Website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

facebook.com/hrtowncouncil

pinterest.com/houghtonregistc

@HRCouncil1

@HoughtonRegisTC

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 Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708 523
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer	01582 708 540
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 708 540
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services	01582 708 540
Zunaira Sabih Administration Officer	01582 708 540

Councillor contact details:

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

Parkside Ward:	
Cllr Jimmy Carroll	01582 708 540
Cllr Don Dixon-Wilkinson	01582 529 554
Cllr Clare Copleston	01582 708 540
Cllr Elaine Cooper	07376 583 892

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

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

Review of events

Skate Park Event



It was great to be back at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground on 23rd July for the Skate Park Competition. The popular event had been missed so much during 2020 and it was terrific to see so many families and young people enjoying the day. There were displays from Team 3Sixty as well as some information stands from local organisations, and the judges were impressed by the entries to the Competitions from bikes, boards and scooter riders. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Open Air Film Screening:

The Town Council held its first ever movie night at Houghton Hall Park in July! The event was a big success with families enjoying Moana and Trolls - and fortunately it stayed dry for most of the event!



The Town Council was grateful to everyone who made this event possible and a big thank you also to Regis the Lion, who by the looks of things had a great time too!

Houghton Rocks

Houghton Rocked its socks off on Saturday 4th September (thank you to Joanna Cross @ Joanna Cross Photography for the amazing pictures of the event). 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 Trolleys'. There was a great selection of music from different eras and some amazingly talented performers.



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

- Pre-War - James Giles (Ford Model T)
- 1948- 1968 - Keith Miller (Ford Cortina)
- 1969 onwards - Bob Buckby (Bond Equipe Convertible)
- Commercial - Tony Harrison (Dodge Pilothouse Pick up Truck)
- Motorbike - Philip Butcher (Ariel KG500)
- Mayor's Choice - James Giles - (Ford Model T)



The Town Council would like to thank Zebra Properties for sponsorship of the event and Autolusso for sponsoring the Classic and Vintage Motor Show.

My Mayoral Year

When I was elected as the new Mayor of Houghton Regis in May 2021, it was an overwhelming feeling of joy, honour, pride and uncertainty! Uncertainty because as a nation we were still in an unpredictable pandemic and lockdown was only just beginning to ease. I was uncertain what my year ahead as mayor would bring, but I was fully committed to investing my full dedication to doing our community and town council proud and to the best of my ability.

I chose a theme for my year, that being Dignity and Kindness! Kindness because this was very important to me. Particularly during the pandemic as it was incredible and evident to see the vast number of acts of kindness taking place daily from individuals within our community and further afield. From checking on their neighbours, supporting our vulnerable residents, delivering food and medications to those most vulnerable and in need. The enormous amount of volunteering was inspiring and admirable. This to me showed just how incredible humanity is and how when faced with difficult and challenging times, communities pull together in strength, kindness and in dignity.

It wasn't such a slow start as one may have predicted! Within my first month I had already attended many engagements and had begun planning the year ahead as best as we were able to do so. This included planning many fundraising events for my chosen charities.

The charities I have chosen for my term are The Firefighters Charity, who offers specialist, lifelong support for members of the UK fire services community, empowering individuals to achieve mental, physical, and social wellbeing throughout their lives.

Our local fire service was incredible during the pandemic and seeing them working tirelessly in partnership with the NHS and

ambulance services driving the ambulances and supporting with patient care, all while, still maintaining and responding to fire and emergency call outs is something for which I will always be truly grateful.

The 2nd charity I have chosen is SSAFA. Their support covers both regulars and reserves in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army and the Royal Air Force and their families, including anyone who has completed National Service. They are all entitled to lifelong support from SSAFA, no matter how long they have served.

SSAFA helps the armed forces community in a number of ways, by providing direct support to individuals in need of physical or emotional care. Addiction, relationship breakdown, debt, homelessness, post-traumatic stress, depression, and disability are all issues that can affect our members of our Armed Forces community. Many of these problems only become apparent when an individual has to leave their life in the Forces and join 'Civvy Street'. SSAFA is committed to helping the brave men and women overcome these problems, and to rebuild their lives.

Many members within our local community regularly utilise these incredible charities.

In my experience of many years working directly within mental health and wellbeing services including working with the emergency services and the armed forces, and directly supporting many local residents, I have seen first-hand the need and demand for these charities which is why I felt passionately about supporting these great causes.

We also have many local charities, community interest organisations and social enterprises that I am extremely proud of, and I will continue to work with and support them as I have always done so! One of the highlights for me so



far was to show my appreciation and to give thanks to our frontline workers on Frontline workers day that took place on 5th July. I had the honour of visiting and meeting our frontline workers in person and by surprising them with an award of recognition for their dedication and hard work during the pandemic. It was wonderful to deliver these awards as I visited The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue service, paramedics, local doctor's surgeries and pharmacies, including our local care homes. Again, a massive thank you to you all.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and I would love to hear from you! Please do send in your experiences of the recent pandemic including your positive experiences - maybe you were a volunteer or a frontline worker or a good neighbour? Maybe someone did something nice and kind for you? Please do send me your positive experiences and I would hope to share some of the positive news stories with you all. It would be wonderful to recognise all those amazing people and organisations spreading acts of kindness within our community.

I am very proud to serve our community and town council and to see it grow from strength to strength.

**kindest Regards
Cllr Clare Copleston
Town Mayor**



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN RANGER

'Making Houghton Regis an attractive and vibrant place to live and work'

The Houghton Regis Ranger is a new initiative from Houghton Regis Town Council (with support from Central Bedfordshire Council) which provides a 'See It Sort It' service to those small scale problems and issues in the town which are an eyesore and / or an inconvenience.

Please let the Ranger know about these types of problems:

- Street cleaning / maintenance within a public space
- Litter / Fly tipping (small scale and non-hazardous)
- Overhanging bushes / shrubs
- Weeds / Leaf clearance
- Graffiti / Vandalism
- Other similar or related activities. Please specify



Scan the QR code with your phone to report your issue

Reporting a problem is easy. Just provide the following details through the Link:

- Tell us what is the issue ie graffiti, fly tipping, overhanging bushes / shrubs
- Tell us where the issue is. If you are in the location of the issue the "App" will register the location or if you are reporting the issue from home you will be asked to provide the address of the nearest residential property or other significant landmark such as local shop, park etc.
- You then upload a photograph of the issue to help us resolve it as soon as possible.
- And if you choose we can even update on you on progress if you provide us with your email address.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once you have contacted the Ranger the issue will be investigated and acted upon as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping us to look after Houghton Regis!

If you spot problems such as potholes, OTHER Highways problems or faulty street lights please report these direct to Central Bedfordshire Council by following this link: <https://bit.ly/2UdsaxG>

 ranger@houghtonregis.org.uk



Central
Bedfordshire

The Houghton Regis Ranger project is delivered in partnership by HRTC and CBC'



Committee Updates

Town Council

May 2021 saw the election of Councillor C Copleston as Town Mayor, and Councillor Farrell as Deputy Town Mayor.

May 2021 also welcomed two new councillors onto Houghton Regis Town Council: Councillors Chris Slough and Elaine Cooper.

In line with government guidelines, council meetings are no longer virtual and are being held in person, however, members of the public are still encouraged to attend virtually, so hybrid meetings have been introduced.

Of particular note was:

- The approval of the audited annual governance and accountability return 2020/2021
- Continuous updates on work relating to the Vision: Our Vision Our Town (2020/2024)

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:

- Regular updates on All Saints View
- The welcoming of Mr Gibbons onto the Committee as a Co-opted member for a further year
- Discussions on the Tithe Farm Sports provision

Corporate Services Committee

This committee have:

- Considered revisions of various town council policies
- Discussed the possible provision of electronic payments

Community Services Committee

This committee have:

- Received update reports on the youth work and Pop-up Youth Café in Houghton Regis
- Upgraded facilities on offer to the Youth Café
- Consideration was given to a sustainable Christmas Tree

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
- Agreed to support the establishment of a family games and seating area on Parkside Recreation Ground
- Agreed a community tree planting project
- Established an Allotment Working Group
- Employed a Town Ranger 3 days per week

Planning Committee

This committee have:

- Considered in excess of 50 planning applications, some were supported, some were objected to and some were commented on
- Received updates on strategic development sites in the town
- Provided feedback on various Traffic Orders throughout the town.



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Peel Street, Houghton Regis,
Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY
Telephone: 01582 708540
Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk
www.houghtonregis.org.uk

DEAR RESIDENT

TITHE FARM ROAD

(from the junction with Recreation Road to Hillborough Crescent) WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2021 FROM 6PM TO 9PM TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY (resident and emergency access only)

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 01582 708540.

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS MAY CAUSE BUT TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE SAFETY BENEFITS FOR THE EVENT.



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DEAR RESIDENT

HILLBOROUGH CRESCENT (from the junction with Tithe Farm Road to Grove Road) WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2021 FROM 6PM TO 9PM TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY (resident and emergency access only)

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 01582 708540.

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS MAY CAUSE BUT TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE SAFETY BENEFITS FOR THE EVENT.

Tithe Farm Recreation Ground

New 3rd Generation All Weather Pitch and Changing Pavilion Proposal at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground

Houghton Regis Town Council in partnership with a number of local football clubs and Bedfordshire Football Association are looking to develop a new artificial grass pitch and changing pavilion on Tithe Farm Recreation Ground in the summer of 2022.

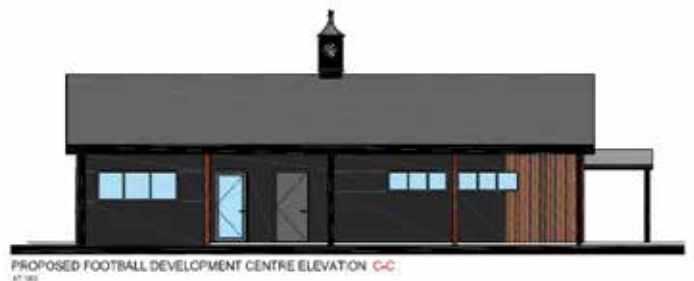
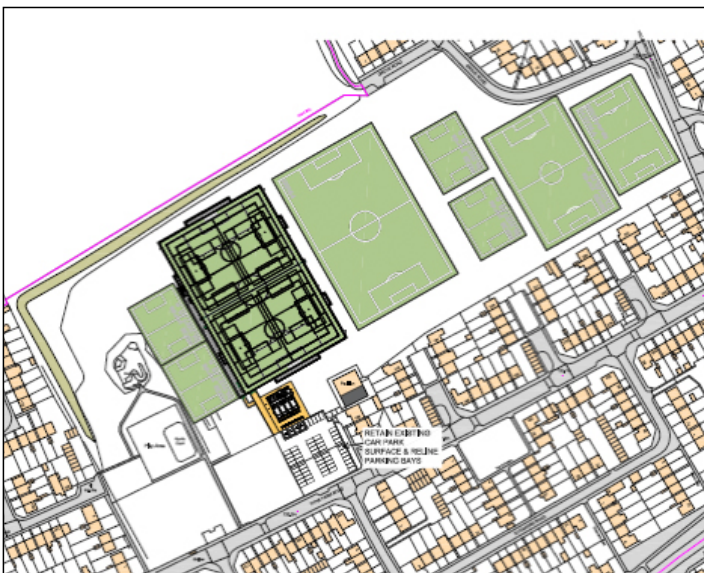
This is an exciting project designed to improve sports and community facilities, and to enhance health and wellbeing.

The Proposal

The proposal is to install a full size 3G (3rd Generation) floodlit artificial grass pitch suitable for training and match play on Tithe Farm. The pitch will have one 11 a-side, one 9 a-side, two 7 a-side or four 5 a-side pitches marked out to offer different forms of football. The facility would be of the highest current technical standards as set by the FA and will provide a high-quality training and match play area, and a venue for recreational participants. Alongside this a new 4 changing room facility with a small kitchen area and spectator toilets will be built. The changing pavilion will also have the option for a clubroom / meeting space which, depending on finances, may be a second phase to the development. The new facility will not only be of suitable size and quality but will meet recommended safeguarding requirements to enable use by males and females or adults and children at the same time.

Bedfordshire Football Association and the Town Council have considered different options but the current proposal has been identified to be the most suitable and agreed with the FA.

The diagrams below show a potential layout of the new facilities on the ground. Please note the number and size of grass pitches is shown for illustrative purposes only.



Possible pavilion designs (actual design to be confirmed)

As the Town Council hopes to apply for funding through the Football Foundation (a charity funded by the FA, Premier League and DCMS) the site will need to ensure it is accessible for local community groups, has an affordable pricing policy, offers both formal and informal recreation and supports a growth in physical activity levels in the area. Alongside club use of the site, we have already identified a number of health and well-being activities which could take place on the site.

The cost for the project will be in the region of £1.8m. The Town Council has identified an amount of s106 funding and hope to apply to the Football Foundation for a large contribution towards the cost of the pitch. However the Town Council will be looking for additional funding to contribute to the partnership funding required.

More information can be found on our website or contact us by phone or email and we will respond to any queries.



There are a number of specialist Domestic Abuse Services in Bedfordshire that are available to support you.

For further information please visit <https://bedsdv.org.uk/get-help/>



Leisure Gardens the new Allotments



After decades of not having allotments, Houghton Regis will, over the next few years, have four Leisure Gardens sites.

The first, being prepared by Bellway Homes for the Town Council, is on the northwest edge of Houghton Regis off Thorn Road. With good weather and the completion of the legal process we hope the site will be available early next year.

The Leisure Gardens site will be securely fenced, with paths accessible to all and a convenient water supply. Most plots will be 115 square metres with a few at 230m² for the keen growers of crops.

If you would like to express an interest in having a Leisure Garden, please complete a form available on our website under "Allotments" and return it to Houghton Regis Town Council.

When the gardens are nearly ready, we will contact everyone to see if you are still keen to have a plot..



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from November 2021 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 meetings are encouraged to do so remotely through the meeting link which can be found on our website under each meeting agenda: www.houghtonregis.org.uk Members of the public may also attend in person and, if doing so, are requested to socially distance as much as possible. The agendas for forthcoming meeting can also be found on the notice board outside the Town Council offices.

Date	Day	Committee	Time
2021 - 2022			
21st Nov 2021	Monday	Community Services	
8th Nov 2021	Monday	Planning	
15th Nov 2021	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
22nd Nov 2021	Monday	Corporate Services	
29th Nov 2021	Monday	Planning	
13th Dec 2021	Monday	Town Council	
20th Dec 2021	Monday	Planning	
10th Jan 2022	Monday	Planning	
17th Jan 2022	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
24th Jan 2022	Monday	Town Council	6pm
25th Jan 2022	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
31st Jan 2022	Monday	Proposed new Cemetery Sub	
31st Jan 2022	Monday	Planning	
7th Feb 2022	Monday	Community Services	
14th Feb 2022	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
21st Feb 2022	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub	6pm
21st Feb 2022	Monday	Planning	
28th Feb 2022	Monday	Corporate Services	
14th Mar 2022	Monday	Planning	
21st Mar 2022	Monday	Town Council	
4th Apr 2022	Monday	Planning	
11th Apr 2022	Monday	Annual Towns Meeting	
19th Apr 2022	Tuesday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
25th Apr 2022	Monday	Proposed new Cemetery Sub	6pm
25th Apr 2022	Monday	Planning	
26th Apr 2022	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
16th May 2022	Monday	Planning	
18th May 2022	Wednesday	Town Council (AGM)	

Lest We Forget
 NOVEMBER 14th 2021

Remembrance Day Service

EVERYBODY WELCOME

All Saints' Church 9.45am
 Memorial Stone (village Green) 10.50am

Thursday 11th November (Armistice Day)
 Members will gather at 10.40am
 at the Memorial Stone for the service
 to commence at 11am.

For additional information please see our website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk
 or our Facebook Page

The Town Mayor's

Christmas Carol Service

Saturday, 4th December 2021

from 5pm

All Saints' Parish Church
 Houghton Regis

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
 More info: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
 PRESENTS

Santa
 IS COMING TO TOWN

Monday 6th December
Tuesday 7th December
Wednesday 8th December

Locations & Times
 will be released nearer the dates

info@houghtonregis.org.uk
 01582 708540

Please join us for our

Christmas Light Switch on

Saturday 4th December
6pm

BEDFORD SQUARE
 Houghton Regis

Keep checking back
 on our Social media
 pages for updates

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Follow us

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