

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     



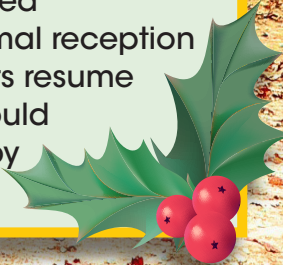
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Reception opening hours between Christmas and New Year:

Friday 23rd Dec 2022	Open 9am to 1pm
Monday 26th Dec 2022	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec 2022	Closed
* Wednesday 28th Dec 2022	Closed
* Thursday 29th Dec 2022	Closed
* Friday 30th Dec 2022	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan 2023	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023	Normal reception hours resume

* During these times, the Council could be contacted on: 01582 708540 or by email info@houghtonregis.org.uk



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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

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

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 Houghton Regis Town Council

Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager	01582 708 544
Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708523
Tara Earnshaw, Community Development Officer	01582 708540
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services	01582 708540
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 708540
Zunaira Sabih Administrative Support Officer	01582 708540

Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr Susan Goodchild	01582 708540
Cllr Yvonne Farrell	07915 088302
Cllr David Jones	01582 708540
Cllr Ray Morgan	01582 708540
Cllr Ken Wattingham	01582 705 830
Cllr Susan Thorne	07847 702 499

Parkside Ward:

Cllr Jimmy Carrall	01582 708 540
Cllr Pam Burgess	07886 132 780
Cllr Clare Copleston	01582 708 540
Cllr Elaine Cooper	07376 583892

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

Mayor's Forward

On the 18th May 2022 I was elected as the Houghton Regis Town Mayor and was honoured to accept the privilege with delight.

I had already gained some experience from my predecessor who I accompanied during the previous term so realised that it was going to be a busy year and so far it has been. My first major, official event was the The Queens Platinum Jubilee that the Houghton Regis Town Council arranged on the Village Green on Saturday 4th June. It was a grand day with many families enjoying picnics, dancing and the side stalls during the afternoon. My greatest honour was to light the Houghton Regis beacon. It was rather a breath-taking experience that we as a community shared and made history.

As Mayor I nominated charities with careful consideration and Carers in Bedfordshire, Headway and the Houghton Regis Hub Café became the beneficiaries. Carers in Bedfordshire do so much to support carers of any age across Bedfordshire, Headway look after those with brain damage and the Hub Café was set up and is run by people with a learning disability. It helps local people learn skills and get involved. They serve delicious homemade lunchtime meals once a week. I have been supporting these charities for some time whilst they played a big part in my life when caring for my father with dementia of the Alzheimer's type. Early June I hosted a Tea and Prosecco event in the Pavilion and kitchen garden on behalf of the charities and again it was a lovely afternoon where we had a jazz band to entertain us whilst having tea and strawberries. The Houghton Regis Carnival was on the 9th July and again we collected for the charities with a coconut shy and



name the bear raffle. Houghton Rocks was a great success where funds were raised and recently my Civic Reception was held locally at La Bella Calabria where guests were treated to Italian buffet and live band. My profession for many years has been working in showbusiness so I am always keen to support musicians and local venues whenever possible.

Shock hit the world when the very sad announcement of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II was made on the 8th September. HRTC was guided by Operation London Bridge and everyone went into mourning. On 11 September a solemn Requiem Mass in her honour at All Saints' Church was followed by the reading of the Proclamation of King Charles III by the Mayor. A civic service was held at All Saints' church on 18th September.

Moving forward I am looking forward to the Christmas festivities and the plans for the King's Coronation. Please keep an eye out for more details.

Yvonne Farrell
Town Mayor

Committee Updates

Town Council

May 2022 saw the election of Cllr Farrell as Town Mayor, and Cllr Thorne as Deputy Town Mayor. March 2022 saw Cllr Burgess welcomed onto Houghton Regis Town Council

Town Partnership

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

Corporate Services Committee

This committee have:

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

Community Services Committee

This committee have:

- Agreed to site a living Christmas tree on the Village Green
- Created and delivered welcome packs to new development areas of Houghton Regis
- Offered Street Party Grants for the Queens Jubilee
- Received reports about the youth work and Pop-up Youth Cafés in Houghton Regis
- Supported local community groups under the HRTC Grant Scheme

- Developed a Programme of Summer Activities

Environment & Leisure Committee

This committee have:

- Approved the creation of a garden in recognition of the impact of covid in the Old Section of Houghton Regis Cemetery
- Under special circumstances, a bespoke bench was approved to be installed in Houghton Regis Cemetery
- Continued to address enviro crime matters reported by councillors.
- Repaired and maintained existing play areas and outdoor gym equipment
- Continued work to support the development of Allotments
- Received updates on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project

Planning Committee

This committee have:

- Considered in excess of fifty planning applications, many were supported, some were objected to and others 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

Climate Emergency

Would you be interested in working with us to tackle climate change locally and create more climate-friendly communities? Is climate change one of your passions, is it an area you know something about, can you help us to help our community to be more environmentally aware and to put sustainability as the forefront everyday lives?

The Town Council are concerned about climate change and are keen to play our part in tackling climate change issues but we would like your help.

We are looking for motivated residents and local stakeholders to join us in setting up a task force to tackle climate change at the local level. Could this be you? Please get in touch by emailing info@houghtonregis.org.uk with your name, contact details and any initial



thoughts you may have. We'd love to hear from you.

The council are already reducing our impact through recycling and re-use where possible, through purchasing of sustainable or recyclable products, through energy efficient measures in our premises, through offering staff hybrid working arrangements to reduce travel to place of work, through offering remote attendance at council meetings,

and through scrutinising council decisions in relation to their impact on the environment. As time moves on we will continue to do more.

We would like to work in this area with our community, to help residents and business reduce their carbon footprint and to make more sustainable life choices. If you are interested in working with us on this please do email in to info@houghtonregis.org.uk

New Cemetery Investigations



As many residents are aware there is no further space at the Houghton Regis Cemetery for new body burials. We have been working hard over many years to identify a new site and have invested considerable sums of money in exploring each and every opportunity.

Our work has been following 2 strands: The first being the design and development of the remaining space within the current cemetery. We have created a truly beautiful and peaceful Garden of Remembrance whilst providing residents with a variety of options for ashes entombment in this area.

The second strand relates to the ongoing search for new cemetery land.

As you would expect with all the development taking place around the town, this has not proved easy. The New Cemetery Sub Committee have considered a variety of sites but for various reasons, largely geological and ownership reasons, these have proved unsuitable.

However about a year ago, we spoke to Central Bedfordshire Council about the possibility of developing a piece of land at the end of Grendall Lane (off the Thorn Road). There were mixed views on the suitability of this site, due to the surrounding land uses and concerns over land drainage and site topography. However it really did appear to be this site or face the possibility of the town not having a local burial ground. We began an extensive period of ground water monitoring (12 months) so we could present the findings to the Environment Agency for consideration. However in July 2022, a few months short of the 12 month monitoring period, the cemetery consultants

contacted the council with interim results which highlighted concerns over the level of the water table at Grendall Lane. In light of this, the council received advice which presented 3 engineering options which may make the site more suitable for a cemetery use.

Advice from our consultants was that to bring this site forward as a burial ground would require one of the following options:

1. Dewatering – this would involve a series of deep land drains, pumping chambers and treatment plants installed on site to manage and lower the water table. To progress this option we would need to secure an environmental permit from the Environment Agency and permission from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) / drainage board to discharge treated water into the adjacent ditch. In the long term, there would be requirement on the council for ongoing maintenance of the pumping chamber and treatment works. The cost of such work is likely to be significant, potentially in the region of £500k to £1million for the drainage works alone. The advice received was that the likelihood of getting approval for such a scheme was considered to be low.

2. Land Raising - Due to the shallow nature of the groundwater identified in the northern part of the site, consideration could be given to land raising to provide the required unsaturated zone thickness. This would involve soils being imported onto the site under the CL:aire protocol, and given the numerous developments taking place in the area could be economical to source. The volume and height of the land raise would need to be assessed in greater detail to understand its impact. This option would however require the land drains running beneath

the site to be removed. It was advised that the Environment Agency are unlikely to object to such a proposal, however planning would be more difficult to obtain and would be the key issue to overcome.

3. Site tiering- This would involve creating land tiers within the site to create flat areas on the steeper slope. The steeper slope has a lower ground water level so is more suitable to body burials. Each option presented its own challenges and limitations. For more detail please refer to the Agendas and supporting reports on our website: <https://bit.ly/NewCemetery>

Although designs were not drawn up for the options it was estimated that the cost of implementation would be in the region of £500,000 to £1,000,000 plus the cost of developing the site itself (the car park, the internal access network, utilities, fencing, landscaping etc). Combined it was thought that a total scheme cost of £1,000,000 - £2,000,000 would be likely. The implications of this anticipated cost were heavily debated by the council at meetings in July, August and September with regard being given to the desirability of providing burial space within

the town being considered against the financial burden it would place on all residents in providing such a facility. Ultimately the following was Resolved:

1. To recognise the significant works that are likely to be required to enable Grendall Lane to be brought into use as a cemetery and to determine at this time that these works are financially inhibitive for the Council and as such further investigations into this site will cease;
2. To notify Central Bedfordshire Council, as landowner, of this position;
3. To continue to search for alternative sites and to present any options to CDS for a preliminary assessment to enable initial consideration by the council.

So although the council has decided to cease investigating Grendall Lane, a commitment has been made to continue to search for alternative sites as we recognise the importance of providing a cemetery to bury loved ones in.

Tithe Farm Sports Provision – A New 3rd Generation All Weather Pitch, Changing Pavilion and Community Hall

Houghton Regis Town Council in partnership with a number of local football clubs and Bedfordshire Football Association have been working hard for the last few years to bring forward an amazing project to develop a new artificial grass pitch and changing pavilion on Tithe Farm Recreation Ground. This is an exciting project designed to improve sports and community facilities, and to enhance health and wellbeing. We are delighted to let you know we are in the final stages prior to development starting on site!



We are currently (October 2022) working with CBC to discharge the pre-commencement planning permission conditions, significantly these include a condition relating to the drainage of the site and a condition relating to the access onto the highway. We are hopeful that by

the time you receive the Town Crier, these conditions will be discharged.

Once completed we will be looking for contractors to start on site November / December time. It will be a 6 - 8 month build,

starting with the new pitch, then the new pavilion, then the re-modelling of the existing pavilion and the car park.

All being well the new facilities should be up and running for the 2023/24 season.

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

Events Update

Since the last Town Crier, the Town Council has been able to host an amazing 22 activities for the local community! There have also been some enhanced sessions for the Youth Pop Up Café too.

The events have included the Easter Egg Hunt, Community Get Green Event, Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Houghton Regis Carnival, The Skate Park Event, Open Air film Screening, four family fun days, four coach trips, Houghton Rocks and 'Tea and Treat events' for the new Later Living Social Group.

We look back with fond memories at the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held on 2nd June. The event included children's entertainment from Krisgar, musical entertainment from Last of the Summer Ukuleles, Déjà Vu 2, refreshments from 'Jewels' in the Village Green Pavilion, music from Perfect Personalised Parties, Face Painting, and a special VIP area, with tea, for retired residents, which was hosted by the Later Living Social Group. The evening concluded with a Beacon Lighting, which was watched by hundreds.

It was truly a very special event to celebrate the 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II in 'Royal' Houghton.

The biggest event of the past six months though, was the Houghton Regis Carnival, and it was fantastic to see the event back on the Village Green, after a two 'Covid' break. There were some amazing stalls hosted by the local community, with a large range of items for sale, information, fundraising games and activities and displays. It was also terrific to welcome back Donna's Dance School to perform in the arena and to meet 'The Guilty Dogs' who performed a Rock n Roll set during the afternoon. The street procession was also very



much enjoyed and thank you to everyone who took part.

There have been some other initiatives in recent months such as Youth Council meetings, where the Youth Council has created the 'Follow the Rainbow' and Mental Health awareness projects, and volunteering at community and civic events. The Town also has new Dementia friendly signs, which were supported by Central Bedfordshire Councillor ward funding, and these can be found

around the parks and pavilions in town. 'Welcome Boxes' for new residents have also been put together, with 600 ready to deliver.

Moving forwards, the Town Council still has plenty of events to look forward to, such as the Christmas Carol Service (3rd December) and Santa's Grotto (10th December) and events in the new year. To find out more, please check out the Town Council's website and social media pages.



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN RANGER

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

The Houghton Regis Ranger is a initiative from Houghton Regis Town 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 or copy the link into your web browser

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 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>

COPY THIS LINK INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER

<https://bit.ly/Townranger>

OR SCAN THE QR CODE →



**If you DO NOT have access to a pc or phone please see a member of Council office staff who can help you.*

Town Ranger Update

From the start of the Town Ranger project last year our fantastic Town Ranger Ben has completed over 140 jobs, and these are only the ones that have been recorded. He has completed many other jobs outside of this list, so it is fantastic to see it blooming so well.

Remember you can report via the Town Ranger app any small-scale problems and issues in the town which are an eyesore and/or an inconvenience.

Register for your Christmas Card

If you are aged 65 or over, you can register for the Mayor's Christmas Card Please contact Sarah Gelsthorp on **01582 708540** or sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk to ensure that you are on the list.



Town Council Calendar of Meetings 2022/2023

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from October 2022 to the 17th May 2023. All council meetings are at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated and are open to the public. Due to ongoing Covid concerns, members of the public who wish to attend the 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			
3rd October	Monday	Town Council	
10th October	Monday	Planning	
17th October	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
18th October	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
24th October	Monday	Community Services (Grants)	
31st October	Monday	Planning	
7th November	Monday	Community Services	
14th November	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
21st November	Monday	Planning	
28th November	Monday	Corporate Services	
12th December	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub-Committee	6pm
12th December	Monday	Planning	
19th December	Monday	Town Council	
2023			
9th January	Monday	Planning	
16th January	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
23rd January	Monday	Town Council	
24th January	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
30th January	Monday	Planning	
6th February	Monday	Community Services	
13th February	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
20th February	Monday	Planning	
27th February	Monday	Corporate Services	
13th March	Monday	Planning	
20th March	Monday	Town Council	
3rd April	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub-Committee	6pm
3rd April	Monday	Planning	
24th April	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
24th April	Monday	Planning	
25th April	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
15th May	Monday	Annual Towns Meeting	
17th May	Wednesday	Town Council (AGM)	

*subject to confirmation. Please see website for updates.

ALL RETIRED RESIDENTS WELCOME



Time for Tea & a Treat

Enjoy a change of scenery, FREE tea & a treat along with conversation and laughter.

1st Tuesday of Every Month
11am - 12.30pm

1st November 2022
6th December 2022 (Christmas Special)
3rd January 2023
2nd February 2023

Jewels, Bedford Square

Make new friends!

For more information please contact:
Tara Earnshaw - Houghton Regis Town Council
01582 708 540

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



Lest We Forget

NOVEMBER 13th 2022

Remembrance Day Service

EVERYBODY WELCOME

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

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



Please join us for our Town Mayor's

Christmas Carol Service

5pm

All Saint's Parish Church

& Christmas Light switch on

Bedford Square
6pm

Saturday 3rd December
Houghton Regis

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL



COME MEET SANTA

FREE ENTRY

surprise gift for every child

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER
Houghton Regis Library
9am - 2pm
(LAST ADMISSION 1.45PM)

ORGANISED BY
HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL



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