

19th April 2021

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: **D Jones, K Wattingham, Vacancies x 2**
CBC Councillors **A Ryan (Chair), Y Farrell, S Goodchild, P Hamill**
Co-Opted Members **D Gibbons**
CBC Officers **Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager**

Copies, for information, to:

- Cllr Tracey Stock, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing, Communities and Leisure, CBC
- Houghton Regis Town Councillors

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a virtual meeting of the **Partnership Committee** to be held on **27th April 2021** commencing at **7.00pm hours**.

This meeting is being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. If members of the public would like to attend, please click on the meeting link below and follow the online instructions:

[MEETING LINK¹](#)

[MEETING GUIDANCE](#)

To assist in the smooth running of the meeting please refer and adhere to the Council's Virtual Meeting Guidance. To view the Virtual Meeting Guidance please click on the link above.



Clare Evans
Town Clerk

**THIS MEETING MAY BE
RECORDED²**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

¹ If you require a meeting link emailed to you, please contact the Head of Democratic Services at louise.senior@houghtonregis.org.uk

² Phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting by an individual Council member or a member of the public. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session.

The use of images or recordings arising from this is not under the Council's control.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

To receive questions and statements from members of the public in respect of any item of business included in the agenda, as provided for in Standing Order No.s 1(f) and 1(h).

3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of any such interest.

Members are invited to submit any requests for Dispensations for consideration.

4. MINUTES

Pages 5 - 10

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2021.

Recommendation:

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2021.

**5. IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING IN HOUGHTON REGIS:
TIME 2 CONNECT**

Pages 11 - 15

Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager, and Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Adviser Community Action Bedfordshire will attend the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on this project. Members are also referred to the attached report.

6. PLACE DELIVERY

Sam Caldbeck, Place Programme Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council will attend the meeting to update members.

7. KINGSLAND

Cllr Tracey Stock Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Leisure will attend to inform Members of the current position re Kingsland

8. HOUSING PROJECTS

Kim Hopcroft, Housing Operations Manager, Social Care, Health & Housing Directorate, will attend the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on All Saints View.

Tony Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services, Social Care, Health & Housing Directorate, will attend the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments.

9. TITHE FARM SPORTS PROVISION

Pages 16 - 21

Members will find attached the agenda report as presented to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee on 22nd February 2021. It is highlighted that recommendation 3 was not approved as HRTC members requested further consideration of the pavilion design.

A verbal update will be provided on work completed following on from this meeting.

10. INFORMAL INFORMATION SHARING

Members were previously advised of an informal group comprising Houghton Regis Ward Councillors, 2 CBC Executive Councillors and the Chair and the Clerk Houghton Regis Town Council. This group has met a few times over the last 6 months or so. Some useful discussions have been had and ideas have been discussed for potential strategic projects in Houghton Regis. Members of the group are very aware that this is an informal, non-decision making group with no authority or remit other than to bring ideas forward.

To support the work of the group, members are requested to endorse the membership of this group and its basic remit. At the Partnership meeting on 26th January 2021 Members expressed concerns over the membership of this group. Through discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair the following revised membership and remit is put forward:

Chair of Houghton Regis Partnership Committee
Vice-Chair of Houghton Regis Partnership Committee
1 other Member from each Council
2 CBC Executive Members
Clerk of Houghton Regis Town Council
An officer representative from Central Bedfordshire Council (if felt appropriate)

Remit

To discuss project ideas for Houghton Regis and for these to be put forward for further consideration.

Recommendation: To support and endorse the informal information sharing group:

Membership

**Chair of Houghton Regis Partnership Committee
Vice-Chair of Houghton Regis Partnership Committee
1 other Member from each Council
2 CBC Executive Members
Clerk of Houghton Regis Town Council
An officer representative from Central Bedfordshire Council**

Remit

To discuss project ideas for Houghton Regis and for these to be put forward for further consideration.

11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET

ON 26th January 2021

Present: Town Cllrs: D Jones (Vice-Chair), K Wattingham, Cllr Abbott
CBC Cllrs: A Ryan (Chair), P Hamill, Y Farrell, S Goodchild
CBC Officers: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Co-opted Member: David Gibbons
HRTC Officers: Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Louise Senior, Head of Democratic Services

Also in Attendance: R Morgan HRTC Councillor
T McMahon HRTC Councillor
Tony Keaveney Assistant Director Housing Services, Social Care,
Health & Housing Directorate
Gina Croxford Community Action Bedfordshire
Bex McBrearty Community Action Bedfordshire

Apologies: 0

Members of the public: 4

876 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

877 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public raised concerns regarding item 6, Housing Projects and Related Issues:

Windsor Drive Recreation area:

- Lack of parking limits the full recreational use of Windsor Drive Recreation Ground
- Ground is frequently used for football practice and valuable to the community
- Although not formalised, the Neighbourhood Plan lists this space as protected
- Suggested that this has been brought forward to gain permission before the Neighbourhood Plan is formalised.

It was advised that the challenges were prolific around affordable housing, and the provision of football pitches within Houghton Regis was being addressed.

878 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

879 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

880 IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING IN HOUGHTON REGIS: TIME 2 CONNECT

Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager, and Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Adviser from Community Action Bedfordshire, were in attendance at the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on this project.

Members were advised that it had been a challenging year for community development work as interactions had been limited to online. Members were advised that good connections had been made with several local organisations, a virtual weekly Café Connect online support group where residents can connect had been set up, it was hoped that user numbers would grow.

Members were advised that there had been a heightened need for help regarding poverty issues within the Houghton Regis area, highlighting the need for better and further reaching awareness of available services.

Members were advised that a new system of asset mapping was being looked into for ease of use and further reaching information of an in-depth directory for Houghton Regis specifically for residents to access.

Members were advised that there was a diverse age-range of residents contacting Community Action Bedfordshire for advice.

881 HOUSING PROJECTS AND RELATED ISSUES

Tony Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services, Social Care, Health & Housing Directorate, was in attendance at the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments.

Members were advised of a current budget consultation for proposed schemes in Houghton Regis. Windsor Drive recreation ground had significant investment proposed for this area for schemes including; community safety projects and an affordable housing development of 100 homes subject to the budget proposal and planning consent being secured. Members were advised that there would be a 'Planning for Real' event to engage with the community regarding the development of Windsor Drive.

882 TITHE FARM SPORTS PROVISION

Members received a verbal update on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.

Members were advised of an issue of a sewage / drain which was located under the site, talks were ongoing with Anglian Water and the Football Foundation to resolve this. A full report would be presented to the Environment & Leisure Committee on 22nd February 2021, which would include details of the bearing this would have on the project.

Clarification was sought on the implications for HRTC on the s106 funding already secured should this development not go ahead. It was advised that this would be given consideration and would be included in the report to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee.

883 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Town Partnership Committee were invited to provide a verbal report on matters of relevance to Houghton Regis arising in particular from the Committee/s on which they serve.

Councillor Hamill updated members on the proposed new leisure centre for Houghton Regis. Houghton Regis was considered a priority under the Leisure Strategy to receive a new leisure centre ahead of Leighton Linlade and suggested that the leisure centre currently based in Houghton Regis was not fit for purpose.

Councillor Goodchild updated members on the Corporate Parenting Panel and Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committees on which she served.

Members received an update on the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the public engagement undertaken offering local people the opportunity to share their views on the creation of a single Clinical Commissioning group.

A report had been received from the East of England Ambulance Service which provided a performance update across Central Bedfordshire. Also received; a presentation from CAMS highlighting how the spike in children's mental health had been addressed and the higher demands met, a report on the services available to the Homeless and rough sleepers, a housing acquisitions report and an annual report on customer relations.

Updates had also been received on the Covid vaccination programme, modernisation of the health service and the deliverance of a new state of the art mental health facility.

A meeting of Looked After Children had also been attended.

Councillor Ryan updated members on Children's Services, there had been a written statement of action received regarding children with special needs. £1.1m had been invested into the special education needs sector. Concerns had been raised over the number of assessments that had been requested and subsequently denied due to lack of funding.

Children in poverty taskforce was undergoing changes due to the change in administration and it was hoped this would make the service more accessible.

Councillor Wattingham wished to thank the Houghton Regis Town Council Officers who had been helping out at the vaccination centre, and thanks went to Councillor Hamill for his work on the leisure centre.

884 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received The CBC update report information.

- Covid-19 Stewards were working across Central Bedfordshire
- Houghton Regis Chalkpit – ongoing talks with the Wildlife Trust
- Houghton Hall Park had employed a Ranger and were working on new volunteering opportunities within the park
- Business investments and skills, grant applications would include figures of funding in future reports
- Representatives from Advantage Schools Trust were due to attend the April Town Partnership meeting
- Garden waste collections resume on 1st March 2021
- Sustainability plan, tackling climate change and tree planting fund
- Champions, how have 218 community champions who are helping to spread messages
- Ward Councillor and Community Asset grant schemes update
- Cheering volunteering awards, all virtual, further information pending
- Budget consultation – closed on 27th January 2021.

885 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members received the Partnership Committee workplan for information.

- Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (HRN 2 Community Building)

Members were advised that an expression of interest had been received. Moving forward to the next stage, a full business case would be prepared.

Members requested that the invitation to Stuart Lock, CEO Vantage Schools be added to the workplan.

Members asked whether there would be a charge implemented of the collection of garden waste. Members were advised that there was no knowledge of a possible charge, but this would be confirmed.

Concerns were raised over the number of residents using Houghton Hall Park, and social distancing, including while queueing for the onsite coffee van. Members were advised that Covid Stewards would address large numbers and groups of people.

886 INFORMAL INFORMATION SHARING

Members may be aware that over the last few months the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the CBC Partnership Committees have met to share good practice in relation to the operation and function of the committee.

For Houghton Regis another group had emerged comprising Houghton Regis Ward Councillors, 2 CBC Executive Councillors and the Chair and the Clerk Houghton Regis Town Council. This group had met a few times over the last 6 months or so. Some useful discussions have been had and ideas have been discussed for potential strategic projects in Houghton Regis. Members of the group were aware that this was an informal, non-decision making group with no authority or remit other than to bring ideas forward.

It was hoped that as these ideas became more tangible that they could be presented for formal consideration.

The Terms of Reference of this Committee state:

Meetings and Quorum

4. In addition to the Committee meetings, the Town Joint Committee can organise other forms of engagement to take place such as themed discussions / task and finish groups and community conferences, including joint meetings or events with other Town Joint Committees in Central Bedfordshire.

To support the work of the group, members were requested to endorse the membership of this group and its basic remit.

Some concerns were raised over the balance of membership and as such it was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

887 PARTNESHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

It has been requested that potential co-option onto this committee remain on the agenda as a Standing Agenda item.

Members were invited to consider whether they would like to explore the possibility of seeking to co-opt local stakeholders onto the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee. In this regard the Terms of Reference for the Committee state:

Co-option

1. To support engagement with local stakeholders the Town Joint Committee can co-opt members from local representative groups, as appropriate up to a maximum of 15. Each co-opted Member will be able to engage fully in all discussions but will not have any voting rights. Co-opted members can be removed from the Town Joint Committee. Decision making around removals can either be taken by the whole Town Joint committee or by joint agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair, depending on each Town Joint Committee's preference.

The list of Co-opted Members should be reviewed annually, by the Town Joint Committee.

It was suggested that a service user of the leisure centre be invited to attend the Town Partnership Committee meeting to provide feedback on current services.

Members were advised that there was an opportunity at the beginning of the agenda for anyone who wishes to speak.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48pm

Dated

Chairman

For the information of the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee



TIME2CONNECT HOUGHTON REGIS

Introduction

1. The Time 2 Connect Houghton Regis Project was commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council Public Health with the aim of using community mobilisation and asset-based approaches to reduce health inequalities among the population of Houghton Regis by:
 - driving change to improve mental health and wellbeing for people of all ages;
 - enabling people to optimise their own and their family's health and wellbeing; and
 - ensuring that growth delivers improvements in health and wellbeing for current and future residents.

2. This three-year project commenced in May 2020 and is designed to develop the social infrastructure needed for healthy, well-connected and vibrant communities so as to reduce social isolation; improve residents' well-being and mental health; increase community connections among residents and enable them to become actively involved in their community.

3. We are taking a gradual approach to implementing the project, taking time to engage with local stakeholders, including public sector services, community groups and residents. We need to involve stakeholders in a way that is engaging and starts with the issues that are important to them. We have worked hard to ensure that this is not simply seen as doing yet more consultation or adding to consultation fatigue – the residents of Houghton Regis have been consulted many times over the years with little to show from it. Our work needs to be community led, will take time and is centered around the skills and aspirations of residents.

Project Management and Support

4. In the first few months of the project, we set up the project and put in place arrangements for the management, monitoring and reporting of the project within Community Action Bedfordshire, with Central Bedfordshire Council Public Health and for reporting to the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee. A detailed Development Plan for 2020/21 was produced and agreed. Two members of staff were assigned or recruited to the project and undertook their induction training. Quarterly Monitoring Reports and regular Monitoring Meetings are held with the Head of Public Health Programmes.

Impact of COVID-19

5. The Coronavirus pandemic has had, and continues to have, a huge impact on our organisation, activities, staff, volunteers and clients. In line with government guidance on the pandemic we had to close the Office and ask staff to work from home; we also had to cease events and face-to-face appointments with service users. Advice and support has been provided via telephone, email and online meetings.
6. When we set out on this project, we knew that what we had planned to offer was not going to work in the midst of a pandemic. What we did know was that the mental health and underlying health conditions of people were likely to worsen; that people felt more and more socially isolated and lonely; that increased poverty would have an impact on people's wellbeing; that community services and asset based community development were going to be needed all the more as we moved through and out of the pandemic; and that our activities would have to be adapted in order to be reactive and responsive to the changing needs and demands of the pandemic.

Community Engagement

7. Early in the project we produced an Information Sheet for stakeholders, and this has been used to inform public sector services, community groups and others of the project. We engaged a design company to produce a project logo and artwork for use within our social media platforms and for an A5 flyer for promoting the project to residents and other stakeholders.
8. Social media will be crucial to the project and we have set up and launched a Facebook Page for the project (<https://www.facebook.com/Time2ConnectHoughtonRegis>), which currently has 83 followers. We have used the Facebook page to promote the project to, and engage with, residents and other stakeholders, share information about groups, services and events in Houghton Regis, link with other Facebook pages/groups in the town and promote residents' participation in social networks, activities and other services.



9. We are actively engaging with residents through the three Houghton Regis Neighbourhoods on the Nextdoor App and have been promoting these through our other social media platforms to encourage take up. There has been a steady increase in the number of residents engaging with the App and receiving regular updates on the project. As at 29/03/2021 there were 1,584 (+402) residents accessing the App, which is 27% of households in Parkside, 17% in Tithe Farm and 13% in Houghton Hall. We are also in discussion with Nextdoor UK to establish a neighbourhood covering the new housing developments at Thorn and Linmere.

Mapping Community Assets

10. We have undertaken extensive desk research of local databases and directories to identify community assets and services in Houghton Regis and have updated our own records. We are working with a company called Simply Connect to design a database that will be suitable for the project and enable us to share information on local services, community groups and projects with stakeholders.
11. We have been in contact with, and held online or socially distanced meetings, with various key stakeholders in the health and care, children, and community sectors to identify community assets and services in Houghton Regis, with ongoing liaison and information sharing. This has enabled us to share information through our respective social media platforms and identify opportunities for joint working.
12. Among these, access to social prescribers and mental health support services are seen as really important in the current circumstances, along with opportunities for outdoor healthy exercise and digital inclusion. Contact with developers and other community development interests working in the new housing developments have also been created and this will be a key feature of the project going forward, for example with plans to utilise the Linmere Visitor Centre for engaging with residents and hosting meetings/events.

Inspiring People to get Involved in Existing Community Activities

13. We have used our social media platforms to promote residents' participation in social networks, activities or other services offered through the project and by local community groups, voluntary organisations and service providers, including:
 - mental health awareness and access to support services;
 - outdoor healthy walks and fitness classes, including those at Houghton Hall Park and Parkside Recreation Ground;
 - advice from Central Bedfordshire Council Public Health, NHS and Government on staying safe during the Coronavirus pandemic;
 - accessing help during the pandemic, including services provided through Central Bedfordshire Council, Houghton Regis Helpers, Foodbanks and support for carers;
 - employment support for those facing redundancy or out of work;
 - local volunteering opportunities;
 - activities for children, young people and families, including access to support services and food vouchers.
14. We have used our social media platforms to promote opportunities for residents to participate in local consultation processes and forums, including a planning consultation for feedback on a new secondary school in Houghton Regis, CBC surveys on Green Spaces, meeting young people's educational needs, physical and leisure activities, and ways to keep active.
15. We have worked in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Volunteer Centre for Central Bedfordshire to identify the current volunteering opportunities for volunteer-involving organisations based, or delivering services, in Houghton Regis and to assist residents that wanted to share their skills, knowledge and time through local

volunteering. We have also worked with local Volunteer Centres and others in touch with hundreds of people who volunteered in response to COVID-19 but who were unable to be placed. We have actively sought to promote other opportunities for them to be involved in their community, through regular newsletters and communications, including local Timebanks and the Time 2 Connect project.

16. We have actively promoted the new Chiltern Vale Timebank and opportunities for residents to join and get involved in sharing skills, time and exchanges.

Building Community Connections

17. Bringing people together to make connections with others and build effective and trusting relationships has been difficult to implement and achieve due to the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on numbers meeting, social distancing and suitable venues.
18. We were planning to create and run weekly *CafeConnect* sessions designed to bring residents together for conversations and peer support, but this has not been possible due to lockdown restrictions. We have therefore created *CafeConnect LIVE* online using Zoom. Once lockdown restrictions have been lifted, we will look at moving *CafeConnect* to outdoor and indoor venues.

Outcomes

19. We have a good understanding of the issues and anxieties people are raising with us and of the impact this has on them. We are able to respond to these in a way that helps us to meet the expected outcomes of the project, both generally and specifically, for example:
20. **Driving change to improve mental health and wellbeing for people of all ages –** Through our social media platforms and in conversations with residents we have been able to promote information about staying safe during the pandemic and address issues such as vaccine hesitancy. Many people have been affected by poor mental health due to the pandemic restrictions and sign posting people to local mental health initiatives has been crucial. Many remain anxious about going out (Fear of Going Out Syndrome) while also looking forward to seeing friends and relatives.
21. **Enabling people to optimise their own and their family's health and wellbeing –** Through our social media platforms and in conversations with residents we have been able to promote information about local service providers and signpost people to local services, including children's services, foodbanks, money advice and employment support.
22. **Ensuring that growth delivers improvements in health and wellbeing for current and future residents –** Through our conversations with residents, it is clear that some remain skeptical about the benefits of new development and we have been able to educate and inform people about the development process and the emerging benefits. We have been able to help community groups build relationships with developers so

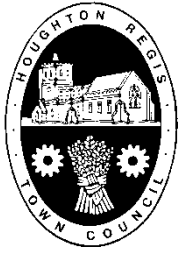
that they can form their own partnerships and joint working arrangements going forward.

Conclusion and Next Steps

23. Establishing trusting and long-term relationships with residents, community groups and service providers has always been fundamental to achieving the outcomes of the project; it is evident that this is being achieved, albeit in difficult circumstances and at a slower rate that we would have liked. Increased awareness and trust mean we are in a much better position to move forward, although this will inevitably be governed by the Government's roadmap out of the pandemic, which is dependent upon the vaccination programme being achieved and may change if circumstances require.
24. We will continue working closely with partner organisations, including Simply Connect, on developing an effective solution for the mapping of community assets; developing opportunities for people to meet and socialise with others when it is safe to do so, build community connections and enable residents to get (back) involved in local community groups and activities; and continue to promote and facilitate access to local assets, community groups, voluntary organisations and service providers.

Further Information

25. For further information on Time2Connect Houghton Regis or to find out how to get involved, please contact:
- Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager, at Community Action Bedfordshire by email to gina@cabeds.org.uk or phone on 07555 904174.
 - Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Adviser, at Community Action Bedfordshire by email to bex@cabeds.org.uk or phone on 07392 722296.



Date:	22nd February 2021
Title:	TITHE FARM RECREATION GROUND SPORTS PROJECT UPDATE
Purpose of the Report:	To update members on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.
Contact Officer:	Clare Evans, Town Clerk

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1. To support Option 2 site layout as shown in drawing 324-1 FS-010.R2;**
- 2. To confirm to the Football Foundation that should Anglian Water need to dig up part(s) of the pitch, the Council would make certain that reinstatement works were undertaken (over the course of the 21-year clawback period) to ensure that the 3G FTP remains on the FA's 3G Pitch Register;**
- 3. To support the pavilion layout as shown in drawing 324-1 FS-007.R08**

2. BACKGROUND

This project comprises an all-weather pitch, new changing rooms and car parking on Tithe Farm recreation ground. The project is being developed and progressed in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and the Beds Football Association (Beds FA). Funding for the project is likely to come from the Town Council, CBC and the Football Foundation.

The council has appointed a Bid Consultant and a Design Architect to support the project development.

3. PROJECT SUMMARY INCLUDING FUNDING

Members are advised of the following:

- Land Registry
The application to register the land has been made to the Land Registry. The cheque has been cashed so it is hoped that the application is being progressed, although no update has been provided by the Land Registry directly. Advice received suggested that the Land Registry may be taking up to 9 months to progress applications;

- Foul Sewer
Please see section 4;

- Funding

The following provides basic financial information which is indicative only as costs are heavily dependent on design, which is yet to be finalised.

Provisional project cost: £1,350,000

To be funded as follows:

£160,000	CBC (s106 contribution)		Confirmed
£230,575	HRTC deferred income		Funding available
£800,000	Football Foundation (TBC)		Grant not secured to date although working closely with FF and Beds FA
£38,020	CBC (s106 contribution) CB/14/03047/OUT - Outdoor sport		Applied for
£121,404	HRTC – EMR 322 Pavilion renovation		Funding available, however transfer form EMR needs to be confirmed through Committee as not included in budget
	Balance	£0	

4. FOUL SEWER

Location

As members are aware there is a foul sewer running across the site. There are also a number of manholes on the site to enable access to the sewer. This is shown in Appendix A. This is highlighted as the majority of work to maintain drains is completed through manholes, only in more extreme circumstances is it necessary for Anglian Water (AW) to access the pipe itself.

Project Risk

There is a project risk that should the site be developed that at some point in the future that AW would need access to the sewer and as such would need to gain access through the 3G pitch. The Football Foundation are concerned that should this eventuality arise that the reinstatement may be substandard such that the pitch would not qualify to remain on the FA 3G Pitch Register. To overcome this concern the FF require confirmation from the applicant (HRTC) that all steps will be taken to re-provide a suitable grade playing surface should AW have to access the drain at any point and their reinstatement work not met standards.

Legislation

Section 80 of Water Industry Act 1991 requires that Statutory Undertakers comply with Schedule 12 to the Water Industry Act to minimise damage caused by works and to pay

compensation.

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 12 states that a sewerage undertaker shall make full compensation to any person who has sustained damage by reason of the exercise by the undertaker, in relation to a matter as to which that person has not himself been in default, of any of its powers under the relevant sewerage provision.

Position of Anglian Water

AW have advised that in following these legislative provisions they would seek to reinstate the land thus minimising the damage and preventing the need to pay compensation. If this isn't possible AW would pay compensation. If AW and the Council cannot agree on the value of the compensation this can be referred to Ofwat for determination.

Anglian Water is a regulated industry and are obliged to comply with our statutory obligations at all times.

See Appendix B.

Position of Football Foundation

The FF are aware of the requirements of the Water Industry Act. However, as stated above, the FF are seeking confirmation from the applicant (HRTC) that all steps will be taken to re-provide a suitable grade playing surface should AW have to access the drain at any point and their reinstatement work not met standards. FF have indicated that the following agreement form HRTC would satisfy their concerns:

“Should Anglian Water need to dig up part(s) of the pitch, the Council would make certain that reinstatement works were undertaken (over the course of the 21-year clawback period) to ensure that the 3G FTP remains on the FA's 3G Pitch Register.”

Options to Reduce Risk

This is a risk in a worst-case situation. However, there are some options to try and reduce this risk. These options are set out below:

Option 1 – App C

This option could be pursued but it does site the 3G over the sewer and a manhole cover. The FF would require the following assurance: “Should Anglian Water need to dig up part(s) of the pitch, the Council would make certain that reinstatement works were undertaken (over the course of the 21-year clawback period) to ensure that the 3G FTP remains on the FA's 3G Pitch Register.”

Option 2 – App D

To reduce risk to seek to relocate the pitch so the existing manholes (1900 & 2900) are located beyond the pitch footprint. This reduces the risk but the assurance to the FF is still required as the 3G remains over the line of the sewer albeit not over a manhole cover.

Option 3 – App E

To provide a smaller 11v11 3G pitch (91m x 55m playing area with run offs totalling 97m x 61m) pitch instead of full size (100m x 64m playing area with run offs totalling 106m x 70m) which can be sited nearer the car park and off the line of the sewer. The pitch would be closer to residential properties and would require the pavilion in a different position to Option 1 and 2.

Option 4 – App F

To remove from the project the 3G element and to replace the pavilion, to upgrade the car parking and the quality of the grass football pitches.

Option 5 – App G

To reduce risk to seek to install 2 new manholes beyond the footprint of the pitch and remove existing manhole 1900. Approvals would need to be granted by AWA and due to the depths, circa 9m, initial enquiries suggest costs are considered likely to be prohibitive. This option reduces the risk but the assurance to the FF is still required as the 3G remains over the line of the sewer albeit not over a manhole cover.

Other

- A query will also be raised with AW to investigate whether any routine or replacement works are planned which could be done prior.
- It is not possible for HRTC to insure for remedial works should reinstatement works prove to be substandard, however the Council has legal insurance to assist with any legal dispute over quality of reinstatement should the need arise.

To maintain the scope of the project and to reduce the risk to the council it is suggested that Option 2 be supported. This reduces the risk but the assurance to the FF is still required as the 3G remains over the line of the sewer albeit not over a manhole.

5. PAVILION

Members will find attached 3 preliminary pavilion drawings. The designs allow for independent use of toilets for the public, without the need to access the changing rooms corridor. In addition the design can all be extended to enable the Club Room to be constructed at a later date should budget allow. These all meet the requirements of HRTC as set out in Minute 11412:

To provide a 4nr changing room facility serving both the FTP and the remaining 2 grass pitches, a staff office, servery, and spectators toilets.

Appendix H – Drawing 324-1_FS-007.R6

This appears to be a nice layout with more than adequate circulation space. The gross floorspace is 290m² (exc. the Club Room). This design exceeds the space requirements of the FA. The reason the FA stipulate certain sizes is from a safeguarding perspective – if you have bigger facilities it means people from outside the teams can be in changing rooms. Based on high level budgeting it is reasonable to use a figure of £2,200/m². For this design for Phase 1 only the build cost would be in the region of £638,000.

Appendix I - Drawing 324-1_FS-007.R7

This is a much tighter design and would appear less appealing. However, the floorspace is 216.2m². For this design for Phase 1 only the build cost would be in the region of £475,640

Appendix J - Drawing 324-1_FS-007.R8

This design is more of a middle ground. The layout looks more user friendly than R7, and the floorspace remains at 216.2m². For this design for Phase 1 only the build cost would be in the region of £475,640

The likely build cost differential is around £162,360. The likely cost of constructing the club room is around £220,000 in today's prices.

6. CONTINGENCY PLAN

At the Partnership Committee on 26th January a question was posed as to how HRTC would ensure it could spend the s106 fund within the required timescale (by 21st September 2021), should this project not proceed as envisaged. Although it is considered premature to be considering this project not progressing, it is a valid point given the spending timescale for the s106. It is suggested that should this project not proceed, that the council develop and progress plans to replace the pavilion on this site and to upgrade the car parking and the quality of the grass football pitches (Option 4 above). The definition of 'spend' in relation to s106 funding, is a commitment to spend, it does not require the actual spend to have taken place.

7. COUNCIL VISION

Aspirations

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

Objective 3: A safe and vibrant town

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

Objective 4: Our community

- 4.1 To create or enhance community facilities which support community development and cohesion
- 4.2 To enhance existing facilities to enable improved community use and accessibility
- 4.3 To provide activities for young people, families and older people
- 4.5 To provide high quality green spaces for leisure and recreation, healthier living, urban attractiveness, improved air quality
- 4.7 To support local organisations

8. IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Implications

- There are no corporate implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal Implications

- There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations

Financial Implications

- The council needs to give consideration to design requirements to enable cost implications to be more accurately assessed.

Risk Implications

- The siting of a 3G facility over a sewer and a manhole cover poses a risk. The report details the level of risk and makes suggestions to minimise the risk.

Equalities Implications

Houghton Regis Town Council has a duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

This project / issue does not discriminate.

Press Contact

- There are no press implications arising from the recommendations

9. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

To maintain the scope of the project and to reduce the risk to the council it is suggested that Option 2 be supported. This reduces the risk but the assurance to the FF is still required as the 3G remains over the line of the sewer albeit not over a manhole cover.

10 APPENDICES

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Appendix A	Site location plan showing sewer and manhole covers
Appendix B	Letter from Anglian Water
Appendix C	Option 1
	Site layout plan showing 3G over sewer and manhole cover
Appendix D	Option 2
	Site layout plan showing 3G over sewer
Appendix E	Option 3
	Site layout plan showing smaller 3G avoiding sewer and manhole cover
Appendix F	Option 4
	Site layout plan showing grass pitches and pavilion and car parking
Appendix G	Option 5
	Site layout plan showing 3G over sewer and re-siting of manhole cover
Appendix H	Pavilion drawing 324-1_FS-007.R6
Appendix I	Pavilion drawing 324-1_FS-007.R7
Appendix J	Pavilion drawing 324-1_FS-007.R8



**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE –
WORK PLAN 2020-2021**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2020-2021	Reports already received / completed
July 2020	CBC Update report Work Plan	<p>The following suggestions are put forward, the timings of these reports / presentations will be confirmed once the content of the work plan has been agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (inc. HRN 2 Community Building, Bedford Square Community Centre) • Estate Regeneration • Chalk pit • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre • Housing Provision and Allocations • Tithe Farm sports provision • Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis • New school Trust to attend April 2021 	Community Buildings in Houghton Regis 21 st July 2020 10 th November 2020
October 2020	CBC Update report Work Plan		Estate Regeneration
January 2021	CBC Update report Work Plan		Chalk pit 21 st July 2020
April 2021	CBC Update report Work Plan		Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre 10 th November 2020
			Housing Provision and Allocations 10 th November 2020 26 th January 2021
			Tithe Farm sports provision 21 st July 2020 10 th November 2020 26 th January 2021
			Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis: Time to Talk 21 st July 2020 10 th November 2020 26 th January 2021

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: For information

Contents

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY2

2. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE.....3

3. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT Error! Bookmark not defined.

4. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT & SKILLS.....5

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES7

6. SCHOOLS9

7. PUBLIC HEALTH.....10

8. PUBLIC PROTECTION12

9. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....12

10. SUSTAINABILITY13

11. TRANSFORMATION13

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS15



1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

CCTV REPORTS

JANUARY

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
07/01/21	11:05	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
07/01/21	11:48	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
08/01/21	11:20	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
08/01/21	11:24	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
08/01/21	15:46	High Street	Assault	0
09/01/21	11:10	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
09/01/21	11:13	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
17/01/21	13:10	Bedford Square Car Park	Begging	0
18/01/21	20:44	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0
25/01/21	06:12	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0

FEBRUARY

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/02/21	13:14	Bedford Square	Begging	0
01/02/21	11:58	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
06/02/21	12:01	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
06/02/21	15:52	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
12/02/21	11:12	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0

MARCH

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
02/03/21	07:21	Bedford Square	Concern for safety	0
03/03/21	09:31	Bedford Square	Concern for Safety	0
04/03/21	11:03	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
05/03/21	10:08	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0
05/03/21	17:58	Bedford Square	Drugs	0
06/03/21	11:27	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
11/03/21	11:30	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
12/03/21	11:35	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
12/03/21	12:18	Bedford Square	Drugs	0
13/03/21	11:30	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
14/03/21	11:20	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
22/03/21	14:30	Bedford Square	Shoplifting	0
22/03/21	00:20	Bedford Square	Drug deal	0

23/03/21	19:18	Bedford Square	Street Drinking	0
27/03/21	20:22	Bedford Square	OP-METEOR	0
30/03/21	08:02	Bedford Square	Concern for Safety	0
30/03/21	11:41	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0

From 22nd December 2020 – 24th March 2021 the enforcement team conducted 261 visits to Houghton Regis and they issued 4 Penalty Charge Notices.

2. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

HOUGHTON REGIS LEISURE CENTRE

Due to national Covid restrictions the leisure centre has been closed to the public since December. The site re-opened for permitted activities (including swim and gym) in line with the government's road map – on 12th April.

Staff are working to ensure that the centre is Covid safe and that all procedures are reviewed and comply with national guidelines issued by government and by sporting National Governing Bodies.

Ongoing maintenance work has been carried out (in line with government restrictions) during the closure, in order to ensure that the centre was ready to open as soon as permitted.

A schedule for promotions and customer communications has been developed by SLL and is being rolled out through social media and direct marketing.

HOUGHTON REGIS LIBRARY

Our service usage has remained steady over the past couple of months, slowly increasing as time passes. We are operating the Select and Collect service to borrowers with plans to admit entry as we progress through the steps out of lockdown.

We have received two boxes of Bookstart packs from The Book Trust, for parents who have a child born in 2020 and 2021, should they wish to collect one, we have given out 3 packs to date. We've also received a box of referral packs from the Active Lifestyles team, ready for collection.

Summer Reading Challenge

The theme this year is Wild World Heroes, created with WWF looking at environment and habitat. The team have been planning for as much of our craft to be as eco-friendly as possible and use recyclable materials and feel eco-friendly crafts will be better suited to follow the theme.

5th of June is World Environment Day, this takes place the last Saturday in the May half-term. We're planning Eco-friendly crafts themed on this to tie in well with the SRC theme.

HOUGHTON HALL PARK

LOOKING BACK

We achieved

- Events being bookable online via the Houghton Hall Park website which has made planning and delivery of activities much more efficient, reduced administration and eliminated cash handling.
- The successful planning of Covid safe Easter activities with both a free Easter trail and paid Easter egg trail to welcome all audiences.

Key highlights

- A fun Easter display in the kitchen garden with props being crafted by volunteers from home who are shielding but still wish to be involved in park activity.
- Income generated to the park from mobile coffee van which is extremely popular with visitors.

Key issues

- Pressure on car parking which is not sufficient to match the increased footfall due to Covid with more visitors on site (especially during weekdays).
- Complaints due to visitor centre not being open – the operation of the café will go through a formal tender process via CBC Facilities Management.
- Ongoing delays in connecting volunteer portacabin to utilities for waste-water for toilet connection.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are planning

- Youth engagement session with Groundwork to repair the bug hotel on site during the Easter holidays.
- Pilot activity of an outdoor trail targeted for adult audience to engage new demographics.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TEAM

Active Lifestyles Referral Programme

Referral programme continued throughout the restrictions although the number of referrals has reduced. Service was adapted and support was given to those who were currently on the programme including more individual calls to support personal wellbeing.

For more information please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/active-lifestyles. We work in partnership with a number of organisations, to provide the residents with opportunities to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing Kiosks

These have been installed across 6 leisure centres including Houghton Regis and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member and when leisure centres re-open there will be an opportunity to use the kiosks for a period of time free of charge.

For more information please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-kiosks

The health kiosks offer a secure and medically approved body analysis and use personal profiles with specific links to commissioned services in Central Bedfordshire including mental health support, weight management, physical activity and stop smoking services. Clinically validated, the kiosks them to self-monitor and continue to improve their healthy lifestyle choices.



Online Activity Programme

Numbers have increased (during lockdown – with the gyms being closed) on both on our Active Lifestyles Facebook and YouTube channel platforms. We offer a number of virtual classes (7 days a week) aimed at all the residents living in Central Bedfordshire, support everyone with their physical and emotional wellbeing. For more information see www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith/ and [Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel](#).

Low impact activities

Low impact outdoor fitness classes have been developed and are continuing to increase across Central Beds. All activities comply with current COVID guidelines. Activities include: Buggy fitness, walking football etc.

Active Outdoor

We are currently in the process of developing more opportunities to get active outdoors, in partnership with our Countryside team.

Falls prevention

We are in the process of developing a Falls programme (6 week course) for our residents who have recently had a fall/struggling with mobility issues.

Partnership work

We work with a number of partners across Central Bedfordshire to support our residents. For example, work with Morelife (weight management service, run a 12 week course) with week 6 focus being physical activity: the importance of it, along with opportunities/services on offer.

Other partnership work includes working with MANOP to run a number of physical activity session for our residents. Sessions run via zoom, daily and Imagination Arts who run workshop for families, carers.

3. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Since Covid-19 began, we have been supporting the Revenue and Benefits team with enquiries from businesses providing them with relevant information about accessing business grants. The full scale of the support that has been provided to CBC businesses during 2020/21 is:

- Local Restrictions Support Grants for the period 5th November to 31st March - £9.2m = 1,220 separate businesses
- Closed Business Lockdown Payments = £5.7m to 1,210 separate businesses
- Wet Led Pubs – Christmas Support Payment - £106,000 = 106 grants awarded
- Additional Restrictions Grant (Now covers 3 rounds of applications ARG1, 2 & 3) To date we have awarded £2.2m = 520 separate grants
- In total circa £16m has been awarded to businesses across Central Bedfordshire since November 2020, and in 20/21 as a whole circa £95m has been awarded in business grants and rate relief to local businesses.

We continue to work with our existing businesses in the area gathering intelligence on the impact of Covid 19 and have developed two business support programmes:

- With UK completing its departure from the EU on 31 December 2020, we partnered with Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce to provide free International trade workshops and 129 delegates were supported;
- A business support initiative that has been recently launched in partnership with Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) where they will help provide up to 120 local firms access to free legal, tax and employment support by becoming an FSB member funded by the Council. So far over 90 businesses have signed up and most come from the professional and retail sectors.

Business grant update:

- Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG3) scheme was launched to enable more businesses to apply for further business support grant funding. Businesses can apply for the ARG3 scheme and have until 22 April
- The new Re-start grant applications will be open from the 6th April and we will promote this through our Let's Talk Business newsletter, as well as corporate communication channels

Commercial property enquiries – Houghton Regis/Dunstable (December 2020 – March 2021)

There were a total of 49 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire, 17 of which were interested in Houghton Regis/Dunstable – please see table below. The conversion of enquiry to commitment can take up to a year to come to fruition. But the team will look to add information to future reports.

Date taken	Requirement Max Size	Requirement Unit Type	Reason	Status	Original Location
03-Dec-20	2000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Relocating	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
03-Dec-20	5000 Sq Ft	Office	Business start up	Live - Active	Toddington
07-Dec-20	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Reading
10-Dec-20	20000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Unknown
11-Jan-21	1500 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Luton
15-Jan-21	1000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Unknown
02-Feb-21	2500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Relocation	Live - Active	Dunstable
09-Feb-21	10 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	Kempston
11-Feb-21	2000 Sq Ft	Office	Business start up	Live - Active	Unknown
12-Feb-21	2000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Dunstable
16-Feb-21	200000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Relocation	Live - Active	Sandy
17-Feb-21	35 Acres	Land	Expansion	Closed	Unknown
18-Feb-21	1500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Downsizing	Live - Active	Dunstable
04-Mar-21	7 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	Hatfield
08-Mar-21	981 Sq Ft	Retail	Early Stage Research	Live - Active	DUNSTABLE
08-Mar-21	3 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	Upminster

26-Mar-21	70000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Unknown
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BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)

As with other Further Education providers, the Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) continues to deliver educational courses via its in-house delivery teams and a range of external training providers working as part of the BESS partnership.

Currently in this 2020/21 academic year, we have engaged with 51 Houghton Regis residents (17 of whom were unemployed when starting their learning with us), despite the Covid-19 restrictions. The most popular courses have been Getting Started with English and Maths, ICT and Early Years, and Supporting Teaching and Learning. The figures also include five individuals undertaking apprenticeships in Early Years Educator and Business Administration, four of whom are aged 17-18 years.

Enrolments will continue throughout the academic year, at the moment the majority will be online though classrooms are starting to open in the community where possible. A number of the programmes we offer are accredited, so residents can work towards qualifications which will help them gain employment, support a career change or help residents progress in their specific sectors. Other courses are non-accredited which means that whilst successful learners won't get a recognised qualification, their appetite for learning may have been wetted or they have learned how to progress on a particular career path and are better informed as to the direction they wish to go in.

The BESS curriculum includes courses for the following:

- English
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- Maths
- IT and digital skills
- Support with wellbeing and mental health
- Preparing for employment
- Working with and supporting children and young people
- Apprenticeships

A list of workshops and courses with information and how to enrol can be seen by looking at our [upcoming course list](#), with an overview of the workshops and courses available on the [curriculum map](#).

If residents would like someone to help them get started on the right course they should [contact us](#) with their details or use the comments box in the online form to let the BESS team know what learning they are interested in. An adviser or the relevant training provider will then get in touch to help them get started."

4. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

1) UPDATE ON NEEDS WITHIN THE WIDER CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA

The figures presented below are those reported to NCCIS / DfE at the end of February 2021

HEADLINE FIGURES FOR THE WHOLE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA (30 NOVEMBER 2020)			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET destinations
16 year olds/ Year 12	3017	2910	90
17 year olds/ Year 13	3028	2842	139
Combined cohort	6045	5752 (95.2%)	229 (3.7%)

2) OVERVIEW OF THE HOUGHTON REGIS AREA COMPARED TO OTHER LOCAL AREAS

The figures presented below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people as of 1st March 2021.

	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton Buzzard
Total YPs in area	840	484	910
EET	793 (94.4%)	449 (92.8%)	862 (94.7%)
NEET	42 (5.0%)	31 (6.4%)	42 (4.6%)
Unknown/Refused	5 (0.6%)	4 (0.8%)	6 (0.7%)

3) CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEET GROUP IN THE HOUGHTON REGIS AREA

a. Summary of the individual Houghton Regis Wards

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within Ward
Tithe Farm	135	9	6.7%
Houghton Hall	206	14	6.8%
Parkside	143	8	5.6%
Total	484	31	6.4%

b. Summary of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort by age, time and gender

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	5	Less than 3 months	9	Male	21
17 years old	16	3-6 months	16	Female	10
18 years old	10	6+ months	6	Other/Refused	0

c. Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	29	(93.5%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	2	(6.5%)

5. SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Central Bedfordshire continues to maintain its high standard in providing secondary and upper schools with the majority of young people being granted one of their preferred choices for the 2021/22 academic year.

On 1 March, National Secondary Offer Day, parents and pupils across the country found out what the future holds for them. In Central Bedfordshire overall 98 per cent have been offered one of their top three preferred choices.

For pupils that have applied to transfer to upper schools from September 2021, 94 per cent got their first preference school. While in terms of transfer to secondary schools, 96 per cent of children got their 1st preference.

There were just under 3,000 applications, most of which came via the council's online system, with 97 per cent of applicants to upper schools done that way, while 94 per cent of applicants for secondary school applied online. Both representing an increase in the use of the online system in comparison to last year.

Anyone who has declined or wished to change their school preference will be informed of their new offer on the 21st April 2021.

Meanwhile, children starting school and transferring to middle school will find out the outcome of their application on 16 April, National Primary Offer Day.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Up to 43,000 new homes are expected in Central Bedfordshire by 2035. The Council's Schools for the Future Programme has been established to ensure that we plan for the new school places that will be needed in the longer term and ensure that we have them in the right places delivering the best education.

Officers continue to meet regularly with staff from Advantage Schools, the multi academy trust chosen to run the new secondary school to be built on the Kingsland Campus. Representatives from the Advantage Schools Trust are due to brief members of the Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee in April 2021.

This new school, which is due to open in September 2022, will address both the forecast demographic growth and the forecast deficit in secondary school places in the town. The initial designs for the new school can be viewed on our website [here](#). Planning permission was granted in January and we also have approval from the Secretary of State for the new school.

Construction is progressing in order to expand Thornhill Primary School, Grove Road, Houghton Regis by 60 places in each year group for September 2021, which is also in response to the current and future significant housing development on land north of Houghton Regis, known as HRN1.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID 19

Public Health continues to lead on outbreak management and control in relation to the Pandemic, in partnership with lots of other CBC Teams.

It's important that we continue to follow the COVID guidelines, ensuring social distancing, hand hygiene, wearing face coverings and maintaining good air flow/ventilation through internal spaces where possible, as well as following the other rules, as they change. See below for further details:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Community Lateral Flow Device or "Rapid" testing is now available for individuals who are asymptomatic to test regularly. There are several routes for them to get tests:

They can collect up to 2 packs of 7 tests from our new mobile testing centre in Leighton Buzzard or our centres in Biggleswade, Dunstable and Flitwick; from local pharmacies or order a pack of 7 tests for home delivery from the UK government website.

More information:

Find a pharmacy where you can collect rapid tests: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk> –

Order rapid lateral flow home test kits on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Find out more here : https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

STOP SMOKING

The delivery of Stop Smoking Services through GP Surgeries continues to be severely impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the latest data, from Q3 20/21 shows that, consistent across the Chiltern Vale sub Cluster B "Titan" locality, both Houghton Regis practices are performing under target.

Overall, performance by the Titan Primary Care Network of Practices in Chiltern Vale has fallen to 35% against target for the period up to Q2 20/21 (25 actual quits compared to a target of 71).

COVID 19 continues to have a significant impact on the resources available to deliver stop smoking support in Primary Care and the data reflects the reduced levels of activity:

LOCATION	2020/21 SMOKING QUITTERS @ Q2
Houghton Regis Medical Centre	11 (target 32): 34% of target for period
Wheatfield Surgery	13(target 29): 45% of target for period

The Stop Smoking Service delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, plus a new app, which continues to support local residents throughout the pandemic.

Extended treatment programmes are available to some residents who would benefit most from them, for example those with a Mental Health diagnosis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder). The Smokefree Baby and Me programme is also available for pregnant smokers.

Call one of our advisors free on: 0800 013 0553

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/>

NHS HEALTH CHECKS

The NHS Health Check is a national risk assessment and management programme for those aged 40 to 74 living in England, who do not have an existing vascular disease, and who are not currently being treated for certain risk factors.

It is aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and raising awareness of dementia for those aged 65-74 and includes an alcohol risk assessment. Everyone receiving an NHS Health Check will have a risk assessment which will look at individual risk factors as well as their risk of having, or developing, vascular disease in the next ten years. An NHS Health Check should be offered every five years.

GP practices continue to be the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme; however, performance varies. As patients are entitled to one Health Check every five years, Practices have a target to invite 20% of their eligible population each year.

The latest data, collected for March 2021, shows that in all Primary Care settings, including Chiltern Vale, the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to have significant impact on delivery of NHS Health Checks, due to them needing to be delivered face-to-face, with no option for virtual delivery. Only 361 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 1,651 for the period (21.9% of annual target). They have invited 790 patients for a Health Check (target 4,462) so are performing at 17.7% for that indicator.

The local Practices are performing as follows:

Houghton Regis Medical Centre is performing at 51.3% for Health Checks delivered (117 against a target of 228) and 20.1% offered (124 out of 616 target).

Wheatfield Road did not offer or deliver any Health Checks during 2020-21.

Data quality Houghton Regis Medical Centre continues to be excellent, 98.1%.

COVID continues to present significant disruption to the delivery of Public Health services in Primary Care and will continue to do so as Primary Care Networks are increasingly involved in the organisation and delivery of COVID vaccination programmes. We will continue to work with Practices to identify how we can support them looking to deliver Stop Smoking and Health Check services to their patients.

TIME2CONNECT

Time2connect, continues to engage with local residents and stakeholders.



Time2Connect is being run by Community Action Bedfordshire. It aims to develop the social infrastructure of the area by bringing communities from new developments together with the existing population, encouraging residents to becoming more involved in their communities. In turn, this will tackle issues like isolation, and improve mental health, wellbeing and self-esteem amongst residents. Community Action Bedfordshire will look at existing community groups and networks within Houghton Regis and build on those to connect residents with resources in the area.

For more information, visit the time2connect website: <https://www.cabeds.org.uk/community-engagement/time-2-connect-houghton-regis>

7. PUBLIC PROTECTION

COMMERCIAL TEAM UPDATE

- 5 proactive covid interventions, including an inspection of Morrisons supermarket to ensure it was complying with its own prescribed covid-safety measures.
- 1 outbreak intervention
- 3 covid complaints interventions, including supporting the Police who served Fixed Penalty Notices on The Crown for breaches of the Coronavirus Regulations in February 2021.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LOOKING BACK

As reported in the previous report, Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing services will continue throughout lockdown and beyond. It was necessary to prioritise some service areas due to resource availability during the initial stages of the pandemic, however where service provision was suspended or reduced every effort was made to re-instate these at the earliest opportunity.

Grass cutting and shrub bed maintenance continued throughout the lockdown with limited impact on the service provision or standards.

There have been various ad-hoc cleansing and clearing operations. Services have been under greater pressures during the lockdown and continue as residents continue to work from home (where possible) and change social habits/exercise regimes to include use of public spaces more frequently. Cleansing services have adapted to these changed and increased demands and will continue to be reviewed as demand develops.

With the third lockdown service provision will be continually reviewed with our Contractor and should staffing levels begin to be affected by the new variant strain of Covid 19, services may have to be prioritised to reflect this.

We have continued to experience and manage an increase in incidents of smaller fly tips across Houghton Regis. These are identified, inspected and are dealt with as soon as possible.

The bottle banks have been moved so that they are accessible at the entrance to the Leisure Centre at Parkside Drive.

All kerbside garden waste collections restarted from 1st March with no issues.

Dog patrols have been carried out in Bromley Gardens, Hillborough Crescent, Leafields, Watling Place, Dog Kennel Walk and Tithe Farm Road including the play area within it.

HWRC'S

Household Waste Recycling Centres remain on a booking system which is a simple process of residents booking a slot here:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/2/waste_and_recycling/612/household_waste_recycling_centres_tidy_tips and taking along proof of booking and CBC residency. This is to ensure safe throughput of visitors on site and to control queuing.

9. SUSTAINABILITY

TREE PLANTING GRANT SCHEME

Applications are being accepted for the November 2021 - March 2022 planting season for the tree planting grant scheme. This bidding round will run from 1st May 2021 until 28th April 2022. Projects can vary in size from at least 5 trees to larger areas of new woodland. For applications over £5,000 contact should be made with the team- community.grants@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk prior to applying. Further information and guidance can be found on the [website](#).

10. TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ASSETS GRANT SCHEME

Round 3 of the Community Assets Grant Scheme will open for bids on the 29th April 2021 and will close at 5pm on 1st July 2021.

£200,000 is available in this bidding round and eligible groups can apply for a grant of up to £25,000 to improve or provide new community infrastructure. Match funding is required to cover 50% of the total costs of the project seeking funding.

The grant scheme is open to a range of Central Bedfordshire organisations, including voluntary and community groups, not-for-profit organisations, parish and town councils.

WARD COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME

The 2021-2022 Ward Councillor Grant Scheme is now open. Each Ward Councillor has an allocation of £2,000 to spend on voluntary and community projects within their Ward. There is a change to the scheme this year, as approved by Executive in December 2020 whereby £1,000 of each Ward Councillors allocation does not require match funding. All applications require Ward Councillor support prior to approval and decision to support groups is at the Ward Councillors discretion. Further information and guidance can be found on the [website](#).

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (GBSC)

We will again be inviting Town and Parish Councils to participate in the GBSC which takes place between 28 May and 13th June.

CONSULTATIONS

CURRENT AND UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity undertaken by the Council are provided by the Community Intelligence Team. For more information about this update please contact Clare Harding, tel: 0300 300 6109 (ext. 76109).

Current consultations and surveys				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Home to School transport	Consultation on the proposed transport policies for 5-16 year olds and those attending post 16 education	28 Jan 2021	21 April 2021	Jody Nason 0300 300 4512
Schools for the Future - SEND	Consultation on the proposals for SEND provision	16 th April until 8 th July		Jody Nason 0300 300 4512

Upcoming consultations and surveys

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
No upcoming surveys or consultations				

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Time
Wednesday 5 May	Development Management Committee	9:30am
Thursday 13 May	Council	6:30pm
Tuesday 25 May	Traffic Management Meeting	10:00am
Thursday 27 May	Audit Committee	10:00am
Wednesday 2 June	Development Management Committee	9:30am
Thursday 3 June	Corporate Parenting Panel	10:00am
Monday 7 June	Schools Forum	3:00pm
Tuesday 8 June	Executive	9:30am
Wednesday 9 June	Licensing Committee	10:00am
Thursday 10 June	General Purposes Meeting	10:00am
Thursday 10 June	Dunstable Joint Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 15 June	Children's Services OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 15 June	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	4:00pm
Thursday 17 June	Leighton Linlade Partnership Committee	7:30pm
Monday 21 June	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Thursday 24 June	Corporate Resources OSC	10:00am
Wednesday 30 June	Development Management Committee	9:30am

Key:

CPP – Corporate Parenting Panel

CR OSC – Corporate Resources OSC

CS OSC – Children's Services OSC

DMC - Development Management Committee

HWB – Health & Wellbeing Board

SCHH OSC – Social Care, Health & Housing OSC

SC OSC – Sustainable Communities OSC