

17th January 2022

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: D Jones (Chair), T McMahon, K Wattingham, M Kennedy

CBC Councillors P Hamill (Vice-Chair), A Ryan, Y Farrell, S Goodchild

Co-Opted Members D Gibbons

CBC Officers Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Copies, for information, to:

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Partnership Committee** to be held on Tuesday **25th January** commencing at **7.00pm hours** at The Council Offices, Peel Street.

Due ongoing Covid concerns, members of the public who wish to attend the meeting are encouraged to do so remotely through the meeting link below. Members of the public may also attend in person and, if doing so, are requested to socially distance as much as possible.

To attend remotely through Teams please follow this link: [MEETING LINK](#)



Clare Evans
Town Clerk

THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED *

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**
- 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).

**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.

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 - 9

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021

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

Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager, and Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Advisor of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) will attend the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on this project.

6. KINGSLAND LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE

Lisa White, Head of Leisure and Alice Arden Barnatt, Enabling Programme Manager, Place Delivery to attend and provide an update on the Kingsland Levelling Up Fund bid, specifically the consultation and engagement plans.

7. HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT

Pages 10 - 17

James Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, Housing Services will attend and provide an update including All Saints View and Windsor Drive engagement.

In support of the update on Windsor Drive engagement, members will find attached collated feedback from the Listening Event.

8. BEDFORD SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Iain Berry, Assistant Director Assets will attend and provide an update on the consultation results on the future use of Bedford Square Community Centre.

9. BIDWELL WEST

David Skinner / Tim Haines Houghton Regis Community Development Charity will attend and provide an update on update on progress to develop a community facility at Bidwell West.

10. TITHE FARM ALL WEATHER UPDATE

Pages 18 - 21

Members will find attached the agenda report as presented to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee on 15th November 2021.

As an update following on from this meeting the following is advised:

Planning Application

There is an outstanding issue with the planning application. This is currently being progressed by the project team and CBC officers.

Tenders for Pavilion

Due to a lack of interest in the open tender process, a closed tender process is due to commence imminently. It is hoped that this variation in the process will secure tender receipts.

Land Registry

The council's solicitors are currently working through a solution with the Land Registry so hopefully this will be resolved.

Grant application

It was hoped to formally apply to the Football Foundation in October 2021 but due to the outstanding issues around the registration of the site with the land registry and the difficulties of securing tender submissions for the pavilion, it was decided to postpone submission. The grant application will be submitted as soon as possible once the outstanding issues have been resolved.

11. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Pages 22 - 23

Members are invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan.

12. CBC UPDATE REPORT

The CBC Update Report is attached for information (*Pages 24 - 40*)

13. ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Members will be advised by Sarah Hughes of the CBC process to determine further consideration, at CBC committee level, of items and issues.

Members of this committee are able to use this process to forward items for CBC's attention via the CBC Joint Committee Chair or CBC Joint Committee Vice Chair.

As such members are requested to identify and confirm if there are any requested items for CBC's attention.

14. PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS 2022/23

The following dates are suggested for Houghton Regis Partnership Committee meetings in 2022/23:

- Tuesday 19th July 2022
- Tuesday 18th October 2022
- Tuesday 24th January 2023
- Tuesday 25th April 2023

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 23rd November 2021.**

- Present: Town Cllrs: T McMahon, K Wattingham, M Kennedy and
Ray Morgan (substitute)
CBC Cllrs: Cllr Hamill (Vice-Chair), A Ryan, Y Farrell, S Goodchild
CBC Officers: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Officers: Louise Senior, Head of Democratic Services
- Co-opted member: D Gibbons
- Also in attendance: Cllrs J Carroll, HRTC Councillor
T Stock, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing, Communities and
Leisure, CBC
- Officers A Arden Barnatt, Programme Enabling Manager, CBC
J Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, Housing Services, CBC
J Dickinson, Assistant Director, Communities, CBC
K Hopcroft, Housing Operations Manager, CBC
I Berry, Assistant Director – Assets, CBC
- Apologies: HRTC Cllr: D Jones
- Members of the public: 4

920 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Jones (Cllr Morgan substituted)

921 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

**922 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR
DISPENSATIONS**

None.

923 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2021.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

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

Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager, and Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Advisor of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) were not in attendance at the meeting.

925 PLACE DELIVERY UPDATE

Alice Arden Barnatt, Programme Enabling Manager, Place Delivery, was in attendance and provided members with an update on the Kingsland Levelling Up Fund bid.

Members were advised that Central Bedfordshire Council had been successful in gaining grant funding for a new Community and Leisure Centre, the funding criteria preordained it to be spent by March 2024. The new building would be on the existing Houghton Academy site. Members were advised on how the project would be managed and a proposed timescale. Members were advised that there was a commitment to engage with local stakeholder and residents throughout the process via online consultation, drop in events, engagement panel, HR Together Group and key stakeholder groups and leisure centre user groups.

Members welcomed the investment into the town.

926 HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT

Kim Hopcroft, Housing Operations Manager, Housing Operations and James Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, Housing Services was in attendance to provide an update including All Saints View (ASV), The Brook, and Windsor Drive engagement.

Members were advised it was hoped that phase 1 of ASV would be completed by Christmas, however, there was still much to do. Red house Court residents would be the first to move into ASV in the new year. The demolition of Red House Court would then take place, once demolished work would start on 57 apartments due for completion May 2023. Members were advised there would be function suites available for hire within ASV.

Members were advised of signage that would be on display for ASV.

It was advised that a new website had been launched on 10th November, accompanied with a brochure and PDF. A show apartment would be available to view and leaflets had been distributed and displayed.

Members were advised on services and amenities and travel options available to residents of ASV.

Members were advised that work on the Brook had been moving on, it was hoped the building would be operational late April 2022.

Members raised concerns of the risk factor of the clientele of the Brook and were assured that the users of the facility were of low risk to the community and staff were available on site. It was requested that further community engagement take place, possibly an open day prior to the facility opening, to advise members of the community of how the facility would be run and address any questions they have.

Members were advised that the facility would be managed by Central Bedfordshire Council officers.

Members were advised that Windsor Drive was still in the early stages of the process, it was advised that feedback was still being collated, it was highlighted to members that there remained a high need for affordable housing. The recent listening event held on site had received good interest and was well attended. It was advised that there was a facility to sign up to Windsor Drive updates on the Central Bedfordshire Council website. Members were advised that a definitive decision had not been made at this stage, this was exploration of opportunity. Members were advised that consideration was being given to what facilities can be offered to, and put into, the local community.

Members were advised that other sites in Houghton Regis had been looked at. Members queried the volume of focus on Houghton Regis for housing rather than other local towns given the degree of development already within the town. Members were assured that all areas across Central Bedfordshire were being looked at for potential affordable housing development sites.

Members requested that data be supplied from Central Bedfordshire Council showing statistics of whether residents of the new affordable housing were from Houghton Regis or outside the area.

927 BEDFORD SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE

CBC had advised that it was the intention to launch a consultation into the future use of the Community Centre week commencing 11th October. Details of the consultation would be circulated to members of the Partnership Committee as soon as they were available. Members were invited to consider the consultation.

Members were advised that 93 responses had been received, of which 63% were from Houghton Regis residents, feedback was due to go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27th January 2022 and the forwarded to the Councils Executive on 8th February 2022.

Members queried that the centre had been considered low usage, members were advised that statistics had been looked at for 12 months prior to lockdown, at which time 32% of bookable hours had been booked which left the centre unused for 68%. Members suggested that the lack of use could have been due to the lack of promotion of the facility by Central Bedfordshire Council, additionally the cost of security made the out of hours hiring cost prohibitive for many groups.

Members were advised that the Community Safety Team could be contacted to aid the resolution of any anti-social behaviour in Houghton Regis.

928 TITHE FARM ALL WEATHER UPDATE

Members received the agenda report as presented to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee on 20th September 2021.

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

929 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC update report.

Members received verbal updates on:

- Car park
- Library
- Physical activity (referrals)
- Health and Wellbeing kiosks
- Houghton Hall Park – events
- Friends of Houghton Hall Park (looking to set up)
- Employment and Skills service
- Town Centre vacancy rate
- School admissions
- Vaccination grant scheme

Members raised concerns regarding the changes in the parking availability and the newly imposed restrictions in Tithe Farm Rd car park. It was suggested that complaints be forwarded to Highways. It was highlighted that the restrictions were a temporary measure.

930 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members discussed items that members would like included on future workplans.

- Town sustainability
- Windsor Drive
- Putting Green at Houghton Hall Park

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.07pm

Dated this 25th day of January 2022

Chairman

DRAFT

Windsor Drive Open Space

Listening event – 13 November 2021
Feedback

A great place to live and work.

Introduction

This document summarises a pre-application engagement event held by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to collect local responses to the proposal of housing development on Windsor Drive, Houghton Regis.

Central Bedfordshire Council determined that an open and transparent engagement event preceding any further site surveys or a formal planning process should be delivered to provide up to date information on the Council's thinking and provide an opportunity for early input. To this end, community consultation specialists BAS Consultancy and Play Disrupt were engaged to lead the process.

The team transcribed conversations and recorded key topics following spoken discussions with participants in addition to collecting data via three creative tasks, as described below.

Creative tasks

a. Current use

To uncover popular as well as less common current uses of Windsor Drive, Play:Disrupt devised an activity which collected a number of different pieces of data:

- Types of activity
- Frequency of activity
- Demographics undertaking activity
- Time of day activity is done

The activity invited participants to represent their activity on a map of Windsor Drive to show routes, spaces and uses. Responses are summarised in the section below.

b. Future use

To engage people with ideas for the future of Windsor Drive, Play:Disrupt created a 'Subbuteo'-style board in the shape of Windsor Drive, reflecting its current common use as a football practice pitch. Around the edge, instead of advertisements, were questions. These questions asked if any improvements were to be made to Windsor Drive in the future, what they might be.

These questions were:

- What do we need for the future of Windsor Drive?
- What facilities?
- What activities?
- What kind of place?
- What's the atmosphere?
- Who is it for?
- What kinds of habitat?
- What must be kept?
- What's missing in Houghton Regis?



The activity was well used and engaged with. The public used flags, plasticine and models to put across their views. Results are described in the Responses section and full feedback is collated in **Appendix 2**.

c. General amenities

Play:Disrupt created a board for stakeholders to record the general facilities and amenities that were lacking in the area or that the area needed less of. These are described in the Responses section of this report below.

Responses

The outcome of the creative tasks and conversations is detailed below.

Current use

Common activities (dog walking, jogging, taking children to play, walking) were prompted but attendees added many more, shown here:

<i>Complete list of activities reported as taking place on Windsor Drive Open Space</i>	
Exercise classes/groups	Picnics
Walking	Butterflies/birds/nature
Cycling	Playing in snow
Football	Geo-cacheing
Kite flying	Looking at it- view

Dog walking	Pokemon Go
Jogging	Golf pitching
Taking children to play	Drone flying
Learning to ride a bike	Spending time being around other people in community, chatting to others, watching life

The most frequently described activities were walking (36) and dog walking (19), followed by jogging (9) and taking children to play (9).

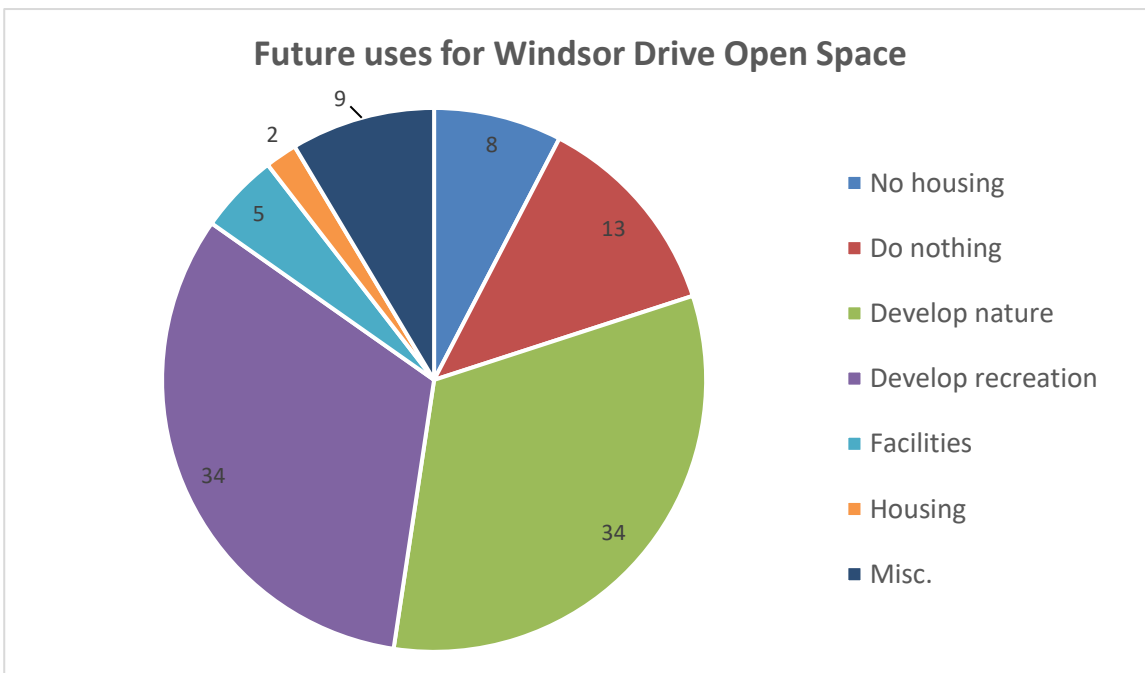
Windsor Drive’s daytime use is over three times higher than evening and night use which may be partly explained by the lack of lighting. The most popular time to use Windsor Drive is in the afternoon.

Those who use Windsor Drive do so with great frequency, with running and dog walking being mostly daily occurrences.

Full feedback is available in **Appendix 1**.

Future use

Feedback from the ‘Future Use’ creative task has been grouped into seven themes:



The most common feedback was to develop nature and recreation on Windsor Drive.

Where recreational development was called for, this commonly fell into one of four categories:

- a. Seating
- b. Paths
- c. Accessibility
- d. Exercise/activity

Common themes around developing nature include: rewilding, planting trees, managing and rejuvenating the brook, wildlife habitat improvement, wildflower seeding, wildlife signage.

Eight responses specified that no housing should be built on Windsor Drive, and an additional thirteen responses specified that nothing at all should be done on Windsor Drive.

Five responses called for new facilities: new daycare centre for special needs adults, more GPs, dentists, doctors, schools, local community shop, mobile coffee shack. Two responses specified certain types of housing provision: bungalows for disabled people and council housing.

General amenities and facilities

In the 'more of' less of' area, doctors' surgeries and greenery/nature were frequently mentioned in the 'more of' category. Also mentioned were floodplains, police presence, and homes sized for those wishing to downsize. In the 'less of' category a common view was to see less housing, housing without infrastructure, traffic and poverty.

Full feedback is available in **Appendix 2**.

The transcribed conversations reflect the data collected in the above three activities: lack of infrastructure, need for green spaces for mental health, lack of doctors and health provision, antisocial behaviour, need for better access to green space.

Windsor Drive is important to the community intergenerationally, with important life moments taking place there. There is a great deal of love and appreciation for the place, particularly after coronavirus and the close access to green space it provided. At least one person cited the reason for buying their house was the proximity to this green space.

The lack of infrastructure provision (particularly doctors and dentists) was often mentioned. The community feels that a lot of housing has been built in Houghton Regis, but not enough infrastructure provision for those additional residents.

What also became clear during the listening exercise was the lack of trust attendees had in the council, and the belief that the council will go ahead with plans despite any objections raised.

Full feedback is available in **Appendix 3**.

Appendix 1. Collated responses to Exercise 1 – Uses of Windsor Drive Open Space

Demographics																		
Activities	Exercise classes/groups	Walking	Cycling	Football	Kite Flying	Dog Walking	Jogging	Taking children to play	Picnics	Butterflies, birds, nature	Playing in snow	Geo-caching	Looking at it-view	Pokemon Go	Golf Pitching	Drone flying	Spending time being around other people in community, chatting to others, watching life. Learning to ride a bike	
Demographic List																		
Children		5	1	1	1		1	3		2					1			
Teenagers	1	3		1				1							1			
Young Adults		6	1	1	1		4	2		1	1			1				
Adults	2	13	2				8	7		2	1	1		1	1			
Families	1	5	1	1	2		3		5	1	1			1				
Elderly		1															1	
Disabled (people)		2		1													1	
Visually Impaired																		
Wheelchair Users		1															1	
Hearing Impaired																		
Total	4	36	5	5	4		19	9	9	1	5	2	3	0	2	3	0	3

Time of day																	
Activities	Exercise classes/groups	Walking	Cycling	Football	Kite Flying	Dog Walking	Jogging	Taking children to play	Picnics	Butterflies, birds, nature	Playing in snow	Geo-caching	Looking at it-view	Pokemon Go	Golf Pitching	Drone flying	Spending time being around other people in community, chatting to others, watching life. Learning to ride a bike
Time of day																	
Morning	2	13	3	2			14	4	1			2	1		2		
Afternoon	9	15	5	5	4		16	4	8	1		3	1		2		
Evening	2	8		2	1		7	4	3	1				1	2		
Night		4		1			4	1						1	1		

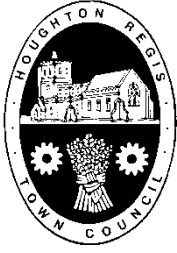
Frequency																	
Activities	Exercise classes/groups	Walking	Cycling	Football	Kite Flying	Dog Walking	Jogging	Taking children to play	Picnics	Butterflies, birds, nature	Playing in snow	Geo-caching	Looking at it-view	Pokemon Go	Golf Pitching	Drone flying	Spending time being around other people in community, chatting to others, watching life. Learning to ride a bike
Frequency	Daily	4x per week	every couple of days		4x per week		twice a week	bi-weekly to month	every sn	Every few weeks	every day	every day	every day	every day	every day	weekly during day light	
		3x per week	weekly		2-3 times per week		every day		every sn	Every few weeks							
		every few days	weekly		every day		every day										
		every day	everyday		2 x per day		1x per week										
		2x day			1x per week												
		every day			everyday												
		weekly			everyday												
		daily			everyday												
		twice a week			everyday												
		weekends			everyday												
		weekly			everyday												
		daily			every day												
		daily			every day												
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		weekly															
		daily															
		weekly															
		weekly															
		daily															
		weekends															

Appendix 2. Collated data from exercise 2: Future uses for Windsor Drive Open Space

Feedback from activity regarding the future of Windsor Drive	No housing	Do nothing	Develop nature	Develop recreation	Facilities	Housing	Misc.	Detail
Comment (raw, from flags)	8	13	34	34	5	2	9	
No housing	No housing							
No to housing. Keep green space-nature- mental health	No housing							
NO BUILDING HOUSES	No housing							
Absolutely NO MORE HOUSING	No housing							
Calm friendly- NO HOUSES	No housing							
No to housing. Keep green space-nature- mental health	No housing							
More trees. No houses of flat or building	No housing		develop nature					
Don't build in condensed areas!	No housing							
Keep as an open space- DO NOT DO ANYTHING WITH IT. LEAVE IT ALONE		do nothing						
Don't build on WD, leave it as it is		do nothing						
Keep it as it is		do nothing						
Leave it as it is		do nothing						
Retain as it is. Should have green space		do nothing						
Keep as open space		do nothing						
Keep it open for dog-walking and walking		do nothing						
Keep for exercise for people to use. Don't change it		do nothing						
KEEP OUR GREEN SPACE AND REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT		do nothing						
There is a need for quiet green space for people to enjoy		do nothing						
keep as a quiet area for mindfulness and mental health		do nothing						
Keep green for school activities		do nothing	develop nature					
Keep green space. Government advice to keep us healthy!		do nothing	develop nature					
Build new day care centre for special needs adults- replace one being closed in Houghton Regis					facilities			
More GPs, dentists, doctors					facilities			
Local/community shop, run by community				develop recreation	facilities			
Coffee shack (mobile)					facilities			
Doctors, GPs, Schools					facilities			
Disabled bungalows						housing		
Council houses						housing		
Don't forget the river. Reduce tree cover/shading. Reprofile banks			develop nature					
Rejuvenate the brook. Clean & accessible			develop nature					
Developed further for nature- edges- flora and fauna			develop nature					
wildlife place and long grass			develop nature					
pond & wildflowers			develop nature					
Link with improvements to surrounding landscape on Parkside			develop nature					
Wildlife reserve			develop nature					
Create/improve wet woodland. Sort drainage into it. SUDS			develop nature					
wildflowers growing in sections/edges			develop nature					
keep woodland area for wildlife			develop nature					
Re-Wind & sealing and open green space			develop nature					
Green spaces- take the carbon out of the atmosphere			develop nature					
More wildflowers, trees, keep it green for everyone and wildlife			develop nature					
Re-wilding			develop nature					
Mitigating flooding. The big green sponge			develop nature					
Woodland and lake			develop nature					
Retain areas supporting wildlife			develop nature					
Plant Britain- plant trees			develop nature					
Better management of green space			develop nature					
Wildlife signage (info board)			develop nature					
More trees in the middle			develop nature					
Community based biodiversity projects			develop nature					
re-wild and natural space			develop nature					
Pond and park with benches			develop nature	develop recreation				seating
maintain and make walkway in the wooded area			develop nature	develop recreation				paths
Open space for walking dogs			develop nature	develop recreation				
More seating to enjoy the open spaces			develop nature	develop recreation				seating
Nature trail connection			develop nature	develop recreation				paths
more wheelchair access to nature reserve spaces			develop nature	develop recreation				accessibility
Community event and/or gardening			develop nature	develop recreation				exercise/activity
Allotments			develop nature	develop recreation				exercise/activity
Seating, and waste management				develop recreation				seating
Seating areas				develop recreation				seating
Clarity around cycling/footpath use				develop recreation				
Running track				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Outdoor gym for older people				develop recreation				exercise/activity
playground				develop recreation				exercise/activity
low intervention sports facilities (football)				develop recreation				exercise/activity
More lighting with paths around it!!				develop recreation				paths & lighting
Dog poo bins and benches needed				develop recreation				seating
Pathways with lighting so it can be used at night too				develop recreation				paths
maintain walking space for walking/exercise				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Needs some parking (there is already a lack)				develop recreation				parking
Craft fairs				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Not accessible!				develop recreation				accessibility
More sports for players				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Disabled access				develop recreation				accessibility
SAFER				develop recreation				safety
Public seats/picnic area, car park				develop recreation				seating
Accessible pathways				develop recreation				accessibility
Community children's recreation ground				develop recreation				exercise/activity
5 a side multi use games area				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Path area. Seating area. Pathways. Rubbish bins				develop recreation				paths & seating
Pavilion/meeting space				develop recreation				
Cricket pitch				develop recreation				exercise/activity
Tea house facility				develop recreation				
That development on WD would set a precedent for other green spaces to be developed							Misc.	
Quiet, peaceful, chilled							Misc.	
More open spaces like WD							Misc.	
There are other spaces with better facilities than WD							Misc.	
Better crossing/ Good traffic calming							Misc.	
50%/65% is also including tree areas- no							Misc.	
Quiet, serene, open, relaxing							Misc.	
Looking at it VIEW							Misc.	
Community oriented							Misc.	

Appendix 3. Collated data from exercise 3: general amenities for Houghton Regis

More of	Less of
Hospital! Capacity?	Poverty- hidden/visible
Network of cycle/natural/footpath trails- wheel chair accessible and plenty of biodiversity	No housing on Windsor Drive
Greenways	Traffic and associated noise
Greenspace for wildlife and trees	No more housing- we are not a dumping ground. We had lack of open space even for football 20 years ago
Capacity Doctors Surgery	Development on green spaces
Bungalows included in new building schemes- important for access, mobility, downsizing (these should always be included in new developments)	Expensive houses with no thought to infrastructure- Dr/school/congestion/police/leisure/facilities
Trees in highstreets, and on grass areas and verges	New housing developments
More Doctors surgeries	Building new houses
Green open spaces	Amazon Prime vans driving through Houghton Regis to get to Boscombe Road- make them use the link road
Flood plains	No new housing in existing open spaces
police on the beat	No more housing in nature/sports/community areas
Natural open spaces	Building new houses and destroying our greens
Improve Houghton Brook	Do not want houses on park
Green open space for walks and sport	Dogwalking space remains the way it is
Provision/thinking in new development for other end of market (downsizing)	
Council houses	



ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
Agenda Item 11

Date:	15th November 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

This report is provided for information only.

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

Members are advised of the following:

Land Registry

The application to register the land has been made to the Land Registry (October 2020). There has been recent communication from the Land Registry over this application. This is still very much a work in progress and is proving difficult to progress due to historic conveyances and leases and the number of third parties involved in these. Investigations and options are being considered currently. There is a likelihood that the council will need to source legal advice on this matter.

Planning

The planning application was submitted to CBC late August and has been validated. It is due to be determined just prior to Christmas.

Pitch tenders

Members were previously advised that the contract has been awarded to Field Turf. The contract price is £761,334.12

The pitch tender included the car park extension and refurbishment as an extra cost. The cost for this is an extra £106,512.35. However there remains a little uncertainty over this element as drainage of the new pavilion is currently being considered. The Committee are not being asked at present to consider the car park works as it is tied in with the tender price for the pavilion and outcomes of drainage surveys.

Pavilion tender

The tender process ran during October and is currently open. The tender process will be managed in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Once tenders have been received back it is likely that a special meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be called to consider the tenders and award the contract.

The new pavilion will be established based on design and build. At this stage it is possible for the building to be heated using gas or a ground source heat pump. There are financial and environmental issues around both options. Members will be asked to consider this is due course.

VAT Position

Members are advised that VAT advice has been sourced. This is attached for consideration.

4. PROJECT FUNDING

Please refer to Appendix A.

This is still a provisional funding outline as the tender process for the pavilion has not concluded to date.

5. PROJECT TIMELINE

Please refer to Appendix B.

Members are advised that this timeline has scope to be moved as there remain some significant variables on this project which may have an impact on whether the project is fit to be considered by the Football Foundation in January 2022. These variables are:

- Conclusion of the Land Registry process
- Award of the contract for the pavilion build
- Securing of planning permission

6. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

It had been hoped that this report would present for consideration a number of significant recommendations relating to this project. However due to delays associated with the Land Registry process and with the pavilion tender process this has not been possible.

It is anticipated that a special meeting will be called in the coming weeks. At this meeting members will be asked to consider the following:

1. Confirmation of pavilion design (whether it will include the community space)
2. Award of pavilion contract
3. Confirmation of project funding including:
 - Use of ear marked reserves
 - Requirement for borrowing with a referral to Town Council as necessary
4. Future site management

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix A	PROJECT FUNDING
Appendix B	PROJECT TIMELINE
Appendix C	VAT ADVICE



**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE –
WORK PLAN 2021/22**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2021/22	Reports already received / completed
July 2021	CBC Update report Work Plan Partnership Committee Co-Option Confirmation Of The Secretariat Committee Functions & Terms Of Reference	<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"> • Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis • Place Delivery • Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (inc. HRN 2 Community Building, Bedford Square Community Centre) • Tithe Farm Sports Provision • Housing And Engagement • Chalk pit • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre 	Community Buildings in Houghton Regis 20 th July 2021 23 rd November 2021
October 2021	CBC Update report Work Plan		Place Delivery 20 th July 2021 23 rd November 2021
January 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan		Chalk pit
April 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan		Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre 23 rd November 2021
			Housing Provision and Allocations 23 rd November 2021



			<p>Tithe Farm sports provision 20th July 2021 23rd November 2021</p>
			<p>Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis: Time to Talk 20th July 2021 23rd November 2021</p>

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: For information

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1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

CCTV REPORTS

OCTOBER

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
25/10/21	14:52	Bedford Square	Assault	0
26/10/21	19:43	Houghton Road	Traffic Offences	0

NOVEMBER

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
17/11/21	16:22	Bedford Square	Anti-Social Behaviour	0

DECEMBER- REPORT NOT YET AVAILABLE

1st OCTOBER 2021 – 31st DECEMBER 2021

During this period there were 22 cases open to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:-

- Community Safety Littering – 2
- Dog Fouling – 1
- Fly Tipping – 13
- Pollution Noise – 6

1 x Fixed Penalty Notices served for Dog Fouling

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Safer Communities Engagement Officer visited Bedford Square and spoke to businesses regarding anti-social behaviour.

Dog poo bag dispensers were provided to Houghton Regis Town Council to put up in the area.

Patrols were carried out around Houghton Hall Park, Officer engaged with dog walkers, provided advice, and gave out free dog poo bag and holders.

Radio Link radio was provided to Morrisons, this is a direct link into CBC's CCTV Control room.

Safer Business Officer visited businesses and provided Radio Link stickers to businesses with a radio.

There is an upcoming Action Day in Houghton Regis on 15th February, this will include partners from Bedfordshire Police, CBC Highways, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, CBC Housing. There will be patrols,

a Police surgery at Houghton Hall Park where residents are able to speak to a Police Officer in confidence, joint patrols in the area, Highways will be carrying out works where possible.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

15th September – 31st December 2021 - The Parking Enforcement team visited Houghton Regis 486 times and they issued 15 Penalty Charge Notices.

ROW LABELS	ROAD MARKINGS AND LININGS	SIGNS DAMAGED OR MISSING	GRAND TOTAL
ACTION SCHEDULED	0	1	1
CONFIRMED	1	1	2
FIXED -USER	0	1	1
INVESTIGATING	1	0	1
NOT RESPONSIBLE	1	1	2
UNABLE TO FIX	0	1	1
GRAND TOTAL	3	5	8

2. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

Chalk Pit

Work is ongoing to prepare a legally binding funding agreement with the Wildlife Trust and the owners of the Chalk pit have notified CBC of the transfer of responsibility of the site to the Council to which Legal have initially suggested that a more formal process should be followed. We cannot issue a licence or a lease as we don't own the site.

In the meantime we are liaising with the WT to see if we can develop a new management plan to be agreed by us and Natural England which will form part of the Funding Agreement.

HOUGHTON REGIS LIBRARY

Over the Christmas period we ran Christmas crafts for young people, to either make in the library or take away, which were very well attended. We had successfully resumed two of our weekly Children's activities before this, however they are now on hold until after the February half-term.

Staffing has been affected by covid outbreaks over the past month, but despite this we've been incredibly busy. We are giving out the new LFD's and now have the Pop-up Vaccination centre open until Sunday 23rd January. We're really hoping there will be a decent uptake for this.

HOUGHTON REGIS LEISURE CENTRE

The centre is open, with Covid safe procedures in place including additional cleaning. Usage at the centre continues to grow as customer confidence improves. October brings the highest usage month this year. Even though we approached the “quieter months” November showed growth compared to the previous quarter:

Pre covid monthly average based on 2019 usage:	18,847
Oct 2021:	15,486
Nov 2021:	14,819
Dec 2021	10,282

The AquaEd learn to swim programme recovered more quickly than the anticipated recovery timeframe and continues to grow.

01.03.20	AquaEd swimmers on the programme	833
01.12.20	Post lockdown 2020 swimmers	669
31.05.21	Post re-opening	745
31/12/21	Achieved pre covid scheme member levels	878

Fitness membership recovery is slower than the AquaEd scheme recovery:

01.03.20	Total fitness members	1784
01.12.20	Post lockdown 2020	1134
21.06.21	Post re-opening	1250
31.12.21	Latest figures	1215

Membership is still 29.3% down on the pre covid level. November and December proving difficult months for growth. The site has run joining fee/Black Friday/Rest of year free offers through Oct - Dec with some good up take.

The site offered a range of activities and charitable events:

- Aqua Ed distance award evening
- Breast Cancer Awareness Event raising £430
- Halloween Parties & dressing up with Sport Ed sessions



The site sales team is undertaking outreach work within the community to improve awareness of the centre's existence and has made positive links with the sales teams at the new home sites in the area to ensure that residents new to the area are made aware of the centre as soon as they arrive in Houghton Regis. News of the New Facility is now in the public domain and SLL will be showing support to the planning process and assisting with the public awareness throughout the community.

HOUGHTON HALL PARK

Another successful festive season in the park with several popular community events being held, including wreath making sessions, reindeer trail with Santa, and Spirit of Christmas outdoor performance. The volunteer group is developing further as the Friends of Houghton Hall Park and will be fully constituted later this year.

In March 2022 we will reach the end of the National Lottery Heritage Funded 'Parks for People' project including submission of a final evaluation covering how the aims of the project have been delivered. Aims for the next couple of months are to submit the application for the Green Flag accreditation, undertake some maintenance and upgrade works to paths in the park, and planting of some tree whips in the woodland. The team are busy working on events and engagement for Mother's Day and Easter.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OCTOBER 2021 – DECEMBER 2021

The Active Lifestyles Referral programme is continuing to run. The service was adapted, and support was given to those who were currently on the programme including more individual calls to support personal wellbeing. Our referrals are also now back in leisure centres using their facilities and assisting them in the referral journey.

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 & WELLBEING KIOSKS

Our Health and Wellbeing Kiosks have been in use now since the opening of the leisure centres, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre has had over 1000 people sign up to use the facility to monitor their health.

These have been installed across all 6 of our leisure centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member to use the boditrax kiosks.

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 local 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

We are continuing to provide our online classes as the feedback of these have been great during the pandemic and people wanted them to continue. We are always adding classes to our You Tube library.



www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith



[Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles
You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Facebook Live Classes
Free exercise sessions delivered remotely via Facebook Live. The following sessions will take place on a weekly basis.
This schedule will change every 10 weeks where we will bring you a change of activities and instructors.

These classes will start from Monday 10th January 2022

Tuesday @ 6pm (45 minute class) with Ella
Barre Pilates
A fusion of ballet & pilates. In this class you will streamline, firm, tighten & tone without adding bulk, creating balance, body awareness & flexibility.

Thursday @ 11am (45 minute class) with Shiraz (Franklin Fitness)
HIIT

Friday @ 8.15am (20 minute class) with Trudy
Low impact workout
Wake up and shine low impact workout

Active Lifestyles
A great place to live and work.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith
Twitter: @getactivewith

#GetActiveWith Community Programme
Mondays - Outdoor Circuits
Biggleswade
Stratton Leisure Outdoor Courts, SG18 8JB
7pm - 8pm

Mondays - Bootcamp
Houghton Regis
Bowls Club (Indoors)
Moore Crescent Green Space, LU5 5GZ
7.15pm - 8.15pm

Wednesdays - Bootcamp
Leighton Buzzard
Cedars Upper School - Sports Hall LU7 2AE
6pm - 7pm

Wednesday - Outdoor Bootcamp
Arlesey
Arlesey Multi Use Game Area
6.15pm - 7.15pm

Saturdays - Outdoor Bootcamps
Amphill Great Park - 10am - 11am
(Meet next to the cafe hub)

Booking is essential for these classes as spaces are limited. These classes are FREE.
www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

Active Lifestyles
A great place to live and work.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith
Twitter: @getactivewith

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

All activities comply with current COVID guidelines. Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football, winter/summer bootcamps. Bootcamp is currently running in Houghton Regis. This is FREE to all residents 18+yrs. Please book on via our booking page.

www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

FALLS PREVENTION – STRENGTH & BALANCE PROGRAMME

We have re-launched our Falls Prevention Pilot at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre since re-opening. The course is a free 12 week programme designed to help improve strength and balance for people over 65 who are at risk of falling or have already had any falls.

We have also started an online 6 week Falls pilot which is in place to offer a similar programme for those people who are unable to attend the programme at the Leisure Centre for any reason.

Both programmes are proving successful. For more information about the Falls Prevention – Strength & Balance Programme, please email active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

KINGSLAND

The planning application to develop a new leisure community facility was submitted on 16 December 2021 and will be considered by the development management committee later in 2022. The planning consultation process is currently ongoing and representations on the scheme can be made through the Local Planning Portal via the Central Bedfordshire website.

Consultation and community engagement start in January 2022 and will help inform plans. We are keen to receive your feedback on the proposals, including any ideas for the name of the new community and leisure centre.

Residents can join members of the project team to view plans, ask questions and leave feedback in person on:

- **Saturday 29th January between 11:00am to 4:00pm at Bedford Square Community Library foyer area (in person)**

Webinars will also be held for those not wanting to attend a face to face event. Through these online

events, you will be able to ask questions and view the plans.

- **Thursday 27th January 6:00pm to 7:30pm (online)**
- **Monday 31st January 12:30pm to 2:00pm (online)**

3. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

The Council's Business and Investment team continue to deliver the Additional Restrictions Grant wider business support programmes, which can still be accessed up until the end of **March 2022**.

These wider business grants include:

- **Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce:** provide free [International Markets](#) support
- **Cranfield University:** businesses can access a number of [projects](#) including the Net Zero Top-up, Business Growth Programme, Essential Management and Finance Fundamentals to enable them to grow
- **SEMLEP:** The [Business Support and Mentoring Programme](#) can provide advice and guidance/grant
- **University of Bedfordshire, Central Bedfordshire Productivity Programme:** provide bespoke productivity training and specialist consultancy support, which offers two courses [Lean Thinking and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt](#).

Additional Council funding has allowed for the **Green Business Network** to:

- Encourage businesses to work towards being net zero carbon, and to become new [Members](#)
- Provide an innovative [green referral](#) networking group to create a region-wide green supply chain of companies referring each other's green solutions.

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS

On Wednesday 15 December, the Government published guidance for its Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) providing additional business rates relief. The Government has allocated us over £5.3 million and we are working through the detail to understand the number of businesses we can support, in which sectors and how much they will receive.

On Tuesday 21 December, the Government announced further funding for businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors most affected by the Omicron variant. We are waiting for further information from Government on the distribution of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) and as soon as this is available, we will distribute funding to eligible businesses.

You can read more about the Government announcement on the [GOV.UK website](#)

For the period 1 Sept – 1 Dec, there were 47 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire, 18 of which were interested in Houghton Regis/Dunstable – please see table below. This represents a doubling of enquiries interested in Houghton Regis/Dunstable in comparison to the previous reporting period. Logistics and small retail companies account for 50% of these enquiries. Progress with fitting out of the UPS building is moving on a pace and construction of both Amazon and Lidl are due for completion later

this year. We are in contact with Ocado and hope to have further information regarding the type of operation and expected timescales for their new distribution centre at J11a, M1.

DATE TAKEN	REQUIREMENT MAX SIZE	REQUIREMENT UNIT TYPE	REASON	STATUS	ORIGINATING TOWN
03-Sep-21	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Luton
03-Sep-21	1000 Sq Ft	Retail	Expansion	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
03-Sep-21	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
03-Sep-21	1000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Closed - no longer looking	Harrow
13-Sep-21	201 Sq Ft	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	London
16-Sep-21	45000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
21-Sep-21	2000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
30-Sep-21	1 Acres	Land	My business is relocating	Live - Active	St Albans
22-Oct-21	800 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Houghton Regis
25-Oct-21	3808 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
26-Oct-21	1000 Sq M	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	Houghton Regis
04-Nov-21	1200 Sq Ft	Retail	Expansion	Live - Active	Luton
15-Nov-21	2433 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
30-Nov-21	1000 Sq Ft	Office	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
06-Dec-21	3000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	London
07-Dec-21	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Cranfield
15-Dec-21	5 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
29-Dec-21	5500 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Tewin, Welwyn

BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)

The lockdowns which have occurred over the past (almost) two years have meant that the Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) and its partner training providers have delivered most of its adult learning classes during that time online. Where community based classrooms have opened (on a limited basis) they are doing so with strict Covid-19 safety restrictions in place and a requirement for learners and staff to take lateral flow tests and provide evidence of a negative result. Whilst the move to online learning has enabled many residents to undertake courses who might not otherwise have had the time or resource to travel to a classroom, we are aware that online learning isn't accessible to everyone and look forward to delivering more face to face, community based learning in the future.

In the current academic year, which started in August 2021, we have engaged with 36 Houghton Regis residents to date, ten of whom were unemployed when starting their learning with us. The most popular courses were Getting Started with English and Maths, ICT, Early Years, and Supporting Teaching and

Learning. The figures also include three individuals undertaking apprenticeships in Early Years Educator, Adult Care and Business Administration.

BESS has a number of courses and workshops which are designed to help and support unemployed residents into work. Programmes can be quite generic, offering information and advice on changing career or how to tailor a CV to a specific job role. Some courses are sector specific, working closely with employers who are seeking to recruit or which can lead into fully mapped career pathways. BESS has a close relationship with DWP and, together with its partners and where our Government funding allows, can deliver bespoke courses specifically requested by stakeholders supporting Central Bedfordshire residents. Its in-house team of advisers can also offer 1 to 1 support to residents on finding employment or changing career.

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
- Health and Social Care
- 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.”

TOWN CENTRE VACANCY RATES IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE, NOV 2020 – NOV 2021

	NOVEMBER 2020	MAY 2021	AUGUST 2021*	NOVEMBER 2021
TOWN	% VACANT	% VACANT	% VACANT	% VACANT
Amphill	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.2
Arlesey	18.8	12.5	12.5	12.5
Biggleswade	7.6	7.6	9.5	9.5
Dunstable	12.9	10.8	10.7	12.0
Flitwick	4.3	2.1	4.3	4.5
Houghton Regis	0.0	3.8	3.1	3.1
Leighton Buzzard	4.8	3.9	4.4	4.8
Potton	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Sandy	9.2	9.1	7.6	7.4

Shefford	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0
Total	7.3%	6.5%	6.7%	7.0%

In November 2020 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 7.3%, there were a total of 957 units of which 70 were vacant. A year later in November 2021 the vacancy rate fell slightly to 7.0% with a total of 966 Units and 68 vacancies. Since last quarters survey, some increases in vacant units have been seen in Dunstable and some decreases can be seen in Stotfold, the rest remain unchanged or relatively stable.

* Some August 2021 data has been revised to reflect the subsequent finalising of Town Centre boundaries in the new Local Plan.

4. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

1) UPDATE ON NEETS WITHIN THE WIDER CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA

The figures presented below are those reported to NCCIS / DfE at the end of November 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	3091	3021	50
17year olds / Year 13	3024	2835	114
Combined cohort	6115	5847	164

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 6th January 2022.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Total YPs in area	815		507		937	
EET	787	(96.6%)	487	(96.1%)	905	(96.6%)
NEET	26	(3.2%)	18	(3.6%)	27	(2.9%)
Unknown/Refused	2	(0.2%)	2	(0.4%)	5	(0.5%)

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	131	7	5.3%
Houghton Hall	233	6	2.6%
Parkside	143	5	3.5%
Total	507	18	3.6%

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	3	Less than 3 months	9	Male	12
17 years old	12	3-6 months	6	Female	6
18 years old	3	6+ months	3	Other/Refused	0

c. Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	15	(83.3%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	3	(16.7%)

Where NEET young people can't be supported virtually, the Youth Support Service will offer guidance interviews from Grove Corner, in line with Public Health England and Government Guidelines.

5. SCHOOLS

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

The closing date for applications for Starting School and Transfer to Middle School was 15th January 2022.

Admissions has worked closely with the local authority's communications team to encourage applications and for parents and guardians to apply on time, to increase their chance of obtaining a place at their preference school. On a regular basis the team has pushed the message on Facebook and Twitter. This in conjunction with the Admissions Team working with schools to remind parents/ guardians to apply on time and frequent chaser letters has helped to increase the level of on time applications.

In regard to Upper and transfer to Secondary school applications (closing date was the 31 October 2021), parents who applied on time will be notified of the outcome of their application on the national offer day on 1st March 2022.

For Starting School and transfer to Middle the national offer day is the 16th April 2022.

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.

Following the arrival of the Omicron Variant, we have seen cases rise significantly across Central Bedfordshire, so it remains 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 (LFD) or “Rapid” testing is now available for individuals to test regularly. Find out more about local LFD testing here:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests

Tests are also available from local pharmacies or 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>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Vaccination information including FAQ’s and where you can get a vaccine is available [here](#)

STOP SMOKING

The delivery of Stop Smoking Services through GP Surgeries continues to have been severely reduced, with direct and indirect impacts from the Coronavirus Pandemic. Due to delays in National reporting there is currently no update performance data available.

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

The service was looking to recommence face-to-face support, particularly for the most vulnerable clients, but this has been put on hold due to the Omicron Variant.

A Service Review is underway to look at how the Service can increase and improve its offer for local residents, whilst acknowledging the fact that most smokers, as identified by recent customer insights work, still see Primary Care as the main route into Stop Smoking Services.

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 April-December 2021-22, shows that Primary Care settings Chiltern Vale have re-introduced the delivery of Health Checks, despite the Coronavirus Pandemic. In Chiltern Vale already 783 Health Checks were delivered against a year-to-date target of 693, exceeding that period target. They have invited 2,243 patients for a Health Check (target 3,444) so are performing at 65% for that indicator in the year-to-date.

Data quality score is 77.5% (red) which is lower than the CCG average (83.6%) and needs some investigation.

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 now being managed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC). Project activities continue to develop, building connections across the existing and new communities of Houghton Regis. Ongoing COVID restrictions mean that they have not been able to undertake as much face-to-face work as they would have liked, across the area, in order to increase profile and connections across the area.

For more information, visit the time2connect website: <https://bedsrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/community-engagement/time2connect-houghton-regis/>

7. PUBLIC PROTECTION

- 7 – noise complaints
- 33 – food standard inspections
- 16 – food hygiene inspections
- 13 – new food registrations received
- 3 – Trading Standards Referrals
- 1 – Light complaint

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LOOKING BACK

As reported in the previous report, Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing services have continued throughout the most recent impact of the pandemic and over the Christmas period.

Accumulation of waste remains increased in general; these are identified, inspected, and are dealt with as soon as possible.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – The requirement for resident booking was removed in September 2021 and the sites managed well over the Christmas period.

DOG PATROLS – June to September dog patrols have been carried out in the following locations: -

- Bromley Gardens
- Hillborough Crescent

- Houghton Hall Car Park
- Leafields
- Redhouse Court Rec (at least twice a month)
- Tudor Drive
- Watling Place

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

We have been completing winter works in various areas and shrub cutting continued around Parkside. Grass cutting is planned to commence latter March into April.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Tree collections took place between 10th – 21st January, on normal recycling collection day.

CLEANSING AND LEAF FALL

There has been activity for leaf fall clearance over the autumn and Christmas period. Any issues can be reported via the normal reporting method online or by calling Customer Services.

9. TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INCREASING VACCINATIONS GRANT SCHEME

One of the successful applicants to the increasing vaccinations grant scheme, Diverse FM has created an engaging social media and video campaign. The video and short clips are designed to encourage local residents in areas of low uptake to get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. The video includes clips from two Houghton Regis Ward Councillors and will be shared on their social media platforms, as well as the Diverse FM ad van which will be parked in areas of Central Bedfordshire. The video can be viewed [here](#).

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL TOPIC SESSIONS

The next town and parish council topic session will take place on 26 January 6pm-7pm and will focus on the Strategic plan.

The first session was held on 21 November and focused on COP26 and the Sustainability Plan. View the [recording, slides](#) and [feedback document](#).

The second session was held on 15th December and focused on the Design Guide. View the [recording, slides](#) and [feedback document](#).

The third session was held on 12 January and focused on the Queen's Green Canopy and a Tree Planting Surgery. View the [recording, slides](#) and feedback document will be available on the website shortly.

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(S)
Tenancy Strategy	Consultation on the revised Tenancy Strategy (2022-2032)	5 th Nov 2021	28 th Jan 2022	Kyla Carter 0300 300 5662
Budget 2022	Consultation on the proposed Budget for 2022	4 th Jan 2022	30 th Jan 2022	Charles Warboys 0300 300 6147
Community and Village Hall proposals	Consultation (in connection with BRCC) on the proposals and vision for Community and Village halls in Central Bedfordshire	15 th Nov 2021	28 th Feb 2022	Sarah Hughes 0300 300 6166
Adult Carers Strategy for 2022-27	Consultation on the draft Adult Carers Strategy for 2022-27.	25 th Nov 2021	3 rd Mar 2022	Lorna Corbin 0300 300 6048
Eggington Community Governance Review Stage 2	Stage 2 of the Eggington Community Governance Review, regarding an area of Clipstone Park	6 th Jan 2022	30 th March 2022	Brian Dunleavy 0300 300 4049

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

DATE	MEETING	TIME
Tuesday 1 February	Traffic Management Meeting	10:00am
Tuesday 8 February	Executive	09:30am
Thursday 10 February	Leighton Linlade Partnership Committee	07:30pm
Wednesday 16 February	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 17 February	Corporate Parenting Panel	10:00am
Monday 21 February	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	10:00am
Thursday 24 February	Council	06:30pm
Monday 28 February	Sustainable Communities OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 1 March	Children's Services OSC	10:00am
Thursday 3 March	Audit Committee	10:00am
Thursday 3 March	Council	10:00am
Monday 7 March	Schools Forum	10:00am

Wednesday 9 March	Licencing Committee	10:00am
Thursday 10 March	Corporate Services OSC	10:00am
Thursday 10 March	Dunstable Joint Committee	07:30pm
Wednesday 16 March	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 24 March	General Purposes Committee	10:00am
Tuesday 29 March	Traffic Management Meeting	10:00am

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