

13th April 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 Tracey 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 **26th April 2022** commencing at **7.00pm** 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

**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 - 11

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022.

Recommendation: **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022.**

**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. LINMERE – THE FARMSTEAD

A verbal update will be provided by Rachel Pearce, Land Improvement Holdings.

7. HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT

A verbal update will be provided by James Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, CBC covering the progress with new facilities at All Saints View and The Brook.

8. CBC UPDATE REPORT

Pages 12 - 32

The CBC update report is attached for information.

9. BEDFORD SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The link to the Executive decision on Bedford Square Community Centre is [here](#). CBC have committed to meet with the College and HRTC to consider this.

10. TITHE FARM SPORTS PROVISION UPDATE

Pages 33 - 36

Members will find attached the agenda report as presented to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee on 14th February 2022.

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

Planning

Planning permission has been secured.

Pavilion tender

The pavilion tender process has been concluded and a contractor has been appointed.

Project funding

CBC have advised that a substantial amount of additional s106 funding will be made available to this project, increasing this provision from £223,020 to £485,311.

11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

12. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Pages 37 - 40

Members are invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2021/22 and a draft Partnership Committee workplan for 2022/23.

13. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

Members are reminded of 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.

For 2021/22 Mr David Gibbons has been a co-opted member of the committee.

14. ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 25th January 2022**

Present: Town Cllrs: **D Jones (Chair), T McMahon, K Wattingham,**
CBC Cllrs: Cllr Hamill (Vice-Chair), A Ryan, Y Farrell, S Goodchild
CBC Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Officers:
HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Officers: Louise Senior, Head of Democratic Services

Co-opted member: D Gibbons

Also in attendance: Lisa White, Head of Leisure CBC
Alice Arden Barnatt, Programme Enabling Manager CBC
James Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, Housing Services CBC
Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager
Bex McBrearty, Community Connections Advisor
Iain Berry, Assistant Director Assets
David Skinner, Houghton Regis Community Development Charity
Tim Haines, Houghton Regis Community Development Charity

Apologies: None
Absent: M Kennedy
Members of the public: 3

931 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

932 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Members of the public raised several concerns and asked a number of questions:

- Shared feedback on the listening event and suggested that it had been ineffectual and suggested that CBC be more transparent about housing issues and requested that residents be fully informed about the assessments, processes and decisions pertaining to development on Windsor Drive.
- Feedback was requested on why a petition of 600, signed and delivered to CBC's Executive appeared to have been disregarded in relation to Windsor Drive
- It was requested that CBC provide evidence on both the supply and demand for affordable housing justifying the need to develop Windsor Drive
- It was requested that Central Bedfordshire Council provide a projection of the affordable homes based on extant planning permissions to be delivered in Houghton Regis over the next 5 years to the end of the Local Plan 2035 evidencing that

Houghton Regis was not bearing a disproportionate burden of affordable housing in comparison to other areas of Central Bedfordshire.

- What site assessments and surveys had been planned?
- Had there been any consultation with Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Officers about the proposed development?
- Had any formal pre-application advice been sought from or given by Planning Officers?
- Regarding the new leisure centre, a copy of the contract with the school was requested to determine how many hours residents would have access to the use of the sports hall
- Statistics had been used for justification of the decision not to include a sports hall e.g. 8% current usage, it was requested that Central Bedfordshire Council explain where these statistics have come from and over what period of time do they represent;
- If feedback from sports groups was received stating a sports hall was needed, which justified more time needed than would be on offer under the contract with the new school, would CBC listen and have the plans amended?

Members of the public were advised that responses would be provided to them in due course.

DRAFT

933 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Goodchild declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 Bidwell West, as she was a member of the Baptist Church.

Co-opted member Mr Gibbons declared an interest in agenda item 9 Bidwell West, as he had been involved with the Neighbourhood Plan, although he had since retired from that group.

934 MINUTES

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

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

935 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 in attendance at the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on this project.

Members were advised that Time2Connect had developed well based in Houghton Hall Park which offered an informal space, opening 5 days per week offering support for a variety of residents issues, some local trips had been planned. A creative art session had been held, delivered by a local resident and links were being made in the wider community with a view to using other venues within the community.

936 KINGSLAND LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE

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

Members were advised of the predicted timescales and the need for the funding to be spent by March 2024. The planning application had been submitted and consultation had begun. It was hoped the application would be considered around May, subject to approval, work could begin in autumn of 2022.

Members were advised of the facilities to be included in the new leisure centre which comprised of a larger pool than was currently available for use in Houghton Regis, with spectator area, learner pool benefitting from an adjustable floor, squash courts, gym area, multi-function space, dedicated space for spinning, creche, café and fully accessible changing facilities in accordance with Sports UK.

Concerns were raised regarding the loss of a sports hall facility within the main leisure centre, members were advised a standalone sports hall would be onsite within the new school complex.

Concerns were raised that the consultation allowed for limited input and members of the public requested there also be a consultation on the agreement with the school in relation to the sports hall.

Members queried whether consideration had been given to elderly residents and those with special needs. Members were advised that wellbeing partners would be included in the process.

Members were assured by CBC officers that the questions and comments raised by members of the public would be responded to in due course.

937 HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT

James Yeomans, Head of Housing Property, Housing Services was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update including All Saints View and Windsor Drive engagement.

Members received feedback on the Windsor Drive Community Engagement Listening Event, CBC advised members that the event had been deemed a success.

Members raised concerns that Houghton Regis had been disproportionately focussed on for housing development resulting in the loss of much of the green space within the town and highlighted their disappointment, and suggested that many other areas within Central Bedfordshire, with available land, had not been considered for development.

It was requested that CBC provide information on what other land had been considered for development throughout Central Bedfordshire.

938 BEDFORD SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Iain Berry, Assistant Director Assets was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the consultation results on the future use of Bedford Square Community Centre.

Members raised concerns that a valuable facility in Houghton Regis was no longer available for use by the residents of Houghton Regis and had been in use by Central Bedfordshire College. Members were advised that the contract for the college was due to end in July, if the agreement was not renewed the college would find alternative premises.

Members highlighted their disappointment in Houghton Regis being solely focussed on to provide a facility for Central Bedfordshire College's use and felt that the needs of the college were being put before the needs of the Houghton Regis community.

Members queried whether the public consultations conducted were by an external company and were advised that public consultations were conducted by both Central Bedfordshire Council and external organisations. The listening event at Windsor Drive had been outsourced.

939 BIDWELL WEST

David Skinner / Tim Haines Houghton Regis Community Development Charity were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the progress to develop a community facility at Bidwell West.

Members were advised that events and projects had been held over Christmas with more planned for the summer, work had continued around a proposal for a community building and a business plan was being completed. A consultation was to be held at Houghton Hall Park to gauge community views and a new staff member had joined the team.

Gratitude and thanks were expressed to the Town Council for their input.

Members agreed to close the meeting as per Standing orders 1x 'A meeting shall not normally exceed a period of 2.5 hours unless by agreement of those Members present'

Members agreed to receive updates via e-mail on the below agenda items.

940 TITHE FARM ALL WEATHER UPDATE

Members received 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 was advised:

Planning Application

There is an outstanding issue with the planning application. This was 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 was hoped that this variation in the process will secure tender receipts.

Land Registry

The council's solicitors were currently working through a solution with the Land Registry so hopefully this would 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 would be submitted as soon as possible once the outstanding issues had been resolved.

Members agreed to receive circulated information regarding this agenda item.

941 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members received the Partnership Committee workplan.

Members agreed to receive circulated information regarding this agenda item.

942 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC update report.

Members agreed to receive circulated information regarding this agenda item.

943 ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Members agreed to receive circulated information regarding this agenda item.

944 PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS 2022/23

The following dates were 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

Members agreed to receive circulated information regarding this agenda item.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Dated this 26th day of April 2022

Chairman

DRAFT

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

26th April 2022

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 – NO REPORT

JANUARY – NO REPORT

FEBRUARY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
05/02/22	15:56	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0
06/02/22	17:42	Bedford Square	Bicycle theft	0
11/02/22	19:05	Bedford Square	Anti- social behaviour	0
12/02/22	16:16	Bedford Square	Anti- social behaviour	0
14/02/22	13:23	Bedford Square	Assault	0
14/02/22	19:21	Bedford Square	OP-METEOR	0
15/02/22	18:49	Bedford Square	Anti- social behaviour	0
16/02/22	16:24	Bedford Square	Shoplifting / Anti- social behaviour	0
19/02/22	13:00	Bedford Square	Shoplifting	0
20/02/22	09:50	Bedford Square	Anti- social behaviour	0
20/02/22	11:10	Bedford Square	Shoplifting	0
20/02/22	10:49	Bedford Square	Anti- social behaviour	0

MARCH

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
03/03/22	13:41	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0
07/03/22	20:01	Bedford Square	Drug Related	0
07/03/22	20:09	Bedford Square	OP-METEOR	0
08/03/22	14:33	Bedford Square	Drug Related	0
11/03/22	13:52	Houghton Road	OP-METEOR	0
15/03/22	10:25	Houghton Road	Intelligence	0

19/03/22	13:33	Bedford Square	Breach of Community Protection Notice	0
24/03/22	00:55	Bedford Square	Intelligence	0
28/03/22	16:15	Houghton Road	Drug Related	1

1st JANUARY 2022 – 31ST MARCH 2022

During this period there were 24 cases open to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:-

- Abandoned Vehicles – 3
- Dog Fouling – 1
- Fly Tipping – 8
- Nuisance Neighbours – 1
- Pollution Noise – 9
- Pollution Odour – 1
- Vehicle Nuisance – 1

1 x Fixed Penalty Notices served for Dog Fouling
1 x Fixed Penalty Notices served for Householder Duty of Care
1 x Fixed Penalty Notices served for Fly Tipping

2 x Community Protection Notice Warnings served

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Safer Communities Engagement Officers held a pop-up engagement stand at Houghton Regis Library's coffee morning which was followed by an area search around All Saints Church grounds, area surrounding Bedford Court, perimeter of Thomas Whitehead Academy, Tithe Farm Road car park and the Cricket Pavilion.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer had a stall at Houghton Regis Town Council's Spring Fayre, Officers engaged with residents, offered advice, and gave away free crime prevention items.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer and Cllr Antonia Ryan conducted a walk about around Parkside.

The Team held an Action Day in Houghton Regis on the 15th February, which involved partners from Bedfordshire Police, Street Watch, CBC Housing, CBC Trading Standards, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Houghton Regis Town Council. On the day there were high visibility patrols, a place where residents could speak to Police, Central Bedfordshire Council and Houghton Regis Town Council regarding any issues. Highways carried out a number of pot hole repairs, patching work and their Tree Officers were also out carrying out vegetation works.

Safer Business Officer visited 15 businesses.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer opened a case regarding anti-social behaviour issues in Bedford Square. The Officer has looked at lighting, spoken to Highways regarding additional bollards, letter drop to businesses, patrols around Bedford Square and joint working with Community Policing.

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. HIGHWAYS

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

From 1st January – 22nd March 2022 the Civil Enforcement Officers visited Houghton Regis 351 times and issued 34 Penalty Charge Notices.

FIX MY STREET

Reports between 01/01/2022 – 23/03/2022.

ROW LABELS	ROAD MARKINGS AND LININGS	SIGNS DAMAGED OR MISSING	GRAND TOTAL
CLOSED	0	1	1
CONFIRMED	2	1	3
INTERNAL REFERRAL	1	7	8
UNABLE TO FIX	2	0	2
GRANT TOTAL	5	9	14

3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

NEW COMMUNITY AND LEISURE CENTRE – NEXT STEPS

The feedback received on the Have Your Say consultation on the new centre has now been collated and a consultation summary report drafted. The report will be published on the council's web site shortly.

In addition, all feedback received to both the Have Your Say consultation and the statutory Planning consultation has been combined into a Statement of Community Involvement which also provides a response to the consultation comments.

The Statement is one of a number of documents which will be submitted to support the planning application. To enable the community to comment on these latest plans, a second statutory planning consultation will take place. The consultation will be for 28 days and all documents will be available on the Planning Portal.

The next steps in consideration of the application are set out below:

2 May:

The following documents will be submitted to Planning to support the planning application and provide the documentation needed for the second Planning consultation. The 28 day consultation will take place in time for the consultation responses to be considered and a report drafted for the Development Management Committee on 6 July.

- Statement of Community Involvement
- Amended landscaping plans
- Additional highways and ecology surveys

The above documents will be available on Planning Portal a few days after submission.

May - 10 June:

2nd statutory Planning consultation (28 days)

10 June:

DMC papers published

6 July:

Development Management Committee

CHALK PIT UPDATE

Further clarity is needed in order to confirm the legal basis to occupy and delegate maintenance of the site to the Wildlife Trust. This is on-going but essential in order to agree a form of licence for the former quarry which will remain in private ownership. Further discussions have taken place with the Wildlife Trust to review and update the management plan but work on site cannot commence until the legal basis to occupy the site and issue of licence has been resolved.

HOUGHTON HALL PARK

There are a huge number of events and activities being planned and delivered at the park for individuals and families. A list of upcoming events can be found on the Houghton Hall Park website and plans for events later in the year are already well underway.

The team have been busy pulling together information from the Parks for People project for the final evaluation report. Moving forward, the aims and objectives of the park remain to benefit the community of Houghton Regis and provide accessible green space for all.

The Friends of Houghton Hall Park volunteer group have been working on creating a fantastic Easter display in the kitchen garden as well as keeping the gardens maintained to a high standard.

HOUGHTON REGIS LEISURE CENTRE

Usage at the centre continues to grow as customer confidence improves. March brings the highest usage compared to any month from April 21. This has been the busiest quarter since pre-covid:

Pre covid monthly average based on 2019 usage:	18,847
Jan 22:	16,688
Feb 22:	15,974
Mar 22	19,823

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
01.04.22	AquaEd swimmers on the programme. Highest ever achieved	949

Fitness membership is still recovering to pre-Covid numbers:

01.03.20	Total fitness members	1784
01.12.20	Post lockdown 2020	1134
21.06.21	Post re-opening	1250
01.04.22	Latest figures	1376

Membership is 22.8% down on the pre-Covid level, however this has decreased by 20.1% from re-open, showing membership numbers are still rising and going in the right direction.

The site has run No joining fee/Refer a friend/bring a buddy/½ price joining fee offers through Jan-Mar which has increase membership.

The site offered a range of activities and charitable events:

- Aqua Ed Crash courses
- Children's Zumba party

JOIN THE TEAM

Looking for an active and rewarding role with full training and support?
 Start your career in leisure and become a Lifeguard with SLL.
 We are looking for lifeguards for various hours and abilities at
 Houghton Regis Leisure Centre.

No prior qualifications required | **FREE** training provided

Apply today at jobs.sll.co.uk

- Celebrated our member, Pauline 90th birthday
- Red nose day
- Celebration event – Bedford Square
- Havva's comic relief party
- Recruitment – Join our team

The site sales team have been out and about within the community to improve awareness of the centre's existence by delivering leaflets & attending community events. They have also tried to help with recruitment by handing out leaflets for join our team via schools/events/houses. They continue to make 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.



HOUGHTON REGIS LIBRARY

The Pop-up Vaccination Centre ran for the week, and some of the library users made use of this occurring in the centre to get their jabs.

Since the February half term, we have started gradually reintroducing our normal activities, these have been left unadvertised on advisement, leaving word of mouth to share. The number of people attending the children's activities on a Wednesday and Friday mornings are at or exceeding pre-lockdown levels.

We've started Coffee Morning on a Tuesday from 10am. This has also been left unadvertised and has been very well attended. The Vaccination engagement and the Community Engagement/Safety Team have attended with information to share with our users, again with very good numbers. We are intending to reach out to other organisations and community groups with a view to have them attend the coffee morning to network and inform individuals of services and groups available.

As of Tuesday 22nd March all restrictions in CBC Libraries have been removed. New posters regarding masks being a personal choice are now on display. Hand sanitiser stations remain.

Lou Treleaven, a local children's author, visited Houghton Regis Library for an event on March 5th. This was quite a well-attended event and the children seemed to really enjoy meeting her.

HRTC organised a 'Welcome Back' event Saturday 12th March, the meeting room in the library was used as a hub for the events treasure hunt. We had over 600 people on our door count for this day.

Houghton Regis Councillors Surgery will have the first session since lockdown on Saturday 26th March, 10am-12pm. The next two dates booked in for this are 30th April and 28th May both from 10am-12pm.

We are currently planning craft activities for the Easter Holiday, with the aim to deliver one craft each weekday for this period. HRTC will be using our meeting room as their hub on Saturday 9th April for the Easter Egg hunt.

Local schools have begun requesting visits from or to the library, we're currently working through planning these with the hope to encourage reading and library use.

This year's theme for Summer Reading Challenge has yet to be announced, we're advertising for volunteers to help run this during the Summer Holidays. Asking young people aged 13+ to commit to volunteering with us during this time. Details for the SRC are expected to be released around Whitsun with plans to visit schools in the area to share in assemblies in the last half-term before the Summer.

We are incredibly busy at the moment with restarting events after such a long break and very out of practice, it has been lovely to be involved with the Welcome Back event and we are looking at making use of more partners as time goes on. I would urge anyone wishing to make use of our spaces or coffee morning for outreach to get in touch with any of the library staff- 03003008058.

We are also now a Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Safe Space.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES REFERRAL SCHEME - Our referral programme is continuing to run throughout Central Bedfordshire. 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.

FALLS PREVENTION – STRENGTH & BALANCE REFERRAL PROGRAMME

Falls Prevention Strength & Balance referral programme is now running at all leisure facilities. The course is a free 12 week referral 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 please email: activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

HEALTH & WELLBEING KIOSKS

The health and wellbeing kiosks have been installed across all 6 of our centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member to use the kiosk. The health and wellbeing kiosks are free to use. For more information, please visit

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-kiosks

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



leisure
use.
and
Central
kiosks

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 YouTube library.



www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith/



[Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel](#)

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.

Wednesday @ 11am (45 minute class)
with Shane (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.
Find us online: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#)

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

All activities comply with current COVID guidelines. Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football, outdoor bootcamps. Most of the activities are FREE. Residents must book on via our booking page.

www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

#GetActiveWith Outdoor Programme

Mondays - Outdoor Circuits
Biggleswade
Eagle Farm Sport Park, SG18 0JD
7pm - 8pm

Mondays - Outdoor Bootcamp
Houghton Regis
Moore Crescent Green Space, LUS SGZ
7.15pm - 8.15pm

Wednesdays - Outdoor Bootcamps
Leighton Buzzard
Appenine Way Green Space, LUT 3XE
6pm - 7pm

Wednesday - Outdoor Bootcamp
Arlesey
Arlesey Recreation Ground
7 - 8pm

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.
Find us online: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#)



Outdoor Walking Football

Every Tuesday 2-3pm
Upper Caldecote Multi Use Games Area
The Pasture, SG18 9BQ

Every Wednesday 1pm - 3pm
Beds FA, Skimpot Road, Dunstable, LUS 4JU

Every Thursday 6-7pm
Bryants Lane Sports & Recreation Ground,
Health & Reach, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 5LD.

ALL SESSIONS MUST BE PRE BOOKED.
To book any of the above sessions please visit the following:
www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles
Fitwick Leisure Centre, MK45 1TH
Every Tuesday & Thursday 1.30-3pm
£3.10 per session

To book the Fitwick Leisure Centre session please contact the centre direct on:
01525 493131

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4. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

The Additional Restrictions funded Wider Business support programmes which ended on 31st March 2022 (currently under evaluation) would have supported approximately 450 business to access direct support from our business partners, such as:

- Cranfield University - <https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/business/choose-cranfield#>
- University of Bedfordshire - <https://www.beds.ac.uk/ris/we-mean-business/>
- SEMLEP - <https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/about-us/>
- Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce - <https://www.chamber-business.com/>

Whilst the Central Bedfordshire fully funded programme enrolment will have come to an end for now, businesses are encouraged to contact the above partners to discuss what other support they currently have for businesses.

Until end of July 2022, Central Bedfordshire businesses still have access to [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.

Businesses can also go to our [Central Bedfordshire website](#) for current grant and other business support available and sign up for email alerts as well as visit our [Be Central Bedfordshire](#) dedicated website to access business support and subscribe to our [Let's Talk Business](#) newsletter to ensure they receive the latest information.

Commercial Property Enquiries:

For the period 1st Jan – 1st Mar 2022, there were 46 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire, 15 of which were interested in Houghton Regis/Dunstable – please see table below.

The majority of enquiries come from local start ups and existing businesses looking to relocate/expand with over 60% looking for industrial or retail units.

Ocado have informed us that the site at Junction 11a will be a customer fulfilment centre, eventually employing approx. 1,700 staff. The site will include their latest automation and will require approx. 50 engineers to run. Recruitment of engineers will start late Spring 2022; warehouse staff will start late Summer and delivery drivers from Autumn onwards. We will maintain dialogue with Ocado, Luton Borough Council and local FE and HE organisations to ensure local residents and students are aware of the employment opportunities, and that public transport can support their travel requirements.

Date taken	Enquiry Ref	Requirement Max Size	Unit Type	Reason	Status	Originating Location
24-Jan-22	1588	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
28-Jan-22	1603	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Dunstable
02-Feb-22	1611	9 Acres	Land	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Turkish
04-Feb-22	1620	4000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
07-Feb-22	1626	2000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
10-Feb-22	1636	500 Sq Ft	Office	Business start up	Live - Active	Luton
18-Feb-22	1641	3500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Dunstable
28-Feb-22	1653	2433 Sq Ft	Retail	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Luton
28-Feb-22	1652	10000 Sq Ft	Retail	I am an agent	Live - Active	Luton
28-Feb-22	1655	3000 Sq Ft	Industrial	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Italy
08-Mar-22	1665	1000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
21-Mar-22	1677	5000 Sq Ft	Leisure	Business start up	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
21-Mar-22	1678	500 Sq Ft	Office	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
22-Mar-22	1679	400 Sq Ft	Office	Business start up	Live - Active	Luton
22-Mar-22	1681	7000 Sq Ft	Other	Business start up	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard

BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)

Because of Covid-19, many of the courses delivered by Central Bedfordshire Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) and its partner training providers over the past two years have been online. However, as restrictions have become less onerous, so has face to face (classroom) delivery increased. Moving forward, BESS hopes to deliver a mixture of the two.

In the current academic year, which started in August 2021, In the current academic year, which started in August 2021, we have engaged with 48 Houghton Regis residents to date, 18 of whom were unemployed when starting their learning with us. The most popular courses are Getting Started with English and Maths, ICT, Early Years, and Supporting Teaching and Learning. The figures also include four 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, May 2021 - Feb 2022

	May 2021	August 2021	November 2021	February 2022
Town	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant
Amphill	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.2
Arlesey	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Biggleswade	7.6	9.5	9.5	10.8
Dunstable	10.8	10.7	12.0	12.3
Flitwick	2.1	4.3	4.5	2.3
Houghton Regis	3.8	3.1	3.1	6.3
Leighton Buzzard	3.9	4.4	4.8	4.4
Potton	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sandy	9.1	7.6	7.4	9.0
Shefford	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0
Stotfold	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Total	6.5%	6.7%	7.0%	7.3%

In May 2021 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 6.5%, there were a total of 959 units of which 62 were vacant. In February 2022 the vacancy rate rose slightly to 7.3% with a total of 966 Units and 71 vacancies. Since May 2021 some increases in vacant units have been seen in Biggleswade, Dunstable and Houghton Regis and some decreases can be seen in Pottton and Shefford. However the overall rate, although rising, is quite stable.

5. 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 February 2022.

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	3122	3061	46
17year olds / Year 13	3055	2902	94
Combined cohort	6177	5963 (96.5%)	140 (2.3%)

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 17th March 2022.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Total YPs in area	822		519		936	
EET	786	(95.6%)	495	(95.4%)	907	(86.7%)
NEET	30	(3.6%)	20	(3.9%)	24	(5.6%)
Unknown/Refused	6	(0.7%)	4	(0.8%)	5	(7.8%)

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	132	5	3.8%
Houghton Hall	244	8	3.3%

Parkside	143	7	4.9%
Total	519	20	3.9%

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	7	Male	14
17 years old	10	3-6 months	7	Female	6
18 years old	7	6+ months	6	Other/Refused	0

c. Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	16	(80.0%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	4	(20.0%)

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.

6. SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Construction continues on the new Houstone Secondary School ready for a 2022/23 academic year completion.

Houstone School will be a new 6FE secondary school, with capacity for 900 pupils aged 11 to 16 and 220 sixth form pupils aged 16 to 18 (1,120 in total), at the Kingsland Campus. The school is to be delivered for the start of the 2022/23 academic year.

The anticipated benefits for the Kingsland Secondary School include;

- An additional 1,120 pupil places.
- Sufficient school places for pupils at their local school
- Fit for purpose teaching accommodation in permanent buildings
- Provision of an all through secondary school on one site
- Purpose built teaching accommodation in permanent buildings
- Suitable SEND provision on site

Officers continue to meet regularly with staff from Advantage Schools Trust, the multi academy trust chosen to run the new secondary school to be built on the Kingsland Campus. Please see more information regarding the school development [here](#)

The expansion of Thornhill Primary School is now near completion. The expansion will allow the school to admit an additional 2 forms of entry to accommodate both local children plus additional children from the Linmere area development. This equates to an additional 60 school places in each year group (420 pupils), plus 60 additional full time early years (nursery) places.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID 19 RESPONSE

COVID 19 rates remain high, but in line with Government relaxation of restrictions and testing, Public Health has reduced its response. We are still supporting a variety of settings, including schools, when they reach outbreak thresholds, in order to mitigate risks where possible.

As an ongoing legacy of the Pandemic, specific Public Health delivered and commissioned interventions taking place in Houghton Regis and Dunstable have been impacted, largely due to Primary Care resources becoming focused on preventing the spread of the virus and, latterly in the ongoing delivery of the vaccination programme and 'catching' on patients' needs that were not met during the Pandemic.

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

STOP SMOKING

Public Health commissions Primary Care to deliver Level 2 Stop Smoking Support. The delivery of these Stop Smoking Services through GP Surgeries continues to have been severely impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the latest data, from Q2 21/22 shows that the Titan area, which covers Houghton Regis is under target.

Overall, performance by Titan Primary Care Network of Practices target for the period up to Q2 21/22 shows that the surgeries achieved 14 quits (target 16) at 87.5%. As well as those quits there were a further 12 referrals into the Specialist Service where they could not delivery stop smoking support themselves.

LOCATION	2020/21 SMOKING QUITTERS @ Q4
Houghton Regis Medical Centre	5 quits (target 7) – 71%. 0 referrals into CBC Level 3 Support
Toddington Medical Centre	2 quits (target 3) – 66.6%. 0 referrals
Wheatfield Surgery	7 quits (target 6) – 116.7%, plus 12 referrals

The Stop Smoking Service delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, plus an app.

The Service is returning to delivery of face-to-face delivery for those clients who need it. 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.

Combined for Chiltern Vale, the GP Practices were on target for Health Checks delivered at the end of the latest reporting period, April 2021 to February 2022. 1,016 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 847 for the period (so 120% of annual target to date). Overall, they invited 2,535 patients for a Health Check (target 4,210) so are performing at 60.2% for that indicator.

The 3 local Titan Practices are performing as follows:

- Houghton Regis Medical Centre is performing very well at 141.6% for Health Checks delivered (160 against a target of 113) but only 0.3% offered (2 out of 572 target).
- Toddington Medical Centre is also performing well at 137.6% for Health Checks delivered (117 against a target of 85) and 31.8% for offered (132 out of 415 target).
- Wheatfield Surgery delivered only 11 Health Checks from a target of 132 for the period (8.3%) and offered 260 (from a target of 652) at a rate of 39.9% during this reporting period.

The overall quality measure for all these 3 practices in relation to Health Checks is less than 90% (red), so there is room for improvement in quality.

The legacy of COVID continues to present not only significant health implications for our population, and has highlighted a inequalities experienced by our residents, possibly exacerbated by the disruption to the delivery of services in Primary Care. 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.. Project Team attend HRPC and provide an update.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WASTE COLLECTIONS – Garden Waste Collection recommenced on 28th February 2022

New build bin deliveries are being made within 10 working days

DOG PATROLS – October 2021 to March 2022 dog patrols have been carried out in the following locations:-

- Bedford Road
- Bromley Gardens
- Camp Drive (first patrol in February following a complaint)
- Drury Lane
- Houghton Hall Car Park (One FPN issued in January)
- Hillborough Crescent
- Leafields
- Redhouse Court Rec (at least twice a month)
- Tudor Drive
- Watling Place

DOG BINS – New dog bins have been installed at Park Road North and Parkside Drive, near the leisure centre

Damaged dog bins have been replaced Near Platz House and Windsor Drive

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

In Kingsland Close the hedge has been cut back with the tractor and Shrub maintenance is now back on track, we have a team out checking that nothing was missed.

Trees – we have cleared a lot of large piles of branches from the storms, we have also cut and removed trees which fell, examples of this are Westminster Gardens and Kirton Way

WINTER WORKS

Sandringham Drive, Houghton Regis – grass cut back and now added to maps

Dog Kennel Walk, vegetation trimmed back so the footpath is passable

Linmere Walk, shrubs cut back so they are not overhanging the footpath

Cemetery Road

Elm Park Close/Brentwood Close, clear up (the triangle area)

Bedford Square shrubs and Tithe Farm Road car park (opposite the shops)

Parkside Drive – near Neptune Square/Grangeway and near Bromley Gardens

ASBESTOS CLEARANCES have taken place at Bromley Gardens, Parkside Drive and Hillborough Crescent

CLEANSING – Better and monitored cleansing of Bedford Square

We are also carrying out daily Fly Tip clearances

ONLINE REPORTING LINKS:-

Missed collections - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Replacement bins (individual and communal – damaged/lost/stolen) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Request different sized bins (140, 240 and 360) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Removal of bins - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Order bin set for a new build - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Assisted Bin Collections - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Request clinical/sharps collection (can also amend and/or cancel existing collection) - [Clinical waste | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Order sacks (food/orange/pink/garden) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Grounds Maintenance - [Street cleansing, litter and road sweeping | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Street cleansing (includes litter clearance, street/dog bin requests, community litter pick assistance, dead animal etc) - [Street cleansing, litter and road sweeping | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Fly-Tipping - [Report fly-tipping or illegal waste dumping](#)

Pest control (wasps in public spaces) - [Pest control | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

School recycling (new/amend/cancel) - [Recycling for schools | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

9. SUSTAINABILITY

TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The Tree planting grant scheme is currently open to new applicants and all successful applicants can begin planting in autumn, in line with the next tree planting season. This financial year the tree planting project has supported over 30 projects, 17,000 trees, and over a 1km of hedgerow. HRTC have made excellent use of the tree grant with tree planting projects including at Parkside Recreation Ground and we are keen to explore further opportunities. The grant can be used to support the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire launched in October 2021. To supplement the Council's own tree funding commitment, Highways Tree Officers working alongside the Sustainability Team have secured £300,000 in funding over the next four years for tree planting from the Forestry Commission as part of their Treescapes Fund which includes new urban street trees for Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Leighton and

Linslade. The council hosted their tree giveaway pilot events at four locations across Bedfordshire in March 2022, including one at the HRTC Jubilee event on the 12th March, which saw 76 trees given away and 300 trees in total being planted by residents across the Central Bedfordshire area. For further information and guidance visit <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/tree-planting>.

ECO SCHOOLS

This academic year the Sustainability Team has been leading on a new monthly Eco-Schools forum. In February representatives of the Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade lead the 'Global Citizenship' themed eco forum. There was also representation from the National Fairtrade Foundation. The Sustainability Team is working with schools across the area, including Thornhill Primary School, to support the Eco-Schools Green Flag award process. The team offers support to all schools in Central Bedfordshire through the Eco-Schools award programme. For more information email BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

GREEN BUSINESS

The Council is working with the Green Business Network (GBN) to deliver an enhanced business support programme of seminars, events and most recently the SME Sustainability Award. GBN is a membership organisation and a charity, which helps businesses reduce their impact on the environment. For further information visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/58/business/52/business_networking/6

HOUSING – SOLAR PROJECT

The council has partnered with solar panel experts iChoosr to offer residents an opportunity to buy solar panels and battery storage for their homes through a secure, group-purchasing Solar Together scheme. With increasing focus on climate action and rising electricity prices solar remains a compelling option for the domestic market with increasing numbers of people opting to add storage to a system to maximise their grid-independence. The scheme will help residents reduce their carbon emissions and energy bills. The scheme will be launched in May 2022 with registrations for residents opening on 9th May 2022. For more information email BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

10. TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL TOPIC SESSIONS

The next town and parish council topic session will take place on 11 May 6pm-7pm and will focus on the draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Previous session recordings and presentations can be found on the [website](#).

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)
Schools for the Future – Potton Lower & Middle schools statutory notice	Statutory notice on the proposal for Potton Lower & Potton Middle schools to amalgamate, as part of the Biggleswade cluster.	4 March 2022	12 April 2022	Victor Wan 0300 300 5574
Engine Idling	Survey to ascertain areas in Central Bedfordshire that might have issues with engine idling to inform a potential consultation	4 March 2022	30 April 2022	Jo Borthwick 0300 300 6170
Biggleswade Library	Consultation on the proposed reconfiguration of Biggleswade Library, including the co-location of a Children’s Centre, Registration Service and satellite office	14 March 2022	5 June 2022	Daniel Waller 0300 300 5608
Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	Consultation on the future of Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	6 April 2022	7 July 2022	Tobin Stephenson 0300 300 4098

Upcoming consultations and surveys

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Arlesey Community Governance Review	Community Governance Review on amends to the amount of town councillors for Arlesey	20 April 2022	14 June 2022	Brian Dunleavy 0300 300 4049
Leighton Linslade Leisure Centre	Consultation on the proposals for a new leisure centre in Leighton Linslade	25 April 2022	15 July 2022	Lisa White 0300 300 4489

Stotfold Library	Consultation on the proposed relocation of Stotfold library	April 2022	Tbc	Shaun Machan 0300 300 4182
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11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Time
Monday 25 April	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 26 April	Licensing Sub-committee	10:00am
Tuesday 26 April	Houghton Regis Partnership Committee	7:00pm
Thursday 28 April	Corporate Resources OSC	10:00am
Friday 6 May	Licensing Sub-committee	10:00am
Wednesday 11 May	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 12 May	Council	06:30pm
Monday 16 May	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 24 May	Traffic Management Committee	10:00am
Tuesday 31 May	Audit Committee	10:00am
Monday 6 June	Corporate Parenting Panel	02:00pm
Tuesday 7 June	Executive	09:30am
Wednesday 8 June	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 9 June	Sustainable Communities OSC	10:00am
Thursday 9 June	Dunstable Joint Committee	07:00pm
Monday 13 June	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 14 June	Children's Services OSC	10:00am
Wednesday 15 June	Licensing Committee	10:00am
Thursday 16 June	General Purposes Committee	10:00am
Thursday 16 June	Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee	7:30pm
Thursday 23 June	Corporate Resources OSC	10:00am

KEY:

CPP – Corporate Parenting Panel

CR OSC – Corporate Resources OSC

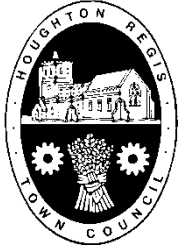
CS OSC – Children's Services OSC

DMC - Development Management Committee

HWB – Health & Wellbeing Board

SCHH OSC – Social Care, Health & Housing OSC

SC OSC – Sustainable Communities OSC



ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 8

Date: 14th February 2022

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 appoint Company B as the contractor to deliver the Tithe Farm All Weather project pavilion and associated works;**
- 2. To support the operational site management being undertaken by the Bedfordshire Football Association and for a draft agreement to be developed for formal consideration;**
- 3. To request that Town Council consider and approve an application to the Public Works Loan Board for borrowing of £500,000**

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 (FF).

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

An application to register the land was made to the Land Registry (October 2020). There were a number of legal complications dating back to the original transfer. Ultimately it was decided to apply to the Land Registry for a ‘Good Lease’, this is hopefully a simpler

process. This application has been made. A 'good lease' once secured will satisfy the Football Foundation requirements.

Planning

The planning application was submitted to CBC late August and has been validated. It was due to be determined just prior to Christmas but an issues arose at the last minute and it is now being presented for determination to the CBC Development Management Committee (DMC) on 16th February. The Clerk has registered to speak in support of the application, members are requested to consider who would be best placed to do this. to speak at DMC representatives have to attend in person. (*please note that the Clerk is booked to attend a SLCC Conference that day*)

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.

Pavilion tender

An open tender process ran twice but was unsuccessful in securing any suitable tenders. On the advice of the Design Consultant a closed tender process ran in January 2022. An invitation to tender was sent to a restricted number of suitable firms. This secured 2 tender returns. Members will find attached a basic tender summary at Appendix A. It is hoped to share a more detailed summary ahead of the meeting.

The project team meet to review in more detail the tenders and to consider the funding implications / affordability.

Scope of the Scheme

The costings have been based on the stated desire to provide an all-weather pitch and changing facility with a community space. The costings also reflect on the anticipated requirements of the planning permission, specifically to include an extension to the car park.

Within the project there remain some issues for members to determine:

1. Installation of a ground source heat pump – this has been included in the project cost at a value of £20,000. It is not however essential to the project and members may determine whether to include it or not. Removal of this element would save £20,000 from the project cost.
2. The extension to the car park is included as it is a requirement of planning permission. However excluded, on the grounds of affordability, is a refurbishment of the existing car park. At present it is envisaged that the extension will be delivered by the pavilion contractor at a cost of £38,500. However if members were minded to include a refurbishment of the existing as well, both the refurbishment and extension would be completed by the pitch contractor at a cost of £106,512.35 as this represents the most affordable option. This represents a net increase in costs of £68,012.35. There is scope within the EMR 322 to cover this additional expense. However this would remove any contingency the council would have to fund any unforeseen expenses or fund any soft fixtures and fittings

as necessary. Appendix A only includes for the car park extension and not the refurbishment of existing

Operational Site Management

Over the last few months members have considered options for the operational management of the site. These discussions have led us to focus on 2 options:

- In house operational site management
- Out sourced operational site management to the Beds FA

Members were invited to a meeting / presentation by the Beds FA in December 2021. At this session the Beds FA outlined operational site management issues and options. Effectively the Beds FA would be responsible for all matters relating to the management of the site including hires (bookings, fees etc), premises & facilities management, utility costs, repairs and upkeep, pitch sinking fund. The Beds FA is a not for profit organisation and would look to establish a fee structure to cover the costs of provision.

Given the Beds FA expertise over this type of facility management, it is suggested that this is the most suitable way forward. a draft agreement would be developed and presented to members for formal approval.

4. PROJECT FUNDING

Please refer to Appendix A.

The funding available to this project is shown in the first section of Appendix A.

Of note:

- the requirement for the Town Council to support the project through a Public Works Loan to the value of £500,000
- the application to the Football Foundation is £950,000

Should members decide to make any alterations to the scheme as detailed in point 1 and 2 in Section 3, this would have an impact on Appendix A.

5. PROJECT TIMELINE

Details will be circulated prior to the meeting.

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

- A recommendation to Town Council for borrowing approval is included.

Legal Implications

- A contract with the Beds FA needs to be developed and approved should the council decide to proceed with this option for operational site management.
- Legal advice may be required in relation to this contract.

Financial Implications

- The financial implications are significant and are outlined in the report.

Risk Implications

- The main risk to this project is the success of the Football Foundation grant application. .

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

Many positive steps have been taken forward in relation to this project. This report presents a number of key considerations to members especially around the finances of the project and the long term management.

9. APPENDICES

- Appendix A TENDER SUMMARY**
- Appendix B PROJECT FUNDING**



**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 25 th January 2022
October 2021	CBC Update report Work Plan		Place Delivery 20 th July 2021 23 rd November 2021 25 th January 2022
January 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan		Chalk pit Included in CBC Update report: 25 th January 2022
April 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan		Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre 23 rd November 2021 25 th January 2022
			Housing Provision and Allocations 23 rd November 2021



			25 th January 2022
			Tithe Farm sports provision 20 th July 2021 23 rd November 2021 25 th January 2022
			Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis: Time to Talk 20 th July 2021 23 rd November 2021 25 th January 2022



**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE –
WORK PLAN 2022/23**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2022/23	Reports already received / completed
19th July 2022	Election of Chair Election of Vice Chair Partnership Committee Co-Option approval Confirmation Of The Secretariat Committee Functions & Terms Of Reference CBC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC	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: <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 / Quarry • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre 	
18th October 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC		
24th January 2022	CBC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year		



<p>25th April 2022</p>	<p>CBC Update report Work Plan Partnership Committee Co- Option consideration Items Requesting Attention By CBC</p>		
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