

23rd July 2024

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: **J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones, C Slough**

CBC Councillors **C Alderman, S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon**

Co-Opted Members **To be confirmed.**

CBC Officers **Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager**

Copies, for information, to:

- Cllr Gareth Mackey – Deputy Executive Member for Health and Community Liaison, 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 30th July 2024** commencing at **7.00pm hours** at **Hall 1, All Saints View, High Street.**

Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting may do so in person or remotely through the meeting link below.

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



Clare Evans
Town Clerk

**THIS MEETING MAY BE
RECORDED ***

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members are invited to elect a Chairman for Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for 2024/25 in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at pages 15 – 17.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference this can be a member from either authority.

**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. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Members are invited to elect a Vice Chairman for Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for 2024/25 in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at pages 15 - 17.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference this should be a member from the other authority to the Chairman.

3. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

4. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

Pages 6 - 8

The Terms of Reference require the list of Co-opted Members to be reviewed annually, by the Town Joint Committee.

Members have received applications for co-option from:

- David Gibbons - a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Jo Anderson – a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Carole Regan – a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- David Hill – Chairman of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society, application attached
- Roger Turner – Trustee of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society and former town and district councillor for Houghton Regis, application attached
- Tim Haines - director of HRCDC, a co-opted member of the Community Association and a resident of Bidwell West, application attached

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

Co-option

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.

Recommendation: **To approve the Co-optee applications from:**

- **David Gibbons**
- **Jo Anderson**
- **Carole Regan**
- **David Hill**

-
- **Roger Turner**
 - **Tim Haines**

5. 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).

6. 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.

7. MINUTES

Pages 9 - 14

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024.

Recommendation: **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024.**

8. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pages 15 - 17

Members will find attached the Terms of Reference which relates to this committee.

It is highlighted to Members that the HRTC Corporate Peer Challenge report identified scope for an improved relationship with CBC at the strategic level, specifically referring to the scope for improvement through the way in which the Partnership Committee operates. The CPC report (page 13) can be found here:

[LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Final Report \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](https://houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk)

In reflecting on the CPC report it is suggested that the update reports from CBC and HRTC focus on providing updates on strategic matters of relevance to Houghton Regis and move away from providing operational updates. This will serve to improve the efficiency of the Committee and to enable due consideration to be given to strategic updates. It is suggested that update reports to alternate between CBC and HRTC at each meeting.

Operational updates can be received by Members signing up for alerts on the CBC website and the HRTC website and following either council on social media channels.

9. CONFIRMATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Committee are required to confirm the secretariat for the Partnership Committee for 2024/25.

10. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Pages 18 - 19

Members are invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan.

11. CBC STRATEGIC UPDATE REPORT

Pages 20 - 46

The CBC update report is attached for information, including:

- HR Leisure centre
- SEND provision
- Local plan process
- HR Day Centre
- Townsend Centre
- HR Quarry

This report is provided for information purposes.

12. LOCAL PLAN PROCESS

Members are advised that Sian Farrier, Policy and Planning Manager – Strategic Growth, CBC, will attend the meeting and give a presentation on the Local Plan launch and engagement in the process.

13. HRTC CORPORATE PLAN - TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

At the previous meeting it was agreed that the Partnership Committee would support HRTC's request to help deliver on 3 objectives within the HRTC Corporate Plan. The objectives are:

- Improve the visual appearance of the town centre;
- Work with partners to improve the quality and accessibility of the public realm in the town centre;
- Stimulate local business development and employment and training opportunities

Members have previously been advised on the detail of the HRTC successful bid to CBC under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The formal agreement between the 2 councils has taken some time to be concluded, however it is now in its final stages and it is hoped that implementation will take place summer / autumn 2024. This project will have a significant impact on the visual appearance of the town centre, notably in the vicinity of All Saints View.

An update will be provided by Beverley Gaynor on relevant work her team are undertaking.



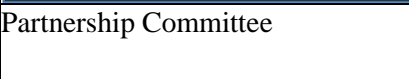
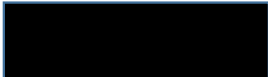
Although there is no specific budget allocated in 2024/25 by HRTC, the Partnership Committee are invited to consider whether there is any added value they can bring to either the work of the Place and Communities Directorate or HRTC.

If you would like to become a Co-Optee please provide the following information and sign the agreement:

Co-Optee Application	
Name	DAVID HILL
Address	[REDACTED]
Contact number	[REDACTED]
Contact email address	[REDACTED]
Name of Committee, Sub Committee or Working Group to which you would like to be co-opted:	PARTNERSHIP
Why you would like to become a co-optee?	I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF HOUGHTON REGIS HERITAGE SOCIETY, A CHARITY. I FEEL THAT JOINING WOULD HAVE BENEFITS AS WE ARE NOW IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL
What skills and experience do you feel you can bring to the Partnership Committee?	I SET UP HRHS IN 2012. I AM AN EX TOWN MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR AND HAVE BEEN ON THE WORKING GROUP FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. I LEFT A YEAR AGO.
Agreement	
Co-optees are required to agree to the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To abide by the Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Officer & Member Protocol. These can be found at: <u>Council Policies (houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk)</u> To attend meetings as required or to offer apologies if you are not available. To attend and support events (if appropriate) as required. To work with the Council to secure the best outcomes for the community. 	
*the Council reserves the right to remove this position should the agreement not be upheld.	
* the Co-optee may at any time withdraw from their position.	
Name	DAVID HILL
Date	26/6/2024
Signature	[REDACTED]

Under the **GDPR** I give consent for the personal data supplied above to be retained by HRTC so that I can be contacted regarding the Co-Option. The data processors are **the Head of Democratic Services** and the details will be retained on file until **May 2025** for administration purposes.

You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available from the council office or from our website at [FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT \(2000\) POLICY \(houghtonregis-](#)

Co-Optee Application	
Name	Roger Turner
Address	
Contact number	
Contact email address	
Name of Committee, Sub Committee or Working Group to which you would like to be co-opted:	Partnership Committee
Why you would like to become a co-optee? Houghton Regis is changing rapidly and heritage is an important aspect to be considered. I hope to learn about future plans and have an input to the discussions.	
What skills and experience do you feel you can bring to the Partnership Committee? I am a Trustee of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society and former Town and District Councillor for Houghton Regis.	
Agreement	
Co-optees are required to agree to the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To abide by the Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Officer & Member Protocol. These can be found at: Council Policies (houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attend meetings as required or to offer apologies if you are not available. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attend and support events (if appropriate) as required. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with the Council to secure the best outcomes for the community. 	
*the Council reserves the right to remove this position should the agreement not be upheld.	
* the Co-optee may at any time withdraw from their position.	
Name	Roger Turner
Date	29 th June 2024
Signature	

*Under the **GDPR** I give consent for the personal data supplied above to be retained by HRTC so that I can be contacted regarding the Co-Option. The data processors are **the Head of Democratic Services** and the details will be retained on file until **May 2025** for administration purposes.*

*You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available from the council office or from our website at [FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT \(2000\) POLICY \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](#). You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the council office. The Town Council's Data Protection Officer is **Sarah Gelsthorp**.*

Co-Optee Application	
Name	Timothy Haines
Address	[REDACTED]
Contact number	[REDACTED]
Contact email address	[REDACTED]
Name of Committee, Sub Committee or Working Group to which you would like to be	Town Partnership
Why you would like to become a co-optee?	
<p>With the population growth of Houghton Regis North developments, I expect issues and residents concerns from the new developments are increasingly on the agenda for the town partnership meetings. As the director of HRCDC, a co-opted member of the Community Association and a resident of Bidwell West, I would hope my involvement on the town partnership would be beneficial to elected members, officers and other partners.</p>	
What skills and experience do you feel you can bring to the Partnership Committee?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local knowledge of Bidwell West and more generally new housing developments - Project management, non-profit leadership, strategy and policy writing - Setting up Bidwell West Community Association - Existing relationship with HRTC & CBC. 	
Agreement	
Co-optees are required to agree to the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To abide by the Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Officer & Member Protocol. These can be found at: Council Policies (houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk) • To attend meetings as required or to offer apologies if you are not available. • To attend and support events (if appropriate) as required. • To work with the Council to secure the best outcomes for the community. 	
*the Council reserves the right to remove this position should the agreement not be upheld.	
* the Co-optee may at any time withdraw from their position.	
Name	Tim Haines
Date	11/07/2024
Signature	[REDACTED]

*Under the **GDPR** I give consent for the personal data supplied above to be retained by HRTC so that I can be contacted regarding the Co-Option. The data processors are **the Head of Democratic Services** and the details will be retained on file until **May 2025** for administration purposes.*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 24th April 2024**

Present: Town Cllrs: **E Costello (sub), Y Farrell, M Herber (sub) and D Jones**

CBC Cllrs: **T McMahon (Chair), C Alderman, S Goodchild and P Hamill**

CBC Officers: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Chloe Brennan, Youth Support Service Manager
Martin Westerby, Head of Public Health Programmes

HRTC Officers: Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer

Co-opted members: D Gibbons
J Anderson
C Reagan

Also in attendance: Cllr R Hares

Members of the Public: 2

1019 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr Carroll (Cllr Herber substituted) and Cllr Slough (Cllr Costello substituted).

1020 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

An update was given on sports hall provision in Houghton Regis, an item previously raised at Town Council on 18th March (Minute 12749). Andrew Selous had received a response from the Director of Place and Communities that was felt to be inconsistent between CBC's own leisure strategy and what appeared to be taking place. It was thought that provision of sports hall facilities within Houstone school would be insufficient to meet demand and HRTC was requested to help facilitate a solution. Members of the public were encouraged to attend the CBC committee to express these concerns. The Town Clerk confirmed that HRTC was following up this item from the Town Council meeting in March and requested a copy of the correspondence from the Director of Place and Communities.

1021 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

1022 MINUTES

Members were requested to:

Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1023 NEET UPDATE

Members were provided with an update on NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) by the Youth Support Service Manager at CBC.

There were four primary functions:

- Track and report to the Department of Education on school leaver participation
- Information advice and guidance
- Youth workers
- Delivery of youth work

The latest figures were slightly higher compared to Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard and related predominately to 17-year-olds and males. The breakdown was as follows:

- 35 NEETS
- 0 unknown (which was positive as it meant that all young people were accounted for)
- 19 were engaged with services
- 17 continue to be tracked every three months and contacted
- 9 of the 17 had refused support or advise they do not require support at this stage
- 9 had mental health needs
- 7 had special educational needs
- 7 were not ready for education, employment or training
- 3 were new to the area
- 2 had experience of care
- 2 were known to the Youth Offending Service

Members were informed that there were points of contact for young people within all schools and further education providers. Data was received from the schools to help track those young people with no destination for September.

Community Services currently received grant funding from Youth Support Services to support their youth work and young people's access to positive activities.

There was a new, shared mobile engagement van to widen interaction with the youth workers (and Youth Careers Advisors) in the Youth Support Service, this would be needed.

The Skills for All Strategy consultation had just ended, this would inform future work and partnerships. It was agreed, however, that more needed to be done and further ongoing analysis was required to establish trends and tackle issues earlier. It was suggested that HRTC might be able to assist by offering work experience, helping create connections with local businesses, and involving the youth council.

1024 TIME 2 CONNECT UPDATE

An update was provided by the Head of Public Health Programmes, CBC, who confirmed that funding for this service had been extended twice.

The original aim of the scheme had been to deliver sustainable improvement in wellbeing and reduce inequality through community-centred and asset-based means. It looked at ways to improve assets, build resilience and improve community connections and capacity. It was hoped these targets would be achieved by:

- Recognising skills and assets locally
- Making and maintaining community connections
- Mobilising, sharing and co-producing assets

This would facilitate communities to do more for themselves by utilising and strengthening the skills, experience and abilities that already existed.

Time 2 Connect had been effective at what it had done, but delivery had been intended to reach a smaller number of people. Anticipated numbers had been exceeded due to complex community needs. This had been the unforeseen repercussions of the pandemic and T2C had filled a void to meet these needs without making wellbeing more sustainable in the long term.

Following an evaluation, it was decided that it would not be possible to fund a scheme along the same lines because a) the project had not fulfilled its original purpose due to the impact of the pandemic and local need, and b) funding pressures meant that it was not sustainable in its current form.

The scheme would need to transition after July and would need to meet the following criteria:

- It needed to be a sustainable model that was financially resilient
- The new model would need to be flexible, shaped and driven by the community
- Driven by a developing Community Engagement Strategy
- Link the future model to key community assets
- Measure progress and outcomes
- Develop a future Time 2 Connect with partners

It was necessary to get the engagement timing and the partnership right and it was suggested that local groups should be invited to contribute to the process. Local groups had previously been involved in Houghton Regis Together and the Community Engagement Manager would look to reconvene this.

1025 CBC UPDATE REPORT

A Representative from CBC presented an update.

Leisure, Libraries & Countryside

- The issue of sports hall facilities had been raised with CBC and was being followed up
- Everyone Active had hit pre-Covid figures
- The library had worked with HRTC on Easter events
- Houghton Hall Park had been working with Houghton Regis Town Council for the first Houghton Regis in Bloom
- The new play equipment for Houghton Hall Park would be going to tender following a period of consultation
- The Full House Theatre had provided workshops for children with special needs. This had been funded by UKSPF
- The Housing Team were holding monthly drop-in sessions
- The Culture Grant Scheme had been launched for those working within the cultural sector. A consultation would be held for Central Bedfordshire's first cultural strategy
- Highways had reported the repair of 129 potholes and 64 streetlights in Houghton Regis
- 72 PCNs had been issued in the last quarter and 110 visits had been carried out by the Community Safety team
- The Electric Car Club had launched in Bidwell West and Linnere
- An investment plan for the town centre with UKSPF funds was being drafted

Supporting Local Business

- 4 businesses had signed up for the Entrepreneurship Programme
- There had been an increase in enquiries for commercial property
- Vacancy rates had remained stable

Social Care, Health & Housing

- Phase two had reached practical completion at All Saints, providing 57 additional apartments

Environmental Services

- 50 abandoned vehicles had been reported

Members felt that parking issues were not being dealt with effectively. Parking at All Saints View remained a problem, and it was requested that the planned planters were put in place to combat damage incurred by vehicles. It was highlighted that parking was still available at All Saints View, which was not being utilised and could potentially be used by local workers.

A breakdown of the leisure centre figures was requested, detailing who used what facilities and at what times. Currently there were waitlists for activities like swimming due to high demand.

The Community Engagement Manager highlighted the current Have Your Say consultations which included the Local Nature Recovery Strategy were other avenues to highlight local issues.

1026 HRTC UPDATE REPORT

It was agreed to accept the report as read and questions were invited from Members regarding the report.

A progress report was requested following the Peer Review Challenge. Members were informed that a draft report was awaited. Houghton Regis Town Council were obliged to publish the report within three months of the review and formulate an action plan in response to the report within five months. An action plan would be put forward at the June meeting of the Town Council.

1027 POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

HRTC had completed a corporate plan, the three aspirations of which were to:

- Improve the visual appearance of the town centre
- Work with partners to improve the quality and accessibility of the public realm in the town centre
- Stimulate local business development and employment and training opportunities.

HRTC requested that the Partnership Committee consider the objectives of the HRTC Corporate Plan Objectives and provide feedback.

This was supported by the committee. It was advised that more detailed reports would be presented.

1028 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2023/24 and to consider any changes for 2024/25.

Members were also provided with the CBC Forward Plan of Key Decisions which would be included on future agendas for consideration.

It was confirmed that a calendar of meetings had been drafted and would be checked with CBC prior to final agreement.

1029 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

It had been requested that potential co-option onto the Town Partnership Committee remained as a Standing Agenda Item.

This would be the last meeting of the Committee in the council year. The Town Clerk would contact the current co-opted members to determine whether they would like to continue in their role, and whether there were any other members of the community who would benefit the Committee.

1030 ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Members were invited to identify and confirm whether there were any requested items for CBC's attention.

Cllr Hamill informed Members that a colleague was looking at ways that Partnership Committee minutes could be presented to CBC.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm

Dated this 30th day of July 2024

Chairman

DRAFT

Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee ¹

Purpose

1. To influence decisions and help shape initiatives and their delivery for the benefit of the whole town taking into account the needs of the town, customers, employees, residents, visitors, traders, property owners and developers.
2. To develop and encourage public participation and engagement and take into consideration the resident voice in the work of the Committee

Objectives

1. Help improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural vitality of the town
2. Ensure a partnership and collaborative approach to achieve the delivery of town regeneration, including influencing Section 106 funding received for town improvements and community facilities.
3. Opportunities to delegate funding decisions to the Committees should be explored, such as Section 106 received to spend on community facilities.
4. The Committee will make decisions on any joint funding allocated to it.
5. Influence and help shape strategies / plans that impact on the future viability of the town.
6. Provide a forum for briefing Members of the Joint Committee on all key issues affecting the town, at the discretion of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
7. Make recommendations on strategically significant projects to the relevant Council's decision-making committees, including Committees of the Town Council.
8. Develop and maintain joint branding of communication, agendas and minutes.
9. To enable communities to discuss services and influence decisions at the local level as to how these services are delivered
10. To provide a forum for two-way communication about public service delivery and the implementation and effectiveness of policies affecting the town.
11. Promote resilience by encouraging communities to do more for themselves and champion local solutions.
12. Consider the ways in which proposals and initiatives can help to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations.

¹ These were considered by the Partnership Committee at its meeting on 30th April. The Terms of reference remain to be formally approved by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Membership

1. Four Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and four Councillors from Biggleswade Town Council (Biggleswade Joint Committee).
2. Four Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and four Councillors from Houghton Regis Town Council (Houghton Regis Partnership Committee).
3. Five Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and five Councillors from Leighton-Linslade Town Council (Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee).
4. Five Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and five Councillors from Dunstable Town Council (Dunstable Joint Committee).

Who must be elected representatives of the wards.

5. Two substitutes from each Council will be permitted to attend meetings as full Committee representatives. A Councillor who sits on both CBC and the Town Council can substitute. Central Bedfordshire Council Councillors shall not substitute a Town Councillor on the Committee and vice versa.
6. Substitutes for Central Bedfordshire Council Members on the Joint Committee must be a ward councillor in the town in the first instance or if not available a substitute must be an Executive Member. Substitutes for the Town Council Members of the Joint Committee will be a ward town councillor
7. Members are appointed annually.
8. All Members of the Committee should have the interests of the town as a priority, not their own wards.

Meetings and Quorum

1. At least 3 Members from each Council must be in attendance for the meeting to be quorate.
2. Meetings will be held a minimum of once per year and up to 4 per year and take place at venues in the area
3. The Committee may also organise extra ordinary meetings at the discretion of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
4. In addition to the Committee meetings, the Committee can organise other forms of engagement to take place such as themed discussions / task and finish groups and community conferences, including joint meetings or events with other Joint Committees in Central Bedfordshire.
5. All meetings will be open to the public unless exempt items are discussed

Chairman and Vice Chairman

1. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed from and by the Joint Committee's core membership; each Council must be represented in either role.
2. The appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman will hold their post for a period of one year, after which they may stand for re-election.

3. The Vice Chairman will preside in the absence of the Chairman. If neither is present, the Committee members in attendance will appoint a Chairman from amongst them for the duration of that meeting.
4. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be responsible for the content of the Committee agendas and will allow committee members and other stakeholders to submit agenda topics which will be included unless the proposed agenda item is not relevant to the Purpose and/or Objectives of the Joint Committee.

Secretariat

1. Either Council can administer the Joint Committee, according to their own Standing Orders. The Committee will decide annually which Council is to administer the Committee.
2. Agendas, minutes and press releases will be issued under joint branding.
3. The secretariat will prepare, monitor and keep up to date an annual work plan to set the broad direction and priorities for the Committee.

Decision making arrangements

1. Only members of the Committee can vote. Co-opted Members have no voting rights.
2. The Committee will not have any decision-making powers regarding planning applications and will not seek to duplicate or hinder the work of Central Bedfordshire Council as the Local Planning Authority.
3. The Committee will reach decisions by a simple majority. The Chairman will have the casting vote in the case of a tie.

Co-option

1. To support engagement with local stakeholders the 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 Committee by joint agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
2. The list of Co-opted Members should be reviewed annually.

Governance

1. The Minutes and action log for the Joint Committee will be presented to Central Bedfordshire Council. The detail of where this will be presented will be determined by Central Bedfordshire Council and reported back to the Joint Committee.



**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE –
WORK PLAN 2024/25**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2023/24	Reports already received / completed
30th July 2024	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	<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 (inc primary health care) • Place Delivery • Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (inc. HRN 2 Community Building, Bedford Square Community Centre, Parkside community space, Red House, HR Day Centre, Townsend Centre) • Housing And Engagement • Chalk Pit / Quarry • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre • Education (inc Primary School places) 	
22nd October 2024	HRTC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC		
28th January 2025	CBC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year		



29th April 2025	HRTC Update report Work Plan Partnership Committee Co- Option consideration Items Requesting Attention By CBC		
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Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

Central Bedfordshire Council Update

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of the report: for information

July 2024

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Strategic updates

Houghton Regis Quarry update

A draft Lease for the quarry has been prepared by the Council and shared with the owners of the site. Whilst there appears to be broad agreement on the terms, there does however remain some queries on the site boundary, access rights and liabilities for a pump house that the owner is investigating with Land Registry and others. While the owners continue their site investigations, the Council is continuing to discuss future management of the quarry with the Wildlife Trust (WT). The Trust have prepared a detailed management plan for the site which is near completion and have developed an initial scope of works for the next 10 years. Once the owners have completed their title and easement enquiries, and assuming there are no further legal queries, it should then be possible for the lease to be agreed. At that point a sub-lease to the WT can also be completed, subject to approval of terms with their Trustees. While it is difficult to provide a timescale for this to be completed, we are aiming for the new management arrangements to take effect from April 2025.

Special school places approved in Houghton Regis

The Council has approved 115 additional places at Chiltern School.

This is to ensure that more children and young people with complex special educational needs including autism have access to specialist education closer to home.

The expansion is part of a £50million package set aside to help children in Central Bedfordshire with complex needs get the support they need to learn and grow where, previously, growth in demand for special school provision had resulted in increased placements within the independent sector and outside of the area.

From September, Chiltern School will expand onto the former Universal Technical College (UTC) on the Kingsland Campus, which is less than a one-minute walk from the current main school site. Chiltern will also no longer operate from the Beech Road site in Dunstable.

The relocation of pupils from the former primary school site through the refurbishment of the UTC building, will allow for all pupils at the school to benefit from enhanced SEND provision, currently not available or not accessed by all pupils due to the school being on a split site.

Houghton Regis Older Person's Day Centre.

Preparations for the move to All Saints View are progressing. The move is expected in September 2024.

Townsend.

A report on the consultation relating to the Townsend Centre and a decision on its future is expected at the August meeting of the CBC Executive.

Houghton Regis Leisure and Community Centre

The Houghton Regis Leisure and Community Centre project is progressing well towards completion in Spring 2025, after a delay to the original completion date due to an issue with the pool filtration pipework. With that issue now resolved the building is really taking shape. Much of the scaffold has been released so the building façade is now visible in most parts. The roofs are near to completion, the solar panels have been installed and the glazing has arrived on site ready for installation to complete the windows. Internally the drylining contractor has started plastering and boarding areas. Our mechanical and electrical contractor is progressing well throughout the building with rainwater pipes, domestic pipe work, electrical containment and air conditioning systems all being progressed.

Community Safety

Safer Communities & Partnership Team

During this period there were 30 cases open to the Community Safety Operations Team: -

- Dog Barking – 6
- Fly Tipping – 9
- Littering – 1
- Nuisance neighbours - 1
- Pollution – Noise – 11
- Pollution – Light - 1
- Pollution – Odour/Fumes – 1

1 x Fixed Penalty Notice served for Fly Tipping

There were 6 cuckooing cases investigated of which 6 are still open.

There were 7 weapon sweeps in the area.

Safer Neighbourhood Officers spent more than 77 hours patrolling the area.

- Safer Communities Officers, in partnership with Houghton Regis Town Council, attended #KnifeFreeHoughton event.
- Safer Communities Officers attended pop-up event at Bedford Court. Joined by Town Councillors.
- Safer Communities Officer attended a community event with Public Health at the Sandringham Hub.
- Safer Communities Officers attended a community event at Puddlehill aimed towards 16-25year old. Joined by Town Councillor and staff.
- Safer Communities Officers attended pop-up event at All Saints View.
- Safer Communities Officer, in partnership with CBC Housing, attended Houghton Regis Library to speak with residents.

- Safer Communities Officers attended pop-up event at Houghton Regis Library to advise residents on keeping safe.
- Safer Communities Officers attended pop-up event at Johnson Court.
- Safer Communities Officers, in partnership with Serenity Children’s Services, attended Millers Close.
- Safer Communities Officer completed a letter drop and resident engagement in Elm Park Close.

CCTV Report

1st June to 30th June 2024

This report contains data gathered by the Council’s CCTV Control Room located at Thorn Turn, Houghton Regis. It includes details of CCTV monitored incidents and arrests by the police in the town of Houghton Regis. It does not include details of the police response to any incident where an immediate arrest is not made, nor does it include incidents not captured by CCTV; for this reason, the data will not reflect the overall picture of crime and disorder in any area.

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime
08/06/2024	15:07:00	Bedford Square	Shoplifting
13/06/2024	07:18:00	Tithe Farm Road	Criminal Damage
14/06/2024	18:31:45	High Street	Op Meteor
15/06/2024	18:50:00	Tithe Farm Road	Domestic Violence
22/06/2024	16:18:00	Bedford Road	Shoplifting
24/06/2024	15:02:00	High Street	Op Meteor
25/06/2024	14:04:00	High Street	Robbery
26/06/2024	20:20:00	Houghton Road	Op Meteor
27/06/2024	23:49:00	Tithe Farm	Intelligence
28/06/2024	21:43:00	Park Rd North	Op Meteor
28/06/2024	19:35:00	Hillborough Crescent	Shoplifting
29/06/2024	21:23:00	Houghton Road	Op Meteor

Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 8858

by email: cctv@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council Watling House Thorn Turn,
Grendall Lane, Houghton Regis LU5 6GJ

Public Health

Stop Smoking

At CBC the specialist Level 3 Stop Smoking Service delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, plus an app. The service is also offering e-cigarettes as an aid to quitting.

The Service is offering 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.

Public Health continues to commission Primary Care to deliver Level 2 Stop Smoking Support. The delivery of these Stop Smoking Services through most GP Surgeries continues.

The latest performance data shows that, at Quarter 4 2023/24, the Titan PCN, covering the 3 local GP practices serving the local population (Houghton Regis Medical Centre, Toddington Medical Centre and Wheatfield Surgery) have had a total of 70 clients set a quit date. This has led to 21 validated 4-week quits, plus a further 8 referrals into the specialist service for the year 23/24.

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 and consequently performance varies. As qualifying 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 exceeded target for Health Checks delivered at the end of the latest reporting period, the full year 2023/2024. 1,664 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 1,355 for the period (so 122.8% of annual target). Overall, they

invited 4,216 patients for a Health Check (target 4,712) so performed at 89.5% Of the annual target for that indicator.

The 3 local Titan Practices are performing as follows:

- Houghton Regis Medical Centre at 80.9% of annual target for Health Checks delivered (157 against a target of 194 but only 63.2% offered (409 out of 647 target).
- Toddington Medical Centre performed at 142.9% for Health Checks delivered (160 against a target of 112) and 30.8% for offered (134 out of 435 target).
- Wheatfield Surgery delivered 252 Health Checks from a target of 201 for the period (125.4%) and offered 459 (from a target of 664) at a rate of 69.1% during this reporting period.

Public Health will continue to support Practices to over-deliver, where there is both spare capacity and funding in the system, with an emphasis on those Practices with a population that has poorer health outcomes and targeting those patients at greatest health risk.

The overall quality measure for all these 3 practices in relation to Health Checks is generally good; Houghton Regis Medical Centre remains at 'amber' with room for improvement in quality, whilst the other 2 practices are 'green', showing quality is at target level.

We will continue to work with Practices to identify how we can support them to deliver Stop Smoking and Health Check services to their patients, as well as working with them to understand and reduce health inequalities for our residents.

Time2Connect

Following the evaluation and the ceasing of CBC funding for T2C, CBC continues to work very closely with BRCC and our other local colleagues to look at a more sustainable model across the Authority, consistent with CBC's approach to community engagement and BRCCs new Strategy which focuses on health & wellbeing.

BRCC continue to work towards ensuring a smooth transition for the people currently engaging with T2C.

Business, Investment, Employment and Skills

Business Support

We're continuing to promote our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) business support programme and since the last quarter, there has been an increase of 3 applications in Houghton Regis with now 9 businesses receiving support as follows:

- Business Entrepreneurship & Start Up ([Wenta](#)) – 6
- Export support ([Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce](#)) – 1

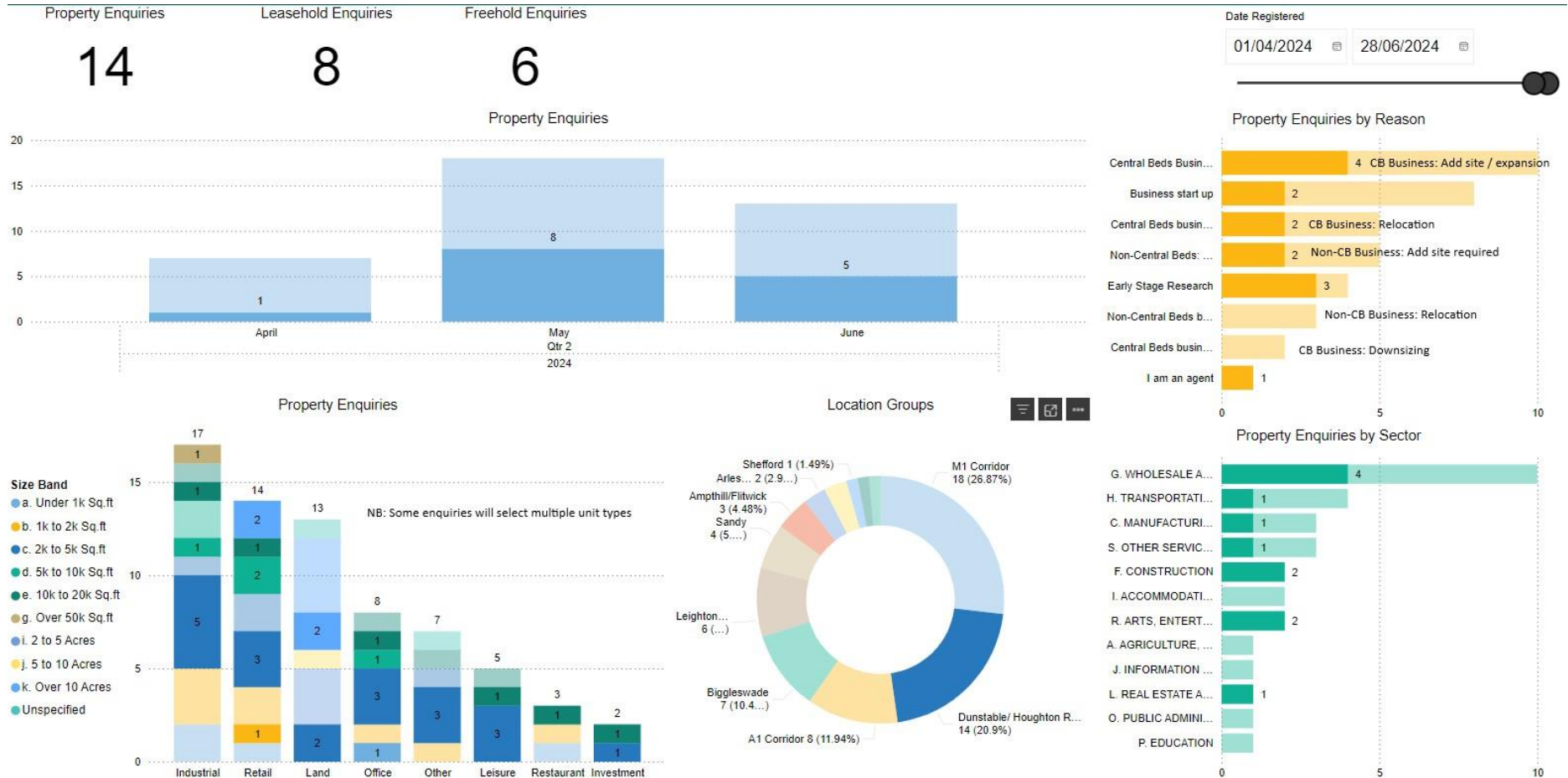
- Business Scale-up and Resilience ([Cranfield University](#)) – 1
- Business Decarbonisation ([Cranfield University](#)) - 1

For further information about the business support on offer please contact the Business and Investment Team by [email](#), or visit the **Be Central Bedfordshire** [website](#).

Commercial Property Enquiries

Dunstable and Houghton Regis have seen a decrease in the number of enquiries in last quarter from 24 enquiries to 14 enquiries. There has been a drop in enquiries across Central Bedfordshire generally from 32% (78 enquiries) down to 21%. (38 enquiries) with a sharper drop in early stage and business start-up enquiries. Due to pre-election restrictions, much of our promotional activity has been put on hold since mid/late May but re-commenced wk/c 7th July. Availability of small, early-stage industrial units remain limited with only two units currently available under 2,000 sq ft.

This dashboard report shows the number of property enquiries for Dunstable/Houghton Regis throughout the dates shown on the top right (no further enquiries were received for this quarter). The faded elements of the chart relate to enquiries taken for the rest of Central Bedfordshire.



Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, May 2023 to May 2024

	May 2023	August 2023	November 2023	February 2024	May 2024
Town	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant
Ampthill	3.2	3.2	2.2	5.4	6.5
Arlesey	18.8	12.5	6.3	6.3	6.3
Biggleswade	5.8	5.8	5.1	3.2	3.2
Dunstable	13.6	13.9	14.7	15.1	14.3
Flitwick	9.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Houghton Regis	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6.3
Leighton Buzzard	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.8	6.8
Potton	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	12.0
Sandy	8.8	10.3	10.3	8.8	8.8
Shefford	4.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.8
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	7.61	7.59	7.48	7.79	8.09

In May 2023 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 7.6%, there were a total of 973 units of which 74 were vacant. One year later, in May 2024 the vacancy rate has increased to 8%, with a total of 977 Units and 79 vacancies. In the last 12 months between May 2023 and May 2024, Arlesey, Biggleswade, Flitwick's vacancy rates have fallen, Ampthill, Dunstable Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Potton and Shefford's have increased, and the rest remain stable.

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA)

BESA's funded learning and employment support offer continues to run across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough, helping residents access education and training to build skills that will improve employability, support career opportunities and enhance wellbeing.

Residents can access a range of short courses to build confidence with skills for life, accredited qualifications, apprenticeships to earn while they learn, and employability support.

BESA's National Careers Service (NCS) team continues to support residents to find employment or start learning, with free 1:1 or group appointments for those aged 16 years and over. Appointments are tailored to meet the needs of the individual and can be carried out online or face to face.

[See BESA's full learning and employment support offer here.](#)

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Multiply maths skills workshops

BESA continues to run free courses under the Department for Education's [Multiply programme](#). These courses are open to adult (19+) residents in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough, and they take place in local community venues across Central Beds and Beds Borough. Venues in Houghton Regis include Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy Hub on Parkside Drive (LU5 5PY). Courses will also be delivered in Houghton Hall Park towards the end of the year (LU5 5FU). A [timetable of upcoming courses](#) can be found on the webpage with locations, dates and times – there's plenty running!

Contact BESA

Residents can register their interest for a course or service by completing a short online form at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/besa-contact-us

Leisure, Libraries and Countryside

Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Customer usage of the leisure centre is continuing to be consistent from month to month. With summer now here the leisure centre is hoping to see the numbers of attendees remain at this level, however, this is traditionally a time when users enjoy other activities.

Pre covid monthly average based on 2019 usage:	17,760
Dec 23:	11,988
January 24	17,471
February 24	18,313
April 24	17,755
May 24	17,554

Swim Lessons

01.04.24	Everyone Active Swimming Lessons	685
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Ongoing training and recruitment for new swim teachers is still at the forefront for Everyone Active to help the swim programme grow. New Teachers have come on board to continue to grow the swim programme.

Fitness

01.12.23	December 2023 Fitness members	1438
01.06.24	June 2024 Fitness members	1516

EA have recruited further to the fitness team which will bring an emphasis on member retention and increased customer service for members. Fitness member numbers are steadily increasing.

Outreach: The leisure centre team attended the Houghton Regis carnival on the 13th July.

EA has scheduled a wellness day for the community in September after the school holidays, with more information to follow.

On 27 June EA staged a pool event with the inflatable and a cake sale, in aid of charity but also to encourage customers to attend classes and bring a buddy to try the early morning classes.

Houghton Regis Library

May half term – The library provided craft activities for children throughout the May half term. With over 1500 visitors to the library over the week of half term with new families joining the library and lots of children enjoying the free arts and crafts.

Send Workshops - Full House Theatre has been attending the library, as part of their Sensory Adventures library tour. These events are targeted for children and young people with severe learning disabilities or profound multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and are a great way for them to experience an exciting sensory adventure. We have hosted two of the three events so far and have been well received with good numbers and feedback from families.

“The immersive jungle experience was very inclusive for children with SEND. The staff were very supportive, kind and encouraging.”

“Very creative and engaging. My child is always given the time and space to engage when he is ready.”

“Wonderful experience, staff are so attentive and knew exactly how to deal with my autistic children. Highly recommend... Thank you, great way to spend a Saturday morning.”

You are the sun - HurlyBurly presents you are the sun, a folk inspired opera for babies and grown-ups that explores the magic of nature took place on June 28th in partnership with Full House Theatre

Council events – Central Bedfordshire Council’s Housing team have been hosting monthly drop-in Housing Hubs throughout 2024, where residents can turn up and share any concerns they may have with regards to housing, as well as receive helpful advice they may not have otherwise come across. Central Bedfordshire’s Councillors for Houghton Regis continue to host their Councillor’s Help and Advice Surgeries on the last Saturday of each month.

Regular events – The library continues to host its Rhyme Time and Lego Club on Wednesdays and Pokémon Club on Saturdays. Knit and Natter (Formerly Craft & Coffee) continues to be held every other Thursday, which is a chance for adults to get together in a social setting and work on any personal craft projects among their peers. Play Dough Club is held on the alternate Thursdays. We have a new Friday afternoon club for playing board games this has been very popular with local families joining us after school to play games together and make new friends.

Pride of Houghton - Houghton Regis Town Council wanted to have a scheme which honoured the work of the unsung heroes of the town and the work that goes on behind the scenes which may not always be recognized, long standing volunteer Steve Ball was nominated by the library for local hero and won!



Carnival – The library took part in the carnival procession, The library will also be hosting a fun day to run alongside the carnival with craft, games and free glitter tattoos!

2024 Summer Reading Challenge

Children can unleash their creativity with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, “Marvellous Makers”, which launched in libraries on Friday 19 July, running until Saturday 7 September.



The Summer Reading Challenge is a free holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. Children can read anything they choose and earn free rewards for their efforts.

This year's challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts and join in with free [crafts and activities at their local library](#), including visits from a magician and African drumming. Plus, children who complete the reading challenge can join in a treasure hunt at the library.

To participate, children are challenged to read six library books, e-books, magazines, or listen to audiobooks of their choice over the summer. As they progress, they will earn stickers as rewards. Children who complete the challenge will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win £70 in vouchers from The Works. All children who complete the challenge by Saturday 9 September will be rewarded with a certificate and medal.

To take part, children can sign up at their nearest library at any time during the challenge. If they don't already have a library card, they can join on the day or [join the virtual library online](#).

Books can be borrowed from a local library, or children can read e-books, magazines and audiobooks that they can download for free using their library cards and the [Libby and Borrowbox apps](#).

For children who struggle to read, the Council's library team offers tailored resources: shorter books with special fonts and paper for dyslexia, the customisable Libby app, older picture books, and engaging graphic novels. Check out tailored booklists on the Virtual Library for children and teenagers, and enjoy audiobooks, free on CD or via the Libby or BorrowBox apps.

[Read more about the Summer Reading Challenge](#) online or pop into the library to find out more.

All events and activities planned for families during the summer holidays will be advertised on the [Virtual Library](#).

Houghton Hall Park



Houghton Hall Park's events and activities programme is well underway with annual Dog Festival, Rainbow Fairy Show, Fairy crafts, storytelling, Xplorer and Stick Man trails and our Classic Car Show to name a few and lots more planned for the summer holidays including outside theatre, climbing walls and archery. The park welcomed local schools in May for a Cross-Country event, it was great to hear their shouts of encouragement throughout the afternoon.

These events would not be possible without the help of our volunteer group who support the small team of officers looking after all areas of the park. The Friends of Houghton Hall Park recently won the Local Group Pride of Houghton Award. In November they worked 487 hours between them!



Our Community Gardener and Park Ranger have welcomed students from Weatherfield Academy on a Friday morning to undertake gardening and wider park work. They are getting on extremely well and have helped to create a new planter outside the Visitors Centre.

We have been busy sowing, planting, and weeding the kitchen garden and formal garden beds. Because spring was so late, it is a race to get everything in the ground, as well as the constant battle with our pests such as slugs, snails, pigeons, and squirrels.

A new fruit cage has been installed in the kitchen gardens and it has been stocked with raspberries, gooseberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, rhubarb and jostaberries. Hopefully we can include white currants if we have enough space. The produce hut sold bedding plants in May which were extremely popular.

The bra bank which has been in the Visitors Centre foyer for the last few months has collected 544 bras which was enough to send to Against Breast Cancer, the bin remains in the foyer for further donations.

Community Physical Activity Team

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Active Lifestyles Referral Scheme

Our referral programme is continuing to run throughout Central Bedfordshire supporting residents at risk or living with long term health conditions. 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 running at all leisure facilities including Houghton Regis Leisure Centre. 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 strength and balance session that residents can attend from their own home. 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 leisure 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 and use personal profiles with specific links to commissioned services in Central Bedfordshire including mental health support, weight management, physical activity and stop smoking services. Clinically validated, the kiosks then allow users to self-monitor and continue to improve their healthy lifestyle choices. Health and Wellbeing Kiosks can be found in Houghton Regis Leisure Centre.

Online Activity Programme

We are continuing to provide our online. We are always adding classes to our YouTube library.



www.facebook.com/GetActiveWit



[Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles YouTube 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 July 2024
Thursday 10.15am (45 minute class) with Adele PILATES
Low impact class focusses on core movement with some early morning flexibility and strength.
Friday @ 8.15am (20 minute class) with Trudy
Low impact workout
Wake up and shine low impact workout
A great place to live and work.
Find us online www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk [getactivewit](https://www.facebook.com/GetActiveWit) [@getactivewit](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Online Day Activities

Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council working in partnership



Central Bedfordshire Council offer an online schedule of weekday activities for residents of Central Bedfordshire to enjoy Monday to Friday every week. Activities include things like cookery, gardening, arts & crafts, informative talks, and fun gameshows.

As part of this programme, the Active Lifestyle Team offer a number of sessions to get active. Activities include seated exercise, dance and full body workouts, there is something for everyone.

For more information or to add your name to the Newsletter so you receive emails detailing the activities taking place, please phone 0300 300 6588 | 0300 300 6710

or email ODA@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Community Physical Activity Programme

Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football and Netball, outdoor bootcamp. Most of the activities are FREE. Residents must book on via our booking page.

www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

Children & Families – Active Lifestyles

The team are now offering an Active Families Referral Programme for families with children under 5 years old a FREE 12 week programme to help lead a healthier, happier, active lifestyle.

To register your interest e-mail:

active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Holiday activities and Food programme

[Holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)



The poster features a photograph of a family walking outdoors. The text on the poster reads: 'Active Families Referral Programme. We are offering families with children under 5 years old a FREE 12 week programme to help lead a healthier, happier, active lifestyle.' It lists benefits such as gaining knowledge on family activity, finding services, information on healthy eating, and a chance to set goals. It also mentions a free goodie bag and leisure centre pass. Contact information for registration is provided at the bottom.

Active Families Referral Programme

We are offering families with children under 5 years old a FREE 12 week programme to help lead a healthier, happier, active lifestyle.

- Gain knowledge and ideas on how to get more active as a family
- Find out what services and support is available
- Information on weaning and healthy eating
- A chance to take part in a fun interactive activity with your children
- Chance to set some goals for your family
- Free goodie bag and leisure centre pass for you to enjoy as a family

To register your interest e-mail:
active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Active Lifestyles

A great place to live and work.

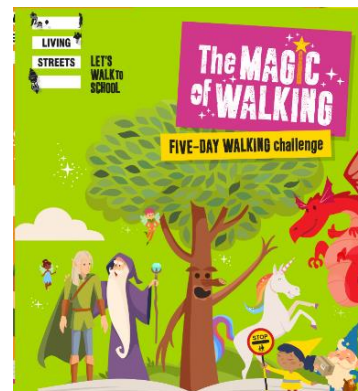
Find us online www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/active-lifestyles @activewalsb @centralbedford

Sustainability

Active Travel

We continue to work with schools on their Travel Plans alongside the sustainable travel platform [Modeshift STARS](#). Bikeability training is available to all schools, and we are able to offer some a Dr Bike session to ensure pupils' bikes are in a safe condition to use. We also offer bike security marking to schools who have an active Travel Plan.

All schools were invited to take part in Walk to School Week (20-24 May), the challenge which encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week.



Linmere Launches into 'Very Good' Accreditation

The national Travel Plan accreditation scheme, Modeshift was recently awarded a 'Very Good' accreditation to the development of Linmere. Linmere was the joint 3rd residential development in the country to be awarded a Modeshift 'Very Good' accreditation. Central Bedfordshire now holds two of the four 'Very Good' residential accreditation in the country.



Saddle up for summer cycle coaching

Linmere, Central Beds Council, and Bidwell West are teaming up with Cycle4Life to help residents of Linmere and Bidwell West build their cycling confidence this summer. Offering Led Rides, Learn to Ride sessions and Junior Explorer rides, there'll be plenty of opportunity for residents with any level of cycling experience to take part, build their confidence and grow their love for cycling.

Cycle4Life's highly experienced team will be running sessions within park areas and cycle routes around Linmere, Linmere Park, Bidwell West and Houghton Hall Park. An ideal opportunity for

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local families to meet neighbours and discover cycling routes and loops to use and enjoy around the area.

Booking information and dates can be found at: [Saddle up for Summer Cycle Coaching - Linmere %](#)



Public Transport

£1 bus fares for 18s and under in Central Bedfordshire

A new scheme known as the YP Card, has launched which allows young people to 'get around for a £1'. It means they now travel around Central Bedfordshire and to nearby towns and cities for a maximum fare of just £1 per single journey

The free credit-card-sized pass is available to young residents aged 18 and under who can apply for a YP Card through [Central Bedfordshire Council's self-service portal](#). Two types of YP Cards are available: a green card for children and young people up to their 16th birthday, and an orange card for 16 to 19-year-olds. The YP Card allows unlimited travel at a discounted fare of £1 per journey.

Not only is this great value but there are no travel time restrictions too. The YP Card is valid 24/7 and can be used for travel to and from school, college, or leisure activities.

[Applying for the YP Card bus pass is simple and quick](#). For those under 16, a parent, guardian, or carer can apply on their behalf. If you're aged 16 to 19, you can apply for your YP Card yourself. Upload a photo, proof of age and contact information. [Check out the full T&Cs on our website](#).

The lower fares are aimed at helping young people get around Central Bedfordshire and beyond more affordably, to places of education, training and jobs, shopping, seeing friends and family.

This summer holidays, there are a range of bus deals and discounts. Like the new £1 ticket for young people, there are more amazing deals to enjoy using our clean, convenient, and easy-to-use bus network.

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- [mojo Tickets](#): Gives you unlimited bus travel in Central Bedfordshire and direct routes to Bedford, Luton, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Hitchin, Stevenage, and Letchworth. All for just £12.50 for a day or £38 for a week.
- Working with our partners at Luton and Bedford Borough councils, we are running the [Days Out By Bus](#) campaign this summer, and have produced [a guide to the many brilliant places to visit around the area \(PDF\)](#), from zoos and farms to historic houses and museums, with details of how to get to them by bus. We've even been able to negotiate special discounts at some of the attractions for visitors arriving by bus!

Highways

Penalty Charge Notices

	PCN's issued	Visits conducted
April	15	28
May	12	17
June	18	37
Total	45	82

Fix My Street Reports

Fix my street reports for lines and signs April 1st – June 30th

	Road markings and lining	Signs	Grand Total
closed	1	0	1
confirmed	0	1	1
internal referral	1	4	5
investigating	5	7	12
Grand Total	7	12	19

Repairs in Houghton Regis

The below table shows the number of reactive maintenance repairs carried out in Houghton Regis between 1st May 2024 – 11th July 2024

Defect Repaired	Total Number
Potholes	60
Street Light Repair	20
Bollards and signs	10
Footway patching schemes	3

Annual Plan – 2023/24 Completed Works

The below table provides an overview of planned works in the Houghton Regis Ward.

Works Category	Scheme Name	Location	Parish	Work Type
Pipework/attenuation	Drury Lane	Drury Lane	Houghton Regis	Construction
Drainage - Design	Drury Lane Design	Drury Lane	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Parking	Knightly Close	Knightly Close	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Parking	The Cloisters Parking Scheme	The Cloisters	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction
Traffic Management and Capacity	Parkside Drive	Parkside Drive	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Traffic Management and Capacity	Windsor Drive	Near junction with Longbrooke	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction
Footway resurfacing	St Micheals Ave FW Resurfacing	St Micheals Ave	Houghton Regis	WTB Construction
Carriageway Resurfacing	Watling Street C/W Resurfacing	Watling Street	Houghton Regis	WTB Construction
Carriageway Resurfacing	Redhouse Court	Redhouse Court	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction

Carriageway Resurfacing	Clarkes Way	Clarkes Way	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Surface Dressing	Sewell Lane	Sewell Lane	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction

Fix My Street Improvements

Our Highways team have been working hard to improve the Fix My Street system making it easier for residents to use whilst ensuring our teams receive the best information possible.

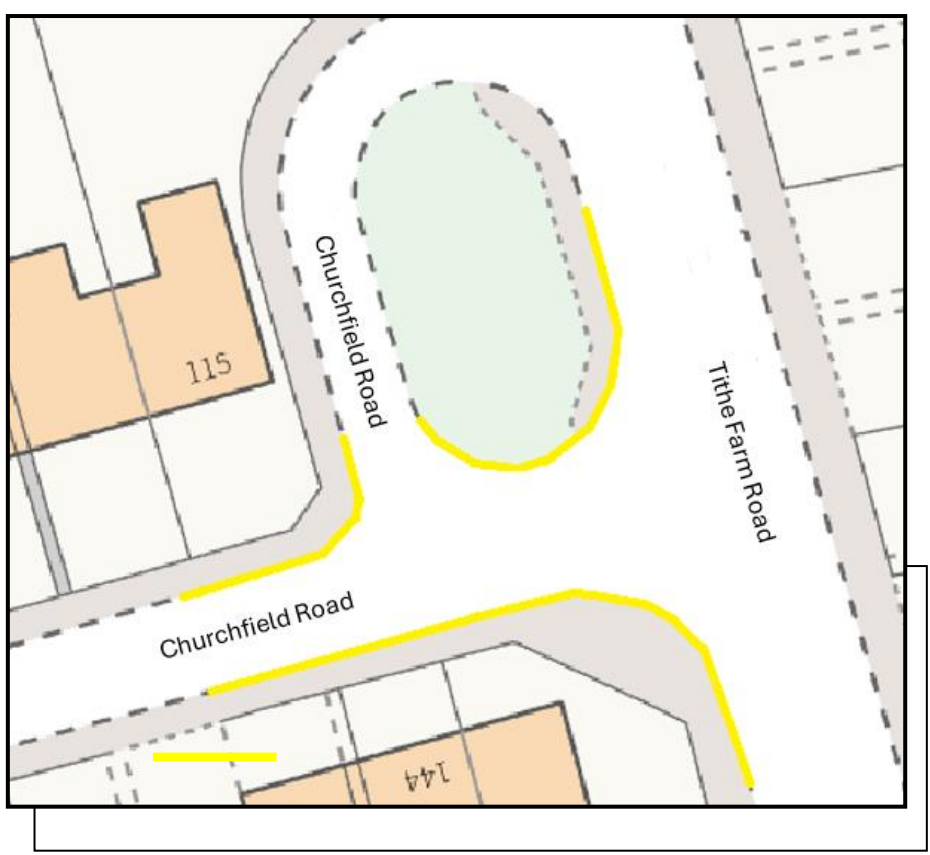
Below is a list of recent and upcoming improvements to the system.

- Rights of Way integration with Fix My Street is complete
- Search bar added to the system to easily find a category
- Fly-tipping integration completed
- Pothole category updated so residents can report road potholes specifically

If you see an issue on the Highway network please report it online, [FixMyStreet \(centralbedfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

Highways Consultations

- A00456 Tithe Farm Road and Churchfield Road Houghton Regis



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Environmental Services

Waste Collections	Litter Bins
Waste collections have been operating as normal with no service impacts in this period.	No new litter or dog bin installations. There was additional litter picking along Bedford Road on 3 rd May

Environmental Management		
Fly Tips and Street Cleansing	Grounds Maintenance	Abandoned Vehicles
<p>There have been no grab lorry fly tip clearances in this period</p> <p>There was additional clearance of leaf mulch along an alleyway in Westminster Gardens on 27.5.24</p>	<p>We are currently on grass cut 6 and just completing cut 6 of shrubs, moving into cut 7.</p> <p>We have seen rapid grass growth over the last 2 months which has slowed our progress, but the growth appears to be slowing now.</p> <p>We are currently completing our second Highway weed spray on this area.</p>	<p>There have been 19 reported abandoned vehicles and 10 collected.</p>

Dog Patrols (April to June)	
Location	Notes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bedford Road 2. Bromley Gardens 3. Drury Lane 4. Hillborough Crescent 5. Leafields 6. Redhouse Court Recreation Ground 7. Tudor Drive 	<p>All roads are patrolled once a week, except Hillborough Crescent, Bedford Road and Redhouse Court which are patrolled twice per week. There were no fixed penalty notices during this period.</p>

Youth Support Services

Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

The figures presented in the table are those reported to NCCIS/DfE as **FINALISED** at the end of **May 2024**.

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area					
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive (EET) destinations		NEET destinations	
16year olds / Year 12	3395	3295	(97.1%)	83	(2.4%)
17year olds / Year 13	3349	3165	(94.5%)	160	(4.8%)
Combined cohort	6744	6460	(95.8%)	243	(3.6%)

Overview for the Houghton Regis area compared to other local areas

The figures presented in the various tables below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people as of **4th July 2024**.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Total YPs in area	960		583		1103	
EET	928	(96.7%)	550	(94.3%)	1063	(96.4%)
NEET	30	(3.1%)	33	(5.7%)	38	(3.4%)
Unknown/Refused	2	(0.2%)	0	(0%)	2	(0.2%)

Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Houghton Regis area

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
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Houghton Regis East	355	26	7.3%
Houghton Regis West	228	7	3.1%
Total	583	33	5.7%

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	2	Less than 3 months	8	Male	24
17 years old	15	3 - 6 months	6	Female	9
18 years old	16	6+ months	19	Not Recorded	0

Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	31	(93.9%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	2	(6.1%)

The Youth Support Service will offer support to any young person who is NEET to support them to re-engage. Referrals to youth.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Community Engagement

The Houghton Regis Together group reconvened this month to look at what's changed in the town over recent months and ways to work better together to serve residents particularly those who are vulnerable. Information and insight was shared and opportunities for greater collaboration were explored. We will meet again in the autumn and look to develop a 'model' and way of working building on our collective strengths, knowledge and insight.

Cheering Volunteering 2024 took place on 17th July. The Chairman and DL Deborah Inskip were joined by 71 volunteers to enjoy speeches, food and entertainment from local artists Sandy Uke and Shannon Express. A wellbeing walk around Campton plantation kicked off the event, the pleasant walk was enjoyed by 44 guests. Cheering Volunteering is now in its 11th year and an opportunity for the Council and partners CVS and Beds RCC to thank volunteers and celebrate volunteering.

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Consultations

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
No current or upcoming consultations and surveys				

Upcoming Meetings

August

- Executive - 06 August 2024 at 06:30 PM
- Corporate Parenting Board - 08 August 2024 at 02:00 PM
- Development Management Committee - 21 August 2024 at 10:00 AM
- General Purposes - 29 August 2024 at 06:30 PM

September

- Corporate Resources OSC - 03 September 2024 at 09:30 AM
- Licensing Committee - 04 September 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Police and Crime Advisory Panel - 04 September 2024 at 06:30 PM
- Sustainable Communities OSC - 05 September 2024 at 09:30 AM
- Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee - 05 September 2024 at 07:30 PM
- Social Care, Health and Housing OSC - 09 September 2024 at 09:30 AM
- Children's Services OSC - 12 September 2024 at 09:30 AM
- Development Management Committee - 18 September 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Audit - 19 September 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Dunstable Joint Committee - 19 September 2024 at 07:00 PM
- Schools Forum - 23 September 2024 at 03:00 PM
- Traffic Management - 24 September 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Full Council - 26 September 2024 at 06:30 PM

Central Bedfordshire in contact

Find us online: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Email:

partnerships.communityengagementteam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ