

23rd April 2025

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 **J Anderson, D Gibbons, C Regan, T Haines, R Turner, D Hill**

CBC Officers

Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Copies, for information, to:

- Cllr Baker, Executive Member for Finance and Highways CBC
- Cllr Watkins, Executive Member for Assets Business & Housing, CBC
- Cllr Smith, Executive Member Adult Social Care & Health for CBC
- Cllr R Goodchild, 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 29th April 2025** commencing at **7.00pm hours** at The Council Offices, Peel 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. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS (to 7.02pm)

**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 7.17pm)

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 (to 7.20pm)

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 (to 7.25pm)

Pages 5 - 12

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2025.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2025.

5. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB) PLACE TEAM (to 7.45pm)

Ms K Conroy, Head of Central Bedfordshire ICB Place Team will attend the meeting to introduce Members to the roles and responsibilities of the Integrated Care Board Place team. Mr S Gutteridge from Primary Care Core team will also be in attendance to provide an update on primary care.

Although every effort will be made to respond to Members queries, it should be recognised that this is a broad area and it may be necessary for a subsequent response outside of the meeting to be provided.

For a broader understanding of the Integrated Care System please follow this link.
[NHS England » What are integrated care systems?](#)

6. UPDATE ON FORMAL SPORTS PROVISION IN HOUGHTON REGIS (to 8pm)

Houghton Regis Leisure & Community Centre

The new leisure and community centre opened to the public on Saturday, 29th March 2025 and is operated by Everyone Active, the CBC leisure management partner.

The Centre boasts a wealth of first-class leisure facilities including a state-of-the-art gym, three swimming pools, dedicated group exercise studios, a group cycling studio, two squash courts, a café, a children's outdoor play zone, a relaxation room, as well as flexible community space.

[Houghton Regis Leisure & Community Centre - Everyone Active](#)**Sports hall facilities at Houghton School**

The Houghton School sports hall is available for community use from 14th April 2025.

[New community and leisure facility in Houghton Regis | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

As Members are aware, community representatives have spoken at the Partnership meetings pressing for support in keeping the previous sports hall open to facilitate community use Monday – Friday during the school term times and hours. These community representatives have been invited back to this meeting to update members on their next steps in seeking to secure this comprehensive provision and their thoughts on if and how this committee could support their endeavours. They have been asked to keep their presentation to 5 minutes, members will be permitted to ask questions following on from the presentation.

7. CBC SUPPORT TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS (to 8.15pm)

Cllr R Goodchild will be attending the meeting to update Members on the work CBC is undertaking to offer additional support and information to town and parish councils in the coming years.

Last month CBC hosted the first Town and Parish Council forum at Priory House which provided a detailed understanding of the proposals contained in the recently approved CBC budget. The feedback was very positive, and it is intended to repeat this type of event on a regular basis in addition to the regular online sessions conducted by CBC officers. The next forum is scheduled for 28th April 2025 for town and parish councils to hear about the consultation on the CBC proposed change to the Home to School Transport policy and to hear from the Executive member and the Service Director for Highways.

Cllr R Goodchild is also keen to work closely with the Joint and Partnership Committees to seek to understand how these can be improved even further.

Cllr R Goodchild will also be working with Cllr Steve Watkins to help achieve the CBC Strategic Plan aims of creating opportunities for businesses to thrive, and ensuring the well-being of our communities, while recognising the specific and complex needs of urban areas and town centres.

8. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS (to 8.25pm)

A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager on the planned community centre in Bidwell.

A verbal update will be provided by Cllr Alderman on the formal request made to CBC for a public consultation on the Bedford Square Community Centre prior to the end of the current lease to the College.

9. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (to 8.35pm)

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

HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET

ON 28th January 2025

Present: Town Cllrs: J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones
CBC Cllrs: C Alderman, S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon
CBC Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Officers:
HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Officers: Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer

Co-opted J Anderson, D Gibbons, T Haines, D Hill, C Regan, R Turner
members:

Also in attendance: 0

Apologies: Cllr C Slough

Members of the public: 7

1060 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr C Slough.

1061 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Members of the public updated the Committee on developments since the special meeting held on 27th November 2024 (Minute numbers 1056 and 1059) in relation to the current leisure centre.

It was understood that the new leisure centre would open 1st April 2025 with the current leisure centre closing late March 2025.

The draft Community Use Agreement (CUA) was a publicly accessible document available via the CBC Planning Portal. The members of the public raised the following issues:

- It does not ringfence the rights of Houghton Regis residents to access broader leisure services.
- It was estimated there would be a deficit of 48-50% leisure access per week across the year, with the potential for further reductions of up to 75 days access per year if required by Houghton with only 2-weeks' notice.
- Clarity was required as to whether the agreement would allow for walk-in or pre-booked casual use. Casual access at this level needed to be protected and staffing needed to allow for this irrespective of advance bookings.

- The CUA did not address whether the school management company would provide First Aid, Public Liability, risk assessments etc.
- CUA stated 'Established within twelve months from the date of this agreement'. Concerns were expressed that the CUA had not been approved and the current leisure centre was due to close on 1st April. Thus there would be a significant gap between closing the current leisure centre and the sports hall at Houghton Regis school being made available.
- The draft CUA made no reference to a representative from HRTC forming part of the Management Committee.
- CUA stated 'the Chair shall be the representative of the school'. This person would have the casting vote if necessary to resolve tied decisions.

The members of the public in attendance felt the CUA needed to be challenged as the CUA, as it stood, would not accommodate many of the users accessing the current facilities.

Enabling HRTC to manage the current sports hall as an interim measure was a matter of urgency.

It was further claimed that the current usage data as used by CBC was flawed as it recorded external bookings as 1 user regardless of the number of participants taking part in that booking.

Cllr Hamill advised that he had submitted questions at the Sustainable Communities meeting on 16th January 2025. It was felt that the responses had been inaccurate and Cllr Hamill would look to challenge some of these inaccuracies.

Members were urged to keep pursuing a solution.

A representative of the Houghton Regis Badminton Club shared a copy of the statement made at CBC Full Council, highlighting the deficit in sports hall provision to the residents of Houghton Regis.

The representative from the Academy of Central Bedfordshire (ACB) addressed Members saying that notice had been received of the sports hall closure taking place on 25th March 2025. This meant that ACB would have no access to indoor sports facilities in eight weeks.

Cllr Hamill confirmed that he would ask to include sports hall provision as an agenda item at the next Sustainable Communities meeting on 13th February and speak with the relevant portfolio holders. In the interim, it was necessary to keep the current sports hall open until a solution was found.

Members of the public felt that responses from CBC had so far been defensive and a narrative, which needed to be challenged.

Members agreed to bring forward agenda item 7 'Update on Sports Hall' for discussion.

1062 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

1063 MINUTES

It was agreed that the Minutes of 22nd October would be approved following a minor amendment to the wording in Minute 1050.

Resolved: **To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 22nd October 2024, subject to amendment, and 27th November 2024 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

The agenda item regarding the sports hall update was brought forward, as agreed by Members, following Questions from the Public.

1064 UPDATE ON SPORTS HALL

Members were advised that an Expression of Interest (EoI) under the Community Asset Transfer process was submitted on 23rd December 2024 and receipt had been acknowledged. An update was awaited from CBC.

The CBC Community Engagement Manager confirmed that officers would be meeting to discuss the EoI, and HRTC would receive feedback in due course.

It was questioned whether CBC were now in possession of the correct statistics, since it was feared inaccurate data could impact the decision in respect of the EoI. The Town Clerk responded that the submitted EoI had stressed that the sports hall would be run in a non-competitive way in respect of other providers; it also highlighted the impact the loss of the facility would have on Houghton Regis residents, schools and clubs. Members believed that CBC should be made aware of the discrepancies in usage level statistics as this would reinforce the case for maintaining the sports hall. The Town Clerk agreed to revisit the EoI to further support and determine the value of continued access to the sports hall.

The Chair put forward that the Committee acknowledged the discrepancies in order to formally record dissatisfaction with the discrepancies, and the necessity of establishing actual numbers. Members suggested that CBC view the recording of the meeting and answer the questions raised at the meeting on 13th February.

A timeline from CBC would be beneficial in respect of its response to HRTC's EoI and potential progress to the submission of a business case. With significant time limitations, the closure of the sports hall should be halted while the process proceeded.

The CBC Community Engagement Manager confirmed that a meeting was due imminently to appraise the EoI and the merits of the proposal. It was hoped feedback would be provided during the following week. It was not possible to give a timescale on the ensuing process.

The Community Engagement Manager provided the CBC response to questions raised at the Partnership meeting on 27th November 2024 (minute 1059):

In response to queries regarding the modelling and figures it was stated that:

- *The leisure facility strategy assessment was carried out in line with Sport England methodology.*

- *Future need was assessed via the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) which looked at future housing growth and participation levels. Details of this could be found on the Sport England website.*
- *The modelling system was bespoke for local authorities and included local usage data.*
- *Following an assessment, a four-court sports hall had been deemed adequate to demand. There had been a decline in sports participation.*
- *The strategy had recommended the provision of a new sports hall with any new leisure centre for Houghton Regis; however, at this time the potential for a new secondary school adjacent to the potential leisure centre was not known.*
- *A feasibility study had concluded that provision at the centre and the school would result in over-provision and impact both facilities.*
- *Houstone school would provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the majority of community use outside school hours. Some displaced community use during school hours could be accommodated at the Dunstable Centre*

In response to queries on consultation, it was stated that:

- *Consultation was carried out prior to adoption of the Leisure Facility Strategy in 2021 and further consultation took place in early 2022.*

In response to queries on the Community Use Agreement, it was stated that:

- *A link had been provided and was on the CBC website*
- *Community use maximised use of facilities and reduced impact on public funding.*

In response to queries on usage, it was stated that:

- *Feedback during the consultation period the council had evaluated usage of the current sports hall showed an average of 10% before 4.30pm and 25% after 4.30 on weekdays compared to total capacity.*

At this point, Members questioned why the statement had not been made available prior to the meeting and it was requested that the report be circulated, in writing, among the committee at the soonest opportunity. The Community Engagement Manager confirmed authorisation to share the statement was being sought.

The final point of the response from CBC was:

- *The consultation process identified that activities not requiring a sports hall could be accommodated at the new centre. Those requiring a sports hall could be accommodated at the Dunstable centre, or in at the school in the evening.*

The CUA would not come into effect until the school had signed off on the building and it was questioned when was this likely to be. The Community Engagement Manager was unable to provide further information on discharge of the planning conditions.

There was frustration that the CBC response was a reiteration of previous points and did not address the questions raised. The data discrepancies were referenced again, and it was highlighted that the figures had been gathered during a period that included Covid and did not take recent population growth into account. Furthermore, Houghton Regis did not reflect national trends in sports participation and should be regarded in its own right.

The Community Engagement Manager was asked for a response to the question: ‘As Houghton Regis is the fastest growing town in the UK, what were CBC plans to accommodate the growing population in terms of sports hall facilities going forward?’ The Community Engagement Manager enquired if the data source regarding population growth

was available but noted the question and confirmed that a response from CBC would be sought.

A member of the public informed the Committee that headcounts were not taken at sports halls, just bookings, which did not reflect the true usage figures. Confirmation of this system would be made in writing and supported by local leisure facilities.

The Town Clerk drafted a suggested resolution for consideration by Members:

1. This committee supports the EoI as submitted by HRTC.
2. The committee requests that CBC considers and reflects on the challenges made by community representatives on the accuracy of the data CBC has used, especially including, but not restricted to:
 - The data spanning 2017-2021 which includes Covid periods.
 - The data collected was prior to significant part of the growth of Houghton Regis.
 - The usage data of Houghton Regis leisure centre is flawed as an external booking by a club is recorded as one booking, regardless of the number of participants in the club. This has been verified by the current operator and further detail can be supplied if required.
3. The existing leisure centre is anticipated to be closed on 22nd March and the new leisure centre is due to open in early April. Due to the tight timescales involved and the lack of a firm timeline for consideration of the Expression of Interest (EoI) and the subsequent anticipated business plan, this committee requests that CBC, by working in partnership with HRTC facilitate the sports hall remaining open until longer-term solutions as presented through the EoI are duly considered and determined. This is to support in particular the ACB who are at risk of having no accessible PE space to support their vulnerable young people and the existing sports club users, many of whom are unlikely to be able to access facilities outside of HR.

It was proposed by the Chair that a meeting be scheduled for April in the event of HRTC being able to progress with the EoI, in order that Members could be updated on the business plan.

It was suggested a recommendation from Sustainable Communities could be made to Executive to keep the sports hall open.

Members were asked to vote on the proposal and voted unanimously in favour.

- Resolved:**
1. This committee supports the EoI as submitted by HRTC.
 2. The committee requests that CBC considers and reflects on the challenges made by community representatives on the accuracy of the data CBC has used, especially including, but not restricted to:
 - The data spanning 2017-2021 which includes Covid periods.
 - The data collected was prior to significant part of the growth of Houghton Regis.
 - The usage data of Houghton Regis leisure centre is flawed as an external booking by a club is recorded as one booking, regardless of the number of participants in the club. This has

- been verified by the current operator and further detail can be supplied if required.
3. The existing leisure centre is anticipated to be closed on 22nd March and the new leisure centre is due to open in early April. Due to the tight timescales involved and the lack of a firm timeline for consideration of the Expression of Interest (EoI) and the subsequent anticipated business plan, this committee requests that CBC, by working in partnership with HRTC facilitate the sports hall remaining open until longer-term solutions as presented through the EoI are duly considered and determined. This is to support in particular the ACB who are at risk of having no accessible PE space to support their vulnerable young people and the existing sports club users, many of whom are unlikely to be able to access facilities outside of HR.

1065 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW INTEGRATED CARE BOARD PLACE TEAM

The representative from the CBC Place Team was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk agreed to seek to schedule a suitable date for this item to be discussed separately.

1066 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

The Community Engagement Manager read out a statement from CBC on the current lease of Bedford Square Community Centre:

- CBC Executive approved in 2022 that the HR resource centre in Bedford Square would continue with its dual education and community use on a permanent basis. The agreement with the college spanned 5 years, 1 August 2022 – 1st August 2027, with a break clause after 3 years (August 2025).
- Ownership of the college had since transferred to Bedford College Group and the Assets department would be engaging with the college in the coming months. There were no current plans to execute the break clause.

Members suggested that Town Partnership requested a public consultation on the current arrangement.

There were some questions regarding the dates of the lease. The Community Engagement Manager was unable to provide a response regarding lease dates but confirmed that a consultation had taken place on the community resource centre.

Regarding a further public consultation, it was understood that only Executive could approve such items. Members felt a representation should be made to CBC for a public consultation to take place on future use, once the contract had concluded. The Chair confirmed this would be requested at Sustainable Communities prior to the end of the contract.

1067 COUNCIL BUDGETS 2025/26

Update on CBC Budget 2025/26

The CBC Community Engagement Manager informed Members that budget proposals were

available on the website. Public consultation would close on 4th February 2024 and the budget determined at a meeting in late February.

Update on HRTC Budget 2025/26

The officer draft budget was presented for consideration to the Town Council meeting on 20th January, and a link to the agenda for that meeting was provided. The Town Clerk informed Members that adjustments had been made at the meeting to reduce the precept.

1068 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

It was highlighted to the Partnership Committee the forward plan of key decisions to be made by the Executive at Central Bedfordshire Council and the workplans for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2024/25.

It was requested that the results of the 'Have Your Say' on school organisation be included in the Work Plan item 'Education (inc. Primary School places).

There were questions regarding the status of Transfer of Assets; however, it was highlighted that this was something that would be addressed by individual councils and not under the Partnership Committee.

The Town Clerk suggested consideration of two items:

- There was a Devolution White Paper – would the Committee be interested to receive more information on this?
- Community Governance Review – would Members like to receive a briefing on the process?

Members agreed that further information on both items would be welcome.

1069 CBC UPDATE REPORT

The CBC update report was provided for information.

Members questioned the accuracy of the report as the status regarding several items was incorrect.

There had been assurances made to residents that Clarkes Way would be resurfaced once Phase II at All Saints View had been completed. There was now some doubt as to whether this would be carried out. It was questioned why, if the work had been cancelled, this had not been communicated?

Traffic management and capacity for Windsor Drive was included on the report but was no longer required.

Members requested the results of the Active Travel engagement at Tithe Farm Primary School.

Parking around primary schools continued to cause significant problems, and it was questioned why PCNs were not being issued. Cllr Hamill agreed to take up the issue of hotspots for illegal parking with the parking enforcement team.

It was requested that the Committee monitor the impact of the reduction in Houghton Regis services as it had been a difficult period for residents.

1070 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

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

Members were invited to consider whether they would like to explore the possibility of seeking to co-opt local stakeholders onto the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee.

The list of Co-opted Members should be reviewed annually, by the Partnership Committee

1071 ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Members had been advised of the CBC process to determine further consideration, at CBC committee level, of items and issues.

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

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

1072 PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS FOR 2025/26

The proposed dates for the Houghton Regis Partnership meetings for 2025/26 were:

29th July 2025

21st October 2025

27th January 2026

28th April 2026

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm

Dated this 29th day of April 2025

Chairman



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

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2024/25	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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan Process HRTC Corporate Plan – Town Centre Improvements Youth Engagement
22nd October 2024	HRTC Update report Work Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Buildings Education
28th January 2025	CBC Update report Work Plan Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Buildings HR Sports Hall Council Budgets
29th April 2025	HRTC Update report Work Plan Houghton Regis Together HRN 2 Community Building		



	Tenant Involvement Strategy		
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**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK PLAN 2025/26**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2025/26	Reports already received / completed
29th July 2025	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"> • Health & Wellbeing (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 • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre • Education (inc Primary School places) & Youth Work • Leisure inc Chalk Pit / Quarry • Economy & Retail • Highways & Transport 	
21st October 2025	HRTC Update report Work Plan		
27th January 2026	CBC Update report Work Plan Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year Council Budgets		
28th April 2026	HRTC Update report Work Plan		

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: For information

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1. Corporate Services

HRTC Budget 2025/26

The HRTC budget setting process was completed on 20th January 2025. Following this process Central Bedfordshire Council were advised of the Town Council precept requirement. The budget not only reflected the Town Councils existing commitments but also the funding of the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the CPC Action plan.

[corporate-plan-2024-2028.pdf \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

[CPC Action Plan FULL July 2024.pdf \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Possible community asset transfer update

Members may recall a request previously made for the council to consider the transfer of some Houghton Regis based community assets to the council. Initial discussions remain a work in progress. Applications for transfer will first be made for Parkside Recreation Ground and Tithe Farm Recreation Ground.

Corporate Peer Challenge Review

The HRTC Corporate Peer Challenge Review took place from 26th – 28th March 2024. The CPC Team revisited HRTC in early December to review progress that has been made.

2. Environment & Leisure

Houghton Chalk Pit

HRTC officers are discussing taking on the management of Houghton Chalk Pit, including the transfer of the commuted sum of circa £1m.

Tithe Farm Sports Project

Works on the 3G AGP are complete, and the pitch is being used by the community. The pavilion was handed over on 7 October 2024. There has been no progress on the S278 agreement, which remains outstanding, leaving the project uncompleted. The solicitor has reviewed the draft lease between HRTC and the Bedfordshire FA. It would be a full dilapidation lease to protect the town council's interests. The Bedfordshire FA would assume full responsibility for the pitch, pavilion, and associated car park for a 25-year term.

UKSPF

HRTC officers are still waiting for a confirmed date when work can start on the front of All Saints View.

Public Realm Improvements

Our 'See It Sort It' service continues to make Houghton Regis an attractive and vibrant place to live and work. This, combined with improvements made with the support of the UKSPF scheme, is having a real impact on the town.

Houghton Regis in Bloom

Plans for the 2025 campaign are already underway!

Approved Release of Developer Contributions

The town council's applications to release £172,000 worth of developer contributions to improve/refurbish the Tithe Farm and Parkside (Lower) play areas have been approved: £75,000 for Tithe Farm and £97,000 for Parkside. Both projects have been completed.



3. Community Services

Community Services

HRTC delivers a variety of community initiatives, including Town Centre Initiatives, Summer and Easter Family Fun Days and trips, promoting the delivery of the Welcome Pack to residents moving into the new development, and partnering with various groups and organisations.

Summer Fun Activities

The staff are currently planning summer fun activities using a format similar to last year's. We aim to deliver six events at various locations in Houghton Regis, featuring activities such as inflatable fun and birds of prey (subject to availability). Additionally, we are organising a Skate Jam and a coach trip to Southend.

Events

The Town Council continues hosting various community events throughout the year, which are free for visitors and residents. The current programme of events is as follows;

8th May 2025 – VE-80 Beacon Lighting
10th May 2025 – Pride of Houghton Awards
24th May 2025 – Dog Show at HHP
8th June 2025 – Classics in the Park
12th July 2025 – Houghton Regis Carnival
23rd July 2025 – Open Air Cinema
24th July 2025 – Skate Jam Event
26th August 2025- Jemima Puddleduck Theatre Event
6th September 2025 – Houghton Rocks

4. Planning

Neighbourhood Plan

We are pleased to announce that the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee will hold its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 20th May 2025.

This committee will begin the important work of monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan, which was officially adopted in May 2024 following overwhelming community support (87.62% of voters).

The meeting will include data supported by Sally Chapman, Houghton Regis Planning Consultant, whose expertise will help guide the committee's initial monitoring efforts.

For those wishing to review the complete Neighbourhood Plan document, please visit: [Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan](#)

This Sub-Committee represents the Town Council's commitment to ensuring the plan's principles and objectives are properly implemented for the benefit of our community.