

Houghton Regis

Partnership Committee

Town Mayor: Cllr M Herber
Town Clerk: Clare Evans

Tel: 01582 708540

24rd July 2025

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: **Y Farrell, M Herber, D Jones, C Slough**

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

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, Deputy Leader & Executive Member Adult Social Care & Health, 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 July 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

<i>THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED *</i>
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AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR (to 7.05pm)

2. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS (to 7.07pm)

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

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

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR (to 7.10pm)**4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes) (to 7.25pm)**

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).

5. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS (to 7.30pm)

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.

6. MINUTES (to 7.35pm)

Pages 6 - 11

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2025.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2025.

7. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION (to 7.40pm)

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 2024/2025, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Jo Anderson – a co-opted member during 2024/2025, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Carole Regan – a co-opted member during 2024/2025, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Roger Turner – a co-opted member during 2024/2025, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Tim Haines - a co-opted member during 2024/2025, confirmed would like to be co-opted again

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.

8. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & TERMS OF REFERENCE (to 7.45pm)

Pages 12 - 14

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

Please note that as requested at the April 2025 Partnership meeting a report on the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Committee has been included in the Committee Workplan (October).

9. CONFIRMATION OF THE SECRETARIAT (to 7.50pm)

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Committee are required to confirm the secretariat for the Partnership Committee for 2025/26.

10. TOWN CENTRE MONITORING & MANAGEMENT (to 8pm)

At the previous Partnership meeting, Members requested an exploration with CBC on their intentions and aspirations for developing a Town Centre Management Plan across all or selected towns within the authority's area.

The background to the request was that previously Houghton Regis had a Town Centre Management Plan, but it was now significantly outdated and required comprehensive review for it to maintain a level of usefulness.

Members are reminded that over the last few years a couple of town centre-based pieces of work have been commissioned:

1. Town Centre Action Plan: [Town Centre Action Plan 2022](#)
This was commissioned in 2021/22; however, it is perceived that the implementation of the recommended actions has been limited to date.
2. Benchmarking Report: The council had commissioned People and Places prior to the pandemic to conduct a benchmarking survey of the town centre. CBC have recently commissioned People and Places to repeat the benchmarking survey and this is currently taking place to facilitate an evaluation of the "new normal" high street economy

As a direct response to the Committee's query over a revised / updated town centre action plan, CBC have confirmed that currently funding and capacity constraints prevent them from supporting a new Town Centre Management Plan at this time.

Members may like to consider receiving the results of the current benchmarking exercise, reflecting back on the Town Centre Action plan and assessing options / next steps in due course.

11. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS (to 8.10pm)

The Committee's workplan include reference to the following community buildings, an update is provided:

HRN 2 Community Building - A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager on the planned community centre in Bidwell.

Bedford Square Community Centre – no further update from that provided at the April 2025 Partnership meeting (see Minutes 1080 for further information)

Parkside community space – the town council considered the request of Parkside Action Group to site a cabin on Parkside recreation ground to serve as a local community space. The following was resolved:

1. To provide permission in principle for Parkside Action Group to site a cabin on Parkside recreation ground to serve as a local community space;
2. To request that Parkside Action Group provide detail on the following matters: planning and building control, legal issues including a lease, safety & technical matters, utilities, operational details and finance.

Red House – the HR Heritage Society have approached the town council with a suggestion on a way forward and this is being considered.

HR Day Centre – A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager, for background information Members are referred to the agenda papers for the CBC Executive meeting held on 3rd June 2025 [Meetings](#)

Townsend Centre – A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager.

12. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (to 8.15pm)

Pages 15 - 16

Members are invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2025/26. Please note that this has been extended to include on the October agenda the following items:

- Sports hall provision
- Review of the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference

At the last meeting it was requested that Health remains on the Workplan; this is confirmed.

There was also some discussion on 'communications' specifically around the need for residents to be able to access timely and accurate information, whether this is through their CBC Ward Cllrs or through publicly accessible CBC communications generally. Members are invited to discuss how this matter could be taken forward.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 29th April 2025**

Present: Town Cllrs: J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones
CBC Cllrs C Alderman (Chair), S Goodchild, T McMahon
Co-opted J Anderson, D Gibbons, T Haines, C Regan, R Turner
members:
CBC S Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, CBC
Officers:
HRTC C Evans, Town Clerk
Officers: A Samuels, Administration Officer

Also in attendance: Cllr R Goodchild, CBC

Apologies: Cllr Hamill and Cllr Slough

Members of the public: 2

1073 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Hamill and Cllr Slough.

1074 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A representative from the Houghton Regis Badminton Club emphasised the need to retain the sports hall facility for residents of Houghton Regis until a new facility was available.

A representative from Luton and Houghton Regis Basketball Club informed Members that Schools+, who managed the sports hall at Houghton School, operated as a commercial business and were not able to adapt their business model to reduce costs. Availability and affordability therefore continued to be significant barriers to access.

Be Active Beds had provided funding for four sessions until early May; however, there would be no sports hall access during the exam period, May - July. The Leisure team were aware of this and would investigate the cost of raising the exam tables and explore the possibility of scheduling a weekly session at Dunstable Leisure Centre.

A handout was distributed to Members which questioned how it could be acceptable for residents of Houghton Regis to be denied the same access and considerations as residents of neighbouring towns? The handout reiterated many of the points raised at a number of meetings over the past fourteen months.

1075 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

1076 MINUTES

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

One amendment was requested to Minute 1065 to alter CBC to ICB.

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

1077 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB) PLACE TEAM

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) Place Team were in attendance to introduce the Town Partnership Committee to the team's roles and responsibilities:

K Conroy, Head of Central Bedfordshire ICB Place Team
S Daly, Senior Integrated Primary Care Manager
S Gutteridge, Head of Integrated Primary Care

The Place Team was part of the ICB operating across Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Place Plan priorities were as follows:

- Reducing excess weight in children and adults
- Earlier diagnosis of cancer
- Positive mental health for children and young people
- Improving mental health services and support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people
- Improving access to primary care, including dentistry
- Improving out of hospital services

The team sought to establish the needs of residents while also focussing on evidence-based criteria. Integrated Neighbourhood Working looked to improve the health outcomes and experience for local residents by connecting and optimising resources.

The Primary Care Core Team looked to improve access into primary care. Over the past year Pharmacy First had been launched, which was a scheme encouraging people to use the services available at their local pharmacy. There had also been efforts to promote the NHS app which would enable residents to take a more proactive approach to their own healthcare.

Members raised a number of questions including the following:

Was it possible to share any examples of preventative interventions that had been implemented using population data for the residents of Houghton Regis, and what results had been shown?

The Team confirmed that a response would be provided at a later date.

How would the needs of a growing community be met with no additional capacity for residents to visit their local GP?

The ICB was connected with Central Beds Council and aware of the proposed growth. Work was carried out with the council to plan future healthcare provision.

A more in-depth response would follow.

What were the top three priorities for HR.

Work was being undertaken with Public Health on population health management data to gather evidence-based information that would inform the plan for each of the neighbourhoods.

Members noted that while preventative health was a significant factor, this did not align with the recent loss of a local sports facility that benefited the whole community.

Was the data collected specific to Houghton Regis or to the whole of Central Bedfordshire?

The work with Public Health would look to provide data relating to each neighbourhood.

Members were keen to establish that data sources would be an adequate indicator of the needs of Houghton Regis. It was highlighted that, out of necessity, residents were often accessing services outside of the area, e.g. GPs; therefore, there was a risk of data being incomplete. The Place Team informed Members that a variety of service providers would be included, and they would take into consideration where people lived; however, this would be checked and verified.

It was requested that the Place Team provide clarity on the data sources and demonstrate how all relevant information would be captured.

1078 UPDATE ON FORMAL SPORTS PROVISION IN HOUGHTON REGIS

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

The representative from Houghton Regis Badminton Club circulated handouts among Members and provided an update.

CBC had stated they were unable to exert any influence on the current agreement between Houghton School and Schools+ since neither party was a CBC asset.

A number of avenues were being pursued, including:

- A petition
- Contacting the local ombudsman
- A legal review
- Crowd funding
- Holding a public meeting

The representative from Luton and Houghton Regis Basketball Club circulated handouts outlining the deficits of current sports hall provision.

A recent survey had highlighted the significant inequalities that persisted across different demographics. The Sports Minister had stressed the need for a cross-

government approach and had called on local authorities to develop local plans to encourage physical activity. The current lack of sports hall provision appeared to be in contravention of Government policy.

As part of the consultation, CBC had stated they would facilitate the CUA for the Houghton Regis community to access Houstone, which had not been honoured. It was discussed whether the Town Partnership could trigger a review of the situation and if there was potential to make a legal challenge. Members remained uncertain whether the CUA had been signed.

Cllr McMahon quoted Condition 19 in the planning application submitted at the DMC which stated that ‘the planning permission for the secondary school within the campus includes a condition for the CUA to be agreed prior to the occupation of the secondary school’. The Chair requested that Cllr McMahon forward this condition.

The Chair confirmed they would enquire:

- Whether the CUA had been signed? If not, what date would it be completed?
- Was it possible to provide a copy of the signed document?
- Had Condition 19 of the planning application been met? If not, could an explanation be provided for the violation of this condition?
- How could a review of the agreement be triggered?

Members suggested that if the CUA was unsigned, it would also be possible to declare the current arrangements unsatisfactory and request that the terms were renegotiated. If the agreement was signed, however, it should be investigated whether the contract between Houstone School and Schools+ worked within the CUA.

Cllr McMahon confirmed they would explore the specifications for the Levelling Up funding for the leisure centre and whether those specifications had been met.

The Chair was organising a meeting for representatives from the Houghton Regis Badminton Club, Houghton Regis Basketball Club and the Academy of Central Bedfordshire to meet with Cllr Watkins of CBC to discuss sports hall provision. The Chair would enquire whether it would be possible for the meeting to be open and allow members of the public to attend.

1079 CBC SUPPORT TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Cllr R Goodchild addressed Members regarding his role as unofficial deputy to the portfolio holder for Town and Parish Liaison, Cllr John Baker, and a secondary position under Cllr Steve Watkins for Town Centre Development. The objective was to help achieve the CBC Strategic Plan and would involve working closely with the Community Engagement Team and meeting with all town councils.

Cllr Goodchild would be looking at how communication could be improved between CBC and the towns and parishes and he was keen to work closely with the Joint and Partnership Committees to this end. Improved collaboration was also sought from residents.

It was intended that a parish charter would be established, setting out how all parties would work together. A working group incorporating volunteers from towns and parishes would be assembled to put the charter together.

It was agreed that a formal discussion would be included on a future Town Partnership agenda to address how best to improve the effectiveness of the Committee.

Members were informed that the first in a proposed schedule of forums had been held recently. The forums, comprising of town and parish councils, would be held regularly with set agendas on strategic matters.

1080 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

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

The charity had received guidance on CBC's expectations of the development. A meeting had taken place to discuss the business plan, which had subsequently been submitted before the deadline. Advice had also been provided in relation to which proposals were acceptable and viable within planning terms.

A verbal update was 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.

CBC's response had stated that the building was dual use and was still required for CBC to meet its statutory requirements to educate young people with SEN. Consultation had been conducted and an executive decision made that there was no rationale or purpose to revisiting the situation.

1081 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2024/25 and the draft workplan for 2025/26.

It was requested that Parkside community space remained on the workplan as an ongoing issue.

It was recommended that the workplan should include an additional item to schedule a formal discussion on means of improving the Town Partnership Committee.

1082 HRTC UPDATE REPORT

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee was an addition to the 2025/26 calendar of meetings. The dates would be confirmed at the Town Council AGM on 14th May 2025.

1083 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

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

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

Co-option

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

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

1084 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.

Members discussed the following items:

- Health
- Delivery (how and when) of the Bidwell West school
- Council communications
- Review and update of the Town Centre Management Plan

The Committee agreed that these matters were more relevant to the Committee Workplan and would be incorporated as such.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.26pm

Dated this 29th day of July 2025

Chairman

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 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 Items Requesting Attention By CBC Sports hall provision Review of the Committee Functions & Terms Of Reference		
27th January 2026	CBC Update report Work Plan Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year Council Budgets		



	Items Requesting Attention By CBC		
28th April 2026	HRTC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC		

Houghton Regis
Partnership Committee

Agenda Item 13

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

Central Bedfordshire Council Update

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of the report: for information

29th July 2025

Contents

Community Safety	3
Public Health	8
Business, Investment, Employment and Skills.....	10
Leisure, Libraries and Countryside	17
Sustainability	21
Highways.....	223
Environmental Services	27
Youth Support Services.....	27
Consultations	30
Upcoming Meetings	301

Community Safety

January 1st – June 30th 2025

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIP TEAM

During this period there were 76 cases open to the Community Safety Operations Team: -

- Dog Barking – 15
 - . Dog Fouling – 2
 - . Dog (other) - 2
 - Fly Tipping – 21
 - . Graffiti - 1
 - Pollution Noise – 29
 - . Pollution Light - 1
 - Pollution Odour – 5
-
- There were 9 cuckooing cases investigated of which 6 are still open.
 - There were 10 weapon sweeps in the area.
 - Safer Neighbourhood Officers spent more than 514 hours patrolling the area.
 - 2 x Youth engagement by Community Safety Officer at Houghton Regis Library.
 - Letter drop/door knock and resident engagement following concerns raised regarding cuckooing.
 - Letter drop/door knock regarding the possible installation of a redeployable camera at the location of the green.
 - Letter drop to 45 properties and 4 residents spoken to regarding possible installation of re-deployable camera at entrance to Collie Place along with Hightown Housing Association.
 - Partnership event led by Communities Safety Officer at Bedford Square and supported by Safer Neighbourhood Officer, Safer Business Officer, Beds Police, Ward Councilors and Town Council Councilors.
 - Letter drop by Community Safety Officer to 30 houses and spoke to 7 residents following a complaint to their local MP about drug dealing and criminal damage in their area.
 - Community Safety Officer attended St Thomas Meeting House to deliver Cuckooing & Home Takeover Awareness Training to Houghton Regis Helpers Group
 - Letter drop by Community Safety Officer and Beds Police following a complaint to their local Councilor about drug dealing in their area.

- Letter drop by Community Safety Officer and CBC Housing following residents' complaints to their local Councilor about fly tipping in their area.
- Letter drop by Community Safety Officer and Beds Police following a report of drug use in their area.
- Letter drop by Community Safety Officer and Beds Police following a report of ASB in their area.
- Pop-up event at Puddlehill Gateway attended by Community Safety Officer and Cllr Goodchild. Gave advise on knife crime awareness and spiking awareness to the residents aged 17-23.
- Partnership event at the Academy of Central Bedfordshire attended by Community Safety Officer.
- Community Event attended by Community Safety Officer led by HR Town Council at Bidwell West Sports Pavillion, and attended by Peabody Housing, Hightown Housing, Bidwell West Community Association, Community Police, Street Watch, a Ward Councilor.
- Community Safety Officer attended a pop-up event at the library led by CBC Housing.
- Community Safety Officer attended a pop-up event at Bedford Square and visited the local businesses.

PCNs

Houghton Regis Partnership Report 2024/2025	PCN's issued	Visits conducted
April	15	28
May	12	17
June	18	37
July	17	54
August	14	43
September	14	34
October	5	30
November	18	42
December	18	31
January	41	97
February	40	85
March	12	58
Total	206	556

Houghton Regis Partnership Report 2025	PCN's issued	Visits conducted
April	17	58
May	38	80
June	32	93
Total	87	231

Row Labels	Road markings and lining	Signs	Request Parking Restrictions	Grand Total
closed	6	2		8
confirmed			1	1
internal referral		5		5
investigating	4	6		10
unable to fix	3			3
Grand Total	13	13	1	27

CCTV Report

1st June to 30th June 2025

Houghton Regis

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
01/06/2025	23:00	Linmere	Walk Order and Breaches
03/06/2025	13:14	Bedford Road	Road Traffic Collision
03/06/2025	19:05	Leaf Road	Arson
06/06/2025	12:13	Houghton Road	Road Traffic Collision
12/06/2025	00:58	Houghton Road	Concern For Safety
13/06/2025	19:06	Hillborough Crescent	Missing Persons
14/06/2025	17:03	Tithe Farm	Road Shoplifting
15/06/2025	15:57	Bedford Road	Shoplifting
20/06/2025	07:25	Chalk Hill	Assault
21/06/2025	19:44	Neptune Square	Criminal Damage
24/06/2025	18:40	Tithe Farm Road	Medical Incident
29/06/2025	19:39	Linmere Walk	Road Traffic Collision
29/06/2025	19:38	Tithe Farm Road	Intelligence

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 continues to offer face-to-face delivery for those clients who need it. Extended treatment programmes are available to some residents who would need them or 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 some GP Surgeries continues.

The latest performance data shows that, at Quarter 3 2024/25, 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 34 clients set a quit date. This has so far led to only 5 validated 4-week quits, plus a further 27 referrals into the CBC specialist service for the period.

The Stop Smoking Service is now part of our new integrated behaviour change service, Choose You. It continues delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, for residents.

There is a range of stop smoking aids and products available for residents wanting to stop smoking, including nicotine replacement therapies. The Service is now also able to provide e-cigarettes as an aid to quitting smoking. This means that re-usable 'vape' kits are available to adult residents who currently smoke tobacco products, and who want to quit. This e-cigarette offer is a short-term intervention to support stop smoking attempts only and is not intended to promote or encourage the continued or indefinite use of e-cigarettes; part of this programme focuses on how to stop vaping. E-cigarettes are not available to current non-smokers. We are part of the national 'swap to stop' scheme which opportunistically offers residents an electronic cigarette as an alternative to smoking, without them having to be referred into the service.

A recent additional option for smokers is to attend a 1-day quit seminar, delivered by Allen Carr's Easyway. As with all our support to quit smoking, this is free for Central Bedfordshire residents.

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

Call one of our advisors free on: 0800 013 0553

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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

Weight Management

As part of Choose You Service residents CBC Public Health now offers a range of weight management programmes, for adults or for families, either virtually or in-person. These incorporate elements of motivational interviewing. Choose You also provides those with the greatest need the opportunity for 1-to-1 health coaching sessions to explore the barriers that residents face in changing their behaviour and supporting positive change.

For more details about accessing Choose You, go to our new website: www.chooseyou.co.uk

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 were under target for Health Checks delivered at the end of the latest full reporting period, April-March 2024/25. 1,422 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 1,506 for the period (so 94.4% of annual target). Overall, they invited 3,822 patients for a Health Check (target 4,934) so performed at 77.5% Of the annual target for that indicator.

The 3 local Titan Practices are performing as follows:

- Houghton Regis Medical Centre at 94.0% of annual target for Health Checks delivered (204 against a target of 217 but only 49.3% offered (336 out of 682 target).
- Toddington Medical Centre performed at 127% for Health Checks delivered (155 against a target of 122) and 334.5% for offered (1,482 against 443 target).
- Wheatfield Surgery delivered 210 Health Checks from a target of 219 for the period (95.9%) and offered 407 (from a target of 685) at a rate of 59.4% 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; all 3 practices remain at '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.

Business, Investment, Employment and Skills

The second round of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) business support programme has just launched. The Business & Investment Team will be working with local partners to support businesses who can apply for the following support:

- Business Innovation ([University of Bedfordshire](#))
- Business Entrepreneurship & Start Up ([Wenta](#))
- Business Scale-up and Resilience ([Cranfield University](#))
- Export support ([Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce](#))
- Business Decarbonisation ([Cranfield University](#))

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

This report covers the 6 month period 1st January to 30th June 2025. Dunstable and Houghton Regis have seen a higher number of enquiries in Qtr 1 (15 enqs; 39% of all CBC enqs) compared to Qtr 2 (11 enqs; 27.5% of all CBC enqs). Both quarters saw a decrease on the proportion of start-up enquiries in comparison to the previous 6-month period (35% vs 60%). The proportion of enquiries from local businesses was slightly up on the previous 6-month period (29% vs 25%). However, a significant increase was seen in the proportion of non-central Bedfordshire business enquiries for the same period (41% vs 15%). 14 enquiries required industrial units, 2 of which were for units between 5,000-10,000 sq ft, the largest requirement for this reporting period.

Property Enquiries

26

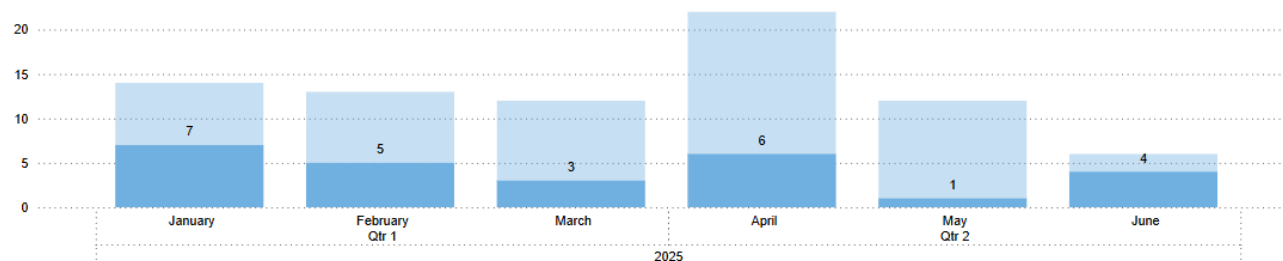
Leasehold Enquiries

19

Freehold Enquiries

7

Property Enquiries

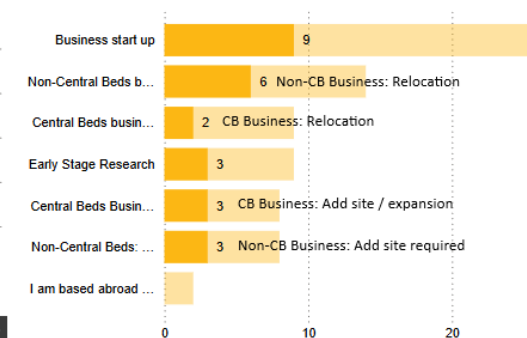


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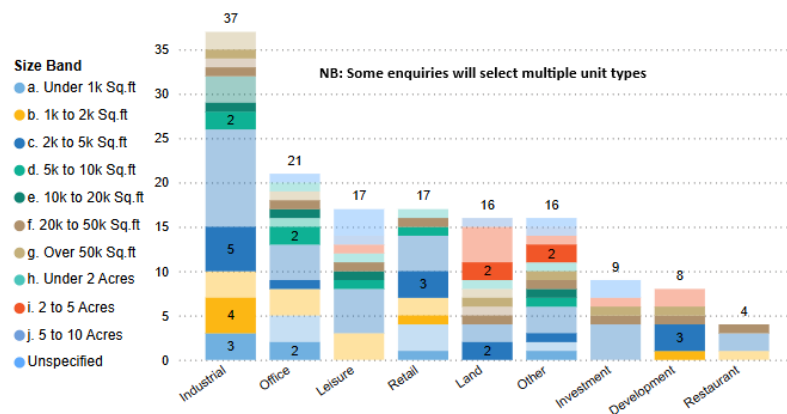
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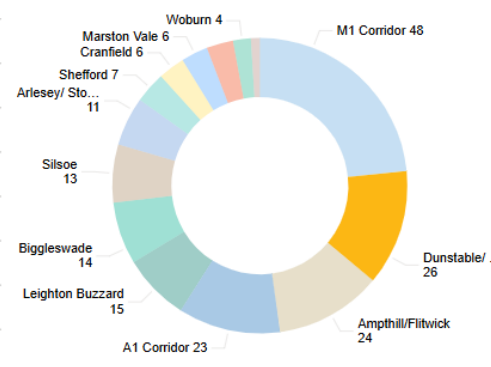
Property Enquiries by Reason



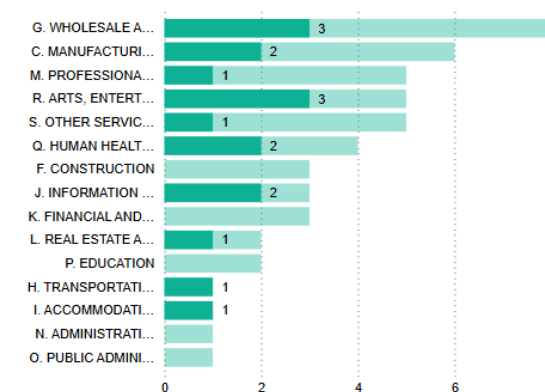
Property Enquiries



Location Groups



Property Enquiries by Sector



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.

New suite of videos to discover what BESA is about!

To help residents learn all about how BESA can support them, BESA commissioned some promotional videos. [See the full suite of videos on YouTube.](#)

Welcoming the new Academic Year in August

BESA is excited to share the new offer for residents and businesses.

- English and Maths courses and qualifications
- ESOL qualifications
- Early Years and Childcare Residential
- Support Work in Schools and SENCo
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Skills
- Construction and Retrofitting
- Employability and Volunteering
- Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (customer service, warehousing, security, civil service)
- [L2 qualifications](#) for CPD in many areas (no relevant role required)
- Apprenticeships (Early Years, Teaching Assistant, Business Admin)

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.

Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, May 2024 to May 2025

	May 2024	Aug 2024	Nov 2024	Feb 2025	May 2025
Town	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant
Ampthill	6.5	5.2	4.1	6.0	7.0
Arlesey	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Biggleswade	3.2	4.5	4.5	6.4	8.3
Dunstable	14.3	15.0	15.9	15.0	15.0
Flitwick	4.7	4.7	4.4	6.5	6.5
Houghton Regis	6.3	6.3	9.4	9.4	9.4
Leighton Buzzard	6.8	7.6	7.2	8.0	7.6

Potton	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Sandy	8.8	7.4	7.2	7.1	4.3
Shefford	6.8	9.3	7.0	7.0	7.0
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall vacancy rate	8.1 %	8.6 %	8.4 %	9.0%	9.1%

In May 2024 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 8.1%. There were a total of 977 units of which 79 were vacant. One year later, in May 2025, the vacancy rate increased to 9.1%. with a total of 989 units and 90 vacancies. During this time, the vacancy rates for Ampthill, Arlesey, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Shefford and Stotfold remain relatively the same, Potton and Sandy have decreased and the rates for the other towns have increased.

Place Delivery

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-2025 concluded in March 2025 achieving all objectives and spending targets. Government has provided an additional year's funding for 2025-26 while the replacement funding programme is arranged. This year Central Bedfordshire Council has received £1.2M of UK Shared Prosperity Fund and £318k of Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Houghton Regis UKSPF projects 2024-25

Houghton Regis Town Council received £91k of capital funds to invest in the town centre. This has resulted in a transformation of the roads leading into the High Street with a series of beautiful flower arrangements in hanging baskets and planters.

Large planters have been installed on the wide footpath outside All Saints View to improve the appearance of the road and to discourage parking on the pavement.





A further £30k of revenue was allocated for cultural activity which has funded the film project Houghton Regis: 12,000 years in the making, supported seasonal events delivering electrical improvements and the replacement of Christmas lights in the town centre.





UKSPF Community Grants

Houghton Regis Baptist Church were successful applicants to the Community Grants programme in 2024-25 and received £36,600 towards new windows and fire doors to improve the safety and energy efficiency of the church and community rooms.

The UKSPF/REPF Community Grants are running again in 2025-26 and currently open to applications until 10am on 25th July 2025.

Leisure, Libraries and Countryside

HOUGHTON REGIS LEISURE & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Customer usage of the new leisure centre is continuing to grow at a good pace; the first month of operating saw a large increase of footfall from 15,000 to 25,000. With the summer now here the leisure centre is hoping to see the numbers grow and more residents coming to enjoy the great facilities.

April 2025	25033
May 2025	23098

Swimming Lessons

May 2025	Everyone Active Swimming Lessons	945
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Ongoing training and recruitment for new swim teachers is still at the forefront for Everyone Active (EA) to help the swim programme grow. New Teachers have come on board to continue to support its growth. EA have trained 10 new Level 1 instructors and are now putting 4 of those onto their level 2 course over the summer.

Fitness

May 2024 Fitness members	1477
May 2025 Fitness members	2151

EA has recruited further to the fitness team which will bring an emphasis on member retention and increased customer service for members. EA is continuing recruitment of new group exercise instructors to meet the increasing demand, and fitness member numbers are steadily increasing. Additions to the centre such as hydro beds and trained staff to deliver the new *You+* programme, will support users look at all aspects of their health and wellbeing.

Community involvement:

- The leisure centre team will be attending the Houghton Regis carnival on the 13th July. The EA team will be bringing fun games and challenges, with raffle prizes.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TEAM

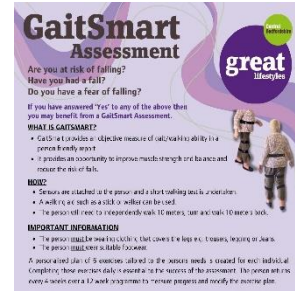
Active Lifestyles Referral Scheme: Our GP referral programme is continuing to run throughout Central Bedfordshire supporting residents at risk or living with long term health conditions. For more information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/active-lifestyles. We work in partnership with a number of organisations, to provide the residents with opportunities to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Cardiac Rehab: Cardiac rehab is for people who have suffered a heart attack or undergone heart surgery. The programme takes place at Houghton Regis Leisure and Community Centre and follows the hospital based Phase III Cardiac Rehabilitation programme. The classes focus on the long term maintenance of physical activity and lifestyle change. Referrals must follow the referral pathway and be referred by a GP or through the phase III Cardiac rehabilitation scheme by a specialist. For more information please email: activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Falls Prevention – Strength and Balance Referral Programme: Our Falls Prevention Strength & Balance referral programme is running at all leisure facilities including Houghton Regis Leisure and Community 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. For more information please email: activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



GaitSmart provides an opportunity to improve muscle strength and balance and reduce the risk of falls. Sensors are attached to the person and a short walking test is undertaken. A report is produced showing several measures of gait which are combined with an overall score. A personalised plan of six exercises most relevant to the gait deficits are recommended from the assessment. The exercises are tailored to the persons needs. For more information about GaitSmart or to find out where assessments are currently taking place, please email active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



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 Community and Leisure Centre.



Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel

Community Physical Activity Programme: Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football and Netball, outdoor bootcamp. Most of the activities are FREE. Outdoor bootcamp is available on Monday evenings at Moore Crescent Recreation Ground in Houghton Regis. Residents must book using the link provided: www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles



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Calm & Connect: Family Sessions -Take a walk on the wild side with fun sensory activities for the whole family! Experience how time in nature can boost wellbeing for all ages, and leave with ideas you can use at home.

Calm & Connect: Adult sessions - Research shows that these calming outdoor experiences can give us a mental and physical boost, and you'll leave our friendly sessions with ideas of how to start bringing more nature into your day-to-day life while being gently active.

During these FREE sessions there will be a gentle stroll through the beautiful local parks and, you will have the opportunity to explore how you can use all our senses to connect with the natural world. Sessions are available at Houghton Hall Park through the summer. For more information, please contact active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Children and Families – Active Lifestyles: The team are now offering an Active Families Referral Programme for families with children under 5 years old. It comprises a FREE 6 to 12 week programme to help lead a healthier, happier, active lifestyle.

To register your interest e-mail:

active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



HOUGHTON REGIS LIBRARY

Over the last six months Houghton Regis library has been kept busy with events and activities, and we are getting ready for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge with this year's theme being Story Garden. We have lots of plant and insect themed crafts for the children over the summer as we host a different craft each weekday for the children to enjoy alongside the books free of charge. We have hosted 8 work experience students from All saints and Chalk hill, these students spent the week with us in the library learning about how it all works and life in a work setting, we have also been recruiting for young volunteers for the summer holidays and we have 6 young people returning from last year and currently 4 new young volunteers.

Full House Theatre

Full House Theatre are a touring theatre company with a focus for children's productions, they have been hosting a monthly toddler group held within the library with themes such as under

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the sea, Dinosaurs and the hungry caterpillar. This group is very popular and is often fully booked.

Council Events

The library has hosted various events for both Central Bedfordshire Council, as well as Houghton Regis Town Council.

- CBC's Housing Team continued to host their monthly drop-in housing hubs at the library, this has become a popular monthly event with residents having the opportunity to voice their concerns or queries in regard to housing, and to receive advice.
- Central Bedfordshire's Councillors also continue their help and advice surgeries at the library, these are hosted on the last Saturday of the month. If there are any local issues or problems that they feel they would need face to face advice in a relaxed and safe environment.

Adult crafts

The library has been hosting monthly Adult craft sessions for local residents, we have so far hosted quilling, plant pot painting and decoupage. The library would like to increase its adult events with a monthly book club.

School visits

Local schools have been visiting the library over the course of the year, these have been for learning about how the library works and to enjoy the space and the books, as well as informing them about the Summer Reading Challenge. We have welcomed entire year groups and specific classes.

Regular events

- Tuesday's coffee morning has now been cancelled, this is due to low numbers and increased interest in meeting room bookings, we will look into starting up a new coffee group in the autumn
- Rhyme and story time is still hosted on Wednesday mornings during term time, a perfect chance for children to learn words, numbers and songs all while in a safe social setting, this is a great opportunity for parents and children to make new friends
- Lego club continues Wednesday afternoon, it's a very popular time in the library with lots of after school visitors to use the Lego blocks or Duplo to explore and expand their creativity
- Knit, Natter & More remains a really popular group, this club is perfect for when you want to work on your home based craft project within a social setting among like-minded people
- Paws to read is ongoing on Thursday afternoons with library volunteer Caroline and her therapy dog Tasha. Tasha listens to 3 children each week and helps with social skills alongside improving reading skills and confidence. This volunteering post will sadly be coming to an end in August, we are hopeful for a new therapy dog volunteer.
- Lego coding club is still going strong with a core group of 6 children who are led by volunteer Ian. This is a great experience for children aged 8 and above with an interest

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in coding and or computers to see how code they write can be brought to life via Lego, we will be hosting 2 drop in afternoons over the summer to find new children to join the club come September

- Dough club has been running monthly with a growing number of users. The dough is made fresh for the session and there are plenty of toys and tools for the children to use to shape their own fun.
- Board games club hosted Friday after school is very popular with most weeks' numbers reaching over 20 children visiting over the hour and half it runs, we have a wide range of games for the families to enjoy

Pride of Houghton 2025, we are very pleased to announce that for a second year Volunteer Steve Ball was awarded Mayor's Choice Award. Steve is a massive help within the library, hosting knit & natter and helping out with craft making for the children. Steve has volunteered with the library for a number of years and is always willing to help out as and when he can.



Knit & Natter group knitted over 60 hats to donate to the Luton and Dunstable hospital for the baby and NICU ward, Donna Pratt from the fundraising department visited the group and spoke with them about how important donations to the ward are, the group is now working on blankets for the over 60 ward.

Sustainability

Eco Schools support

We are very pleased that both Hadrian Academy and Houghton Regis Primary have registered to be part of the Eco Schools program for this year. We continue to offer support to schools through teacher forums, advice and outreach workshops to ensure that schools achieve their Green Flag Award. [Home - Eco Schools](#)

Upcoming Eco Forums; **Energy topic** Tuesday 1st July 4.15pm to 5.45pm, online. Reducing your school's energy bills and carbon footprint while supporting your Carbon Action Plan.

Carbon Action Planning repeat workshop Wednesday 17th September 4.15pm to 5.45pm at Arnold Academy Barton Le Cley.

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If your local school is interested to become an Eco School from September and would like to find out more about how the sustainability Team can help , please email begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Free Carbon Literacy training

Town, Parish Councils and Community groups can receive free Carbon Literacy training. To be able to deliver requests for training, we require a venue and a minimum of 8 participants per course.

The course, developed by the Carbon Literacy Project, will raise your awareness and equip you with the insights you need to meet the challenge we face in combatting and adapting to climate change. This Carbon Literacy training will provide support and information which will help in making a meaningful contribution.

Learning Outcomes - by the end of the training you will have:

- *Gained an understanding of the **basic science of climate change** and how climate change will affect us both **globally** and **locally***
- *Gained an understanding of how you, as a community member and leader, can mobilise change*
- *Explored the **low carbon objectives** in local communities*
- *Created an **action plan** to help reduce the **carbon footprint** of your local community*
- *Explored strategies for **influencing others** to take action on climate change*

The training will be facilitated by fully trained members of Central Bedfordshire Council's Sustainability Team. This highly interactive training includes a mixture of presentations, video conferencing, group work, games, quizzes and video. There will be a pre course requirement to watch an online documentary prior to the learning event. Participants will be expected to complete a post course self-assessment in order to receive the certified Carbon Literacy certificate.

The course is either delivered through a full day or two half days. Of which both parts must be attended.

Please contact the sustainability team with any queries or to register interest:
begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Free Tree and hedge planting workshop

This workshop is for Town, Parish Councils, Schools and those with public access land interested in tree and hedgerow planting.

Ickwell Nature Reserve and Field Studies Centre by kind permission of Bedford School. Wednesday September 24th 4.15pm to 5.45pm.

This workshop will look at;

- How to apply for the small tree planting grant through Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Practical and theory of tree and hedge planting.

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- How to care for and manage your new trees and hedgerow.
- If you are an education setting, how tree planting can support your Eco Schools application and Carbon Action Plan.

Places are limited on this workshop and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. To register your interest please email begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

New sustainability programme for Year 10 to 12 students

We have launched the Sustainable Student Programme – a new, free pilot project for Year 10–12 students (aged 14 to 17) passionate about the environment.

Through expert-led workshops, group sessions, and a personal sustainability project, students will:

- ✓ Build climate literacy and green skills
- ✓ Attend sessions led by local universities and environmental organisations
- ✓ Join or lead their school's Eco-Schools council
- ✓ Boost their CVs, apprenticeship, or university applications
- ✓ Connect with like-minded students across the region
- 📅 Programme runs November to June
- 📍 Open to all Year 10–12 students in Central Bedfordshire

Partner organisations include the University of Bedfordshire, Cranfield University, Shuttleworth College, Greensand Trust, and Whipsnade Zoo.

Students will also be supported to register for [Eco Schools](#), helping their schools take steps toward a greener future.

Applications open: 1 September 2025. Students will need to complete a short application form, provide a teacher reference and parental consent.

[Tell me more](#)

Solar Together Bedfordshire

The council partnered with Luton Borough Council and Bedford Borough Council to participate in the Solar Together scheme under the banner Solar Together Bedfordshire for the third time. This scheme is operated by iChoosr, who has many years of experience running Solar Together in many local authority areas across the country. It is a group-buying scheme, which brings households together to get a high-quality solar panel system and battery storage at a competitive price. Households who already have solar panels installed can also register to have battery storage added to the existing solar panels to maximise the benefits of home generation. There will also be an opportunity to install an EV (Electric Vehicle) charging point alongside an installation of solar panels or battery storage.

While Solar Together is geared towards households it is possible for community projects and businesses to participate in the scheme as well. Registrants must be the owner of the roof on which they want to install a solar PV system or have the explicit approval of the owner to participate. Community Projects and small businesses can register for maximum of 25 panels.

The previous two scheme's rounds took place in 2022 and 2023 and attracted a lot of interest from residents and saw just under 470 homes in the Central Bedfordshire area instal Solar PV systems and 460 battery storage which resulted in reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by over 400 tones.

More information on the scheme can be found on the [Solar Together](#) website. The scheme is open for [registration](#) until 11th July 2025.

Our advice on buying solar panels and battery storage, and planning permission requirements can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the sustainability team
BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Highways

July 2025

Repairs in Houghton Regis – January 2025 – July 2025

The below table shows the number of reactive maintenance repairs carried out in Leighton Buzzard between 1st January – 7th July 2025.

Defect Repaired	Total Number
Potholes	83
Street Light Repair	131

Bollards and signs	11
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Capital Works Programme 2025 / 26

Our Highways Team is dedicated to maintaining and improving the road network in Central Bedfordshire. We manage over 1,400 kilometres of roads, 220 bridges, and other essential infrastructure to keep the region's roads safe, efficient, and functional for all users.

Our Capital Programme focuses on large-scale, data-driven projects, from major repairs to new road safety initiatives. We also continue to carry out reactive repairs, emergency work, and smaller improvements to ensure roads remain in good condition throughout the year.

We've transitioned to a more strategic Capital Programme that's guided by data. Using an asset management approach, we collect and analyse information on the condition of our roads and infrastructure. This helps us make informed decisions on where to focus our efforts, ensuring we prioritise the most important repairs and improvements. By doing this, we can make the best use of our resources, rather than relying on anecdotal feedback. This way, we're able to schedule and carry out the work that will have the biggest impact.

You can search for schemes in your area by visiting -

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/353/highways_capital_programme

Fix My Street

We are continuing to make improvements to our Fix My Street reporting system, with the most recent upgrades including:

- A new mapping layer to include new assets and newly adopted roads
- ROW integration – the Rights of Way layer is now on Fix My Street
- The automated responses have been reviewed and amended to provide more clarity and information.

If you see an issue on the network please make a report by visiting -

<https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

Roundabout Sponsorship opportunities for businesses

With a population of 250,000 and over 75 roundabouts, Central Bedfordshire's Roundabout Sponsorship scheme offers a unique opportunity to boost your business visibility in the heart of the community.

- Cost-effective marketing: A smart alternative to traditional advertising like billboards or radio.
- High daily exposure: Your brand seen by thousands of drivers every day.

- Local reach: Target people where they live, work, and travel.
- Flexible options: Choose from high-traffic roundabouts on major roads or well-used local routes.
- Trusted by businesses: Join those already benefiting from increased local presence.

Learn more about available locations and how your business can get involved today.

Educating Young Drivers

Our Road Safety Team has been working to help young people become safer, more confident road users—whether they’re walking to school, travelling as passengers, or preparing to drive.

Virtual reality road safety experiences

We’re using VR headsets in schools to immerse young people in realistic road safety scenarios. These sessions help them understand the dangers of distractions, speeding, and not wearing seatbelts—all in a safe, interactive environment.

Free young driver training

We offer free young driver courses to help learners build essential skills before they even get their provisional licence. These sessions cover hazard awareness, responsible driving habits, and more. To book visit: roadsafety.education@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

SEND More Course – Inclusive Road Safety Education

Our SEND More course is designed specifically for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It offers tailored, accessible road safety training that builds confidence and understanding in a supportive environment. We believe road safety education should be inclusive for all. To book visit: roadsafety.education@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Guided road safety walks and school talks

We’re delivering guided walks and interactive talks in schools, helping students learn how to stay safe on foot—covering safe crossing points, road signs, bus safety, and more.

Freshers’ Fairs and young driver outreach

We’re attending the freshers’ fairs at Bedfordshire University and colleges to connect with new drivers and students, raising awareness about seatbelt use, safe driving, and the importance of staying alert behind the wheel.

Highways Consultations

- TRO-012 Windsor Drive, Houghton Regis – Cycle Crossing
- TRO-023 Frogmore Road, Houghton Regis – Disabled Parking Bay

Environmental Services

Waste Management
Waste Collections
Waste collections have continued as normal with the exception of a small amount of incomplete dry recycling collections following a fire at the dry recycling delivery site. All collections not completed on normal collection days were resolved the following day.
Litter Bins
No new litter bins or repairs during this period

Environmental Management
Fly Tips and Street Cleansing
No fly tipping reported in Houghton Regis over this period
Grounds Maintenance
We are currently on cut 4 for grass, shrubs and hedges and weed spray application 2 is now in progress
Abandoned Vehicles
Total abandoned vehicles during period 1 st April to 30 th June 2025 was 35, however none of these were collected as the vehicles were either moved or claimed by registered keepers.

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 Drive²⁰ 	All above roads are patrolled once per week, with the exception of Hillbrough Crescent, Bedford Road and Redhouse Court which are patrolled twice per week.

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 destination types as at the end of June 2025.

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area					
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive (EET) destinations		NEET destinations	
16year olds / Year 12	3776	3658	(96.9%)	98	(2.6%)
17year olds / Year 13	3437	3282	(95.5%)	116	(3.4%)
Combined cohort	7213	6940	(96.2%)	214	(3.0%)

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 at the end of June 2025.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Total YPs in area	1027		650		1129	
EET	999	(97.3%)	627	(96.5%)	1088	(96.4%)
NEET	25	(2.4%)	22	(3.4%)	39	(3.5%)
Unknown/Refused	3	(0.3%)	1	(0.2%)	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
Houghton Regis East	365	15	4.1%
Houghton Regis West	285	7	2.5%

Total	650	22	3.4%
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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	1	Less than 3 months	4	Male	7
17 years old	10	3 - 6 months	8	Female	15
18 years old	11	6+ months	10	Not Recorded	0

Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	15	(68.2%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	7	(31.8%)

The Youth Support Service will offer support to 16-18 years olds who are NEET (*up to 25 if they have an EHCP or care leaver*). Referrals can be made by emailing youth.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Engagement

Town and Parish Council engagement

The team are working with the Leader to continue the schedule for in person engagement events with town and parish councils. The most recent in person sessions was held on 15th July and provided town and parish council representatives with an update on the Local Plan and also the draft Local Nature Recovery strategy

The next in person session will be held on the 19th November at Priory House , Chicksands and likely to focus on 'Environment'

We are continuing to offer virtual topic sessions, date and time for the next session will be confirmed soon.

The team continue to send a monthly bulletin to all T/PC Chairs and clerks. The expectation is that this is shared with all T/PC Cllrs.

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VCS Engagement

The team are working with the Leader and Deputy Leader to establish a Central Bedfordshire VCS Network. The first meeting took place on 3rd June at Priory House and provides a platform for the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector to:

- Strengthen partnerships and opportunities for collaboration
- Share and gather insight and experiences
- Consider key thematic and priorities
- Advocate for their importance and the critical services they provide to the local population and
- Inspire stronger communities & volunteering

4 workshops were held to reflect on the presentations received, discuss resourcing issues, opportunities for collaboration and importantly what delegates want from the Network going forward. The next Network session is planned for 24th November when hopefully it will be possible to involve a range of CBC colleagues to meet and connect with VCS representatives. We have prepared an action plan and 'tracker' to keep track of progress on the key actions raised

The team are currently supporting several Consultations listed below with community engagement activity helping people to understand proposals and engage in the consultation.

Additional requested updates

Townsend Centre.

The Executive will consider the future of the Townsend Centre at its meeting on 5th August.

Consultations

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

Current consultations and surveys [View our current consultations | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Town Centre benchmarking surveys	National benchmarking surveys for UKSPF carried out by People and Places Insight	May 2025	Tbc	Beverley Gaynor 0300 300 5111
Licensing Policy	Consultation on the updated Licensing Policy for 2025-2030	7 July 2025	31 Aug 2025	Nicola O'Donnell 0300 300 4091

Community Governance Review stage 1	First stage of consultation for the Community Governance Review, seeking feedback on what works well and what could be improved in order to shape recommendations for stage 2	7 July 2025	1 Sept 2025	Brian Dunleavy 0300 300 4049
SEND Strategy 2025-2028	Consultation on the draft SEND strategy for 2025-2028	10 July 2025	1 Oct 2025	Dan Newbolt 0300 300 4014
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Consultation on the draft LNRS following engagement activity	2 July 2025	7 Sept 2025	Richard James
Draft Air Quality Action Plan for Sandy for 2025 to 2030.	Consultation on the draft Air Quality Action Plan for Sandy for 2025 to 2030.	17 July 2025	12 August 2025	



Upcoming consultations and surveys				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Contacting Housing Services survey	Survey to tenants, to understand how they currently contact the council, and their preferences around contact.	Tbc	Tbc	Charlotte Gurney 0300 300 5345

Upcoming Meetings

August

Committee Meeting	Date	Time
Executive	05 August 2025	09:30 AM
Corporate Parenting Board	07 August 2025	02:00 PM
Development Management Committee	27 August 2025	09:30 AM
General Purposes	28 August 2025	09:00 AM

September

Committee Meeting	Date	Time
Corporate Resources OSC	02 September 2025	06:30 PM
Licensing Committee	03 September 2025	10:00 AM

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Sustainable Communities OSC	04 September 2025	09:30 AM
Leighton Linlade Partnership Committee	04 September 2025	7:30pm
Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	08 September 2025	09:30 AM
Children's Services OSC	09 September 2025	09:30 AM
Police and Crime Advisory Panel	10 September 2025	06:30 PM
Audit	18 September 2025	10:00 AM
Dunstable Joint Committee	18 September 2025	07:00 PM
Schools Forum	22 September 2025	03:00 PM
Development Management Committee	24 September 2025	09:30 AM
Full Council	25 September 2025	06:30 PM
Traffic Management	30 September 2025	06:30 PM

To view further meeting dates, please visit our website.

Appendix 1



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL

A CYCLE ZEBRA CROSSING ON WINDSOR DRIVE, HOUGHTON REGIS

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, proposes to establish a Cycle Zebra Crossing on Windsor Drive, Houghton Regis. This proposal is part of a scheme to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities in accord with the adopted [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Dunstable and Houghton Regis](#).

A Cycle Zebra Crossing is proposed to be sited at the following location in Houghton Regis:-

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Windsor Drive, centred at a point approximately 20 metres north of the centre line of the junction with Longbrooke.

Details of this notice may also be viewed at
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

Comments should be sent by e-mail to highways.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 26 February 2025 Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made **and must quote unique reference number TRO-012**. If you want to send in your comments in writing please send them to the address shown below FAO Emma Hirst.

Please note that any comments received will be redacted of personal information and uploaded onto the Central Bedfordshire Council website as part of a report on the scheme a few days before the proposal is discussed at the relevant Traffic Management Meeting, where it will remain in the public domain. If you do not wish for your comments to be part of the report please state this explicitly within your response.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Gary Powell
Assistant Director, Highways

5 February 2025

Appendix 2

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE DISABLED PARKING BAY ON FROGMORE ROAD, HOUGHTON REGIS

Reason for proposal: The disabled parking space would provide dedicated places for blue badge holders to park.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce Parking for Disabled badge holders only on the following lengths of road in Houghton Regis:-

1. Frogmore Road, northern spur, located in the parking bay north of No.23 to No.31
Frogmore Road, Disabled Parking Bay to be positioned from the east corner, extending 3.6 metres west, and 5 metres south.

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Please see plan for clarification.

Details may also be viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

Comments should be sent by e-mail to highways.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 26 March 2025. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made **and must quote unique reference number TRO-023**. If you want to send in your comments in writing please send them to the address shown below FAO Emily Hirst.

Please note that any comments received will be redacted of personal information and uploaded onto the Central Bedfordshire Council website as part of a report on the scheme a few days before the proposal is discussed at the relevant Traffic Management Meeting, where it will remain in the public domain. If you do not wish for your comments to be part of the report please state this explicitly within your response.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Bedfordshire County Council (District of South Bedfordshire) (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008) (Variation No.*) Order 202*"

Central Bedfordshire Council

Priory House, Chicksands

Shefford SG17 5TQ

5 March 2025

Gary Powell

Assistant Director

Highways

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