



# HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Town Mayor: **Cllr M Herber**  
Town Clerk: **Clare Evans**

Tel: 01582 708540  
e-mail: [info@houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**To: Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee**

**Cllrs: Membership for the 2026/27 municipal year – subject to confirmation at AGM**

Copies to all Councillors for information

**Co-Optee:** Lorna Morison

## Notice of Meeting

You are hereby summoned to a Meeting of the **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee** to be held at the Council Offices, Peel Street on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm.**

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](#)

***THIS MEETING MAY  
BE RECORDED \****

**Clare Evans**  
**Town Clerk**

## Agenda

### 1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

Members are invited to elect a Neighbourhood Implementation Sub-Committee Chair for 2026/2027.

### 2. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR

*\*This meeting may be filmed by the Council for subsequent broadcast online and can be viewed at <http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/minutes>*

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

*No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session.*

Members are invited to elect a Neighbourhood Implementation Sub-Committee Vice-Chair for 2026/2027.

### 3. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

### 4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with approved Standing Orders 1(e) – 1(l), members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.

The total period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 15 minutes and an individual member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

### 5. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

### 7. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

*Page 7*

In accordance with Standing Order 4, j.v., the council is required to review its delegation arrangements to committees and sub committees.

These arrangements are set out in the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference. This document sets out the system of delegation to the Committees, Sub Committees and Working Groups of the Council.

Members will find attached the extract from the draft Committee Functions & Terms of Reference which relates to this committee.

Members are advised that, at the time of publication of this agenda, the Terms of Reference remained in draft form and had not been formally adopted. It is anticipated that they will have been approved prior to this meeting.

This report is provided for information.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

*Pages 8 - 19*

Members are reminded that the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted in May 2024, following community consultation and examination.

In line with the Council's objectives to ensure active delivery and continued relevance of the Plan, the agreed approach to monitoring and implementation is now being delivered through the support of the Town Council's Planning Consultant.

Members will find attached a monitoring report summarising planning applications considered during the period of and how the Neighbourhood Plan has been applied.

This arrangement strengthens the consistency of planning responses, ensures the effective application of Neighbourhood Plan policies, and supports informed decision-making by Members.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. To reaffirm the Council's commitment to a structured approach to planning application responses, ensuring that proposals are clearly assessed against relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies.**
  - 2. To agree that all planning responses will, where appropriate, explicitly reference relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies, supported by professional advice.**
  - 3. To endorse the continued engagement of the Council's Planning Consultant (Sally Chapman) to:**
    - advise Members on planning applications and policy interpretation;**
    - support consistent and effective application of the Neighbourhood Plan;**
    - assist with monitoring, reporting and future review of the Plan.**

**0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0**

**HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors: J Carroll Chairman  
E Cooper  
M Herber  
D Jones  
T McMahon Substitute

Officers: Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services  
Amanda Samuels Administration Officer

Co-optees: L Morison

Also present: S Chapman Chapman Planning

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: C Slough

**NPISC09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr Slough (Cllr McMahon substituted).

**NPISC10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**NPISC11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**NPISC12 MINUTES**

To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**NPISC13 CO-OPTION**

Members were requested to consider an application from Lorna Morison to be co-opted onto the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

Members expressed disappointment at the receipt of a single application; however, they recognised that GDPR regulations had made it harder to disseminate information. Members agreed that efforts would be made to encourage engagement via personal contacts.

**Resolved: To Co-opt Lorna Morison on to the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee.**

#### **NPISC14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Recent planning applications had been reviewed by Houghton Regis Town Council's Planning Consultant, Sally Chapman, to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan had been appropriately taken into account by Central Bedfordshire Council during the decision-making process.

Members received a summary report covering June to October 2025, outlining current implementation work, feedback arrangements, and proposed next steps.

It was noted that although reference to the Neighbourhood Plan had increased within officer reports, some officers were either unaware that a current plan existed or continued to rely on an outdated version. The planning consultant confirmed that she would make an informal approach to the Neighbourhood Planning Officer to ensure officers were working with the correct document.

Members were also advised that there had been opportunities to reference Neighbourhood Plan policies in two recent applications:

- **Development of five commercial units**

Relevant policies: **BE1 Employment, GSR5 Green Space**

- **Bandstand at Houghton Regis North**

Green Space policies could be applied to support this proposal.

Members were encouraged to highlight relevant policies wherever possible, helping to strengthen awareness among planning officers.

The Neighbourhood Plan is scheduled for review in around three years, at which point Members would be able to consider whether:

- existing policies continue to function effectively, and
- any policies require refreshing or revising.

It was queried whether HRTC should undertake a review of green spaces, particularly in relation to Bidwell West, which was nearing completion. The planning consultant advised that if HRTC wished to designate a new green space, the process would require:

- a Regulation 14 consultation on the proposed changes; and
- completion of the submission and examination stages (a referendum may not be necessary).

The planning consultant confirmed she could provide support to HRTC should decision be made to progress with this work.

Members agreed that a written audit of HRTC's green spaces should be commissioned and were advised that BRCC may be able to assist with this stage.

## **NPISC15 PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCING FRAMEWORK**

At the previous meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub-Committee, members agreed that a Planning Application Referencing Framework should be developed to provide a consistent approach to assessing planning applications against the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan (HRNP). A draft version was attached for consideration.

The planning consultant proposed a number of amendments to strengthen and clarify the framework.

Members were advised that the monitoring document would be presented to the Planning Committee alongside the relevant meeting minutes. The Checklist would support the assessment of compliance with the HRNP, drawing solely on the information published on the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) website.

Members noted recent changes to CBC's website that required all documents to be downloaded rather than viewed online. It was confirmed that a request would be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council to reinstate the previous system and allow documents to be viewed without downloading.

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the monitoring document would be updated in line with the feedback received and that she would liaise with Sally Chapman before its adoption by the Planning Committee.

**Resolved: To recommend to the Planning Committee that the draft Planning Application Referencing Framework be approved for use when assessing planning applications against the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.34pm**

**Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026**

**Chairman**

## **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Sub Committee (reporting to Planning Committee)**

### *Terms of Reference*

- To monitor the implementation of the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan.
- To keep the NHP under review especially in light of any changes to national and local planning policies and to recommend any updates to the NHP as necessary.
- Review and respond to emerging national and local planning policies for their impact on the NHP
- Review planning application decisions with reference to conformity with the NHP and the responses made by the HRTC Planning Committee
- Monitor progress towards realisation of specific projects and aspirations contained with the NHP
- Review any significant changes to the local area and assess their impact on the NHP's projects and aspirations

### *Functions*

- The Sub-committee shall function and operate in accordance with the Council's approved Standing Orders.
- The Sub-committee shall consist of five Councillors and shall include the Chair of the HRTC Planning Committee. The quorum shall be half of its members (three)
- The Sub-committee shall meet at least twice each year.
- The Sub-committee shall report to the Planning Committee
- The draft minutes shall be presented to the HRTC Planning Committee to enable the Planning Committee to consider the work of the Sub Committee in a timely fashion.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ (i.e. adopted) following referendum (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024) by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. This means that the planning policies within the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) have weight in the planning decision making process because the NP now forms part of the ‘Development Plan’ for CBC which consists of the CBC Local Plan 2015-2035 adopted in 2021.
- 1.2. The Neighbourhood Plan consists of 11 aims, 18 policies and 11 aspirations and is available here [Neighbourhood planning | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Neighbourhood Plan Aims	Policies	Aspirations
To identify and support measures to develop the appearance, vitality and facilities of the town centre and local centres of Houghton Regis	TC1, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6	Aspiration TC1
To support, protect and enhance the social assets, community facilities and services (including schools and healthcare, leisure and recreation) to meet residents’ needs.	TC5, TC6, GSR1, GSR3	Aspiration TC1 Aspiration H1 Aspiration GSR2
To ensure that all new development is well- designed, sympathetic and sustainable and enhances the character and function of Houghton Regis.	H2,	Aspiration H1 Aspiration H2
To protect the rural aspect of the countryside outside of the urban areas.	GSR4, BNF1	
To protect, enhance and where possible add to the green and blue infrastructure of the Parish.	GSR1, GSR2, GSR3, GSR4, BNF1	Aspiration GSR3 Aspiration GSR4
To preserve and enhance Houghton Regis’s Green, Conservation Area and heritage assets (whether listed or not).	HE1	Aspiration HE1
To support existing local businesses and encourage new small and medium-sized businesses which provide sustainable employment opportunities.	BE1	Aspiration BE1
To identify and support measures to encourage walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of transport as means of fulfilling shorter journeys.	GSR5, TCP1	Aspiration GSR4 Aspiration TCP1
To identify and support measures which improve traffic management including parking and speed control.	TCP2	Aspiration TCP1 Aspiration TCP2
To identify and support appropriate infrastructure developments which reflect the community’s needs and keep it an attractive, well-planned and safe place for everyone.	I1	

## 2. List of Policies

- 2.1. There are 18 policies in the NP. These are the important part of the NP because CBC must take account of them when determining planning applications alongside policies in their Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
  - Policy TC1: Town Centre

- Policy TC2: High Street West
- Policy TC3: High Street North
- Policy TC4: All Saints View
- Policy TC5: Local Centres
- Policy H1: Affordable Housing
- Policy H2: Sustainable Development
- Policy GSR1: Play and Recreation Spaces
- Policy GSR2: Sports facilities and Open space provision as part of new development
- Policy GSR3: Local Green Spaces
- Policy GSR4: Chalk Pit Nature Reserve
- Policy GSR5: Rights of Way
- Policy BNF1: Biodiversity and Protecting Natural Features
- Policy HE1: Heritage
- Policy BE1: Employment
- Policy TCP1: Access and Connectivity
- Policy TCP2: Parking
- Policy I1: Infrastructure for new development

### 3. Table showing Planning Applications considered by HRTC from June 2025 to October 2025

3.1. HR TC considered 73 planning applications in total during the monitoring period as shown in the table below. Out of the 73 cases, HRTC objected to 2 applications (for the same proposal) and made no objection to 16 applications. Of those determined and where the TC made any comments, all officer reports did acknowledge there is a NP in place and 1 referred to a policy in the report and decision notice although the proposal did not contravene the NP policy.

Key: Orange = Objection from HRTC, Green = No objection from HRTC

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<b>27th October 2025</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03219/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03220/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<b>17th November 2025</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03289/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/02868/LDCP (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03288/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03232/GPDE (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03382/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03380/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03320/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN1-not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/25/03400/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN1-granted	Yes
<a href="#">CB/25/03234/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN1-granted	Yes
<a href="#">CB/25/03319/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN1-not yet determined	

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<a href="#">CB/25/03311/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN1-not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/25/03101/GPDE (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A	HRN1 -not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/25/03432/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<b>8th December 2025</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03202/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03646/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03712/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03158/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	2 storey extension - withdrawn	
<a href="#">CB/25/03329/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03627/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03778/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<b>5th January 2026</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03468/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03751/GPDE (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03935/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03917/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<a href="#">CB/25/03565/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	Extensions -approved	No officer report available
<b>26 th January 2026</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03613/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	Garage - not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/25/04031/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/04023/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN - granted	Yes
<a href="#">CB/25/03873/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<b>16th February 2026</b>				
<a href="#">CB/25/03768/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	changes to roof -approved	
<a href="#">CB/26/00042/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	2 x semi-detached dwellings -not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/26/00024/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Extension - approved	
<a href="#">CB/25/04022/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/03805/REG3 (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	Extension - approved	Yes, Policy H2
<a href="#">CB/25/04058/LDCP (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/25/04014/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	HRN2-not yet decided	
<a href="#">CB/26/00142/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00194/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<a href="#">CB/26/00279/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00175/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00217/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No Objections	2 storey extension-refused	NP quoted in Officers report (Policy TCP2 Parking) & Decision notice but parking is not a reason for refusal
<b>9th March 2026</b>				
<a href="#">CB/26/00360/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00325/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00351/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Extension-approved	
<a href="#">CB/26/00468/RM (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No objections	HRN1-not yet decided	
<a href="#">CB/26/00511/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00445/TDM (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00411/GPDE (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00349/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00085/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No objections	Change of use to children's care home - not yet decided	
<a href="#">CB/26/00544/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00616/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
-				
<b>30th March 2026</b>				

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<a href="#">CB/25/02843/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No objections	Extensions - refused	NP quoted in Officers Report, no specific policies referred to.
<a href="#">CB/26/00636/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00784/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00787/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00369/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	No objections	Portacabin at Parkside -withdrawn	
<a href="#">CB/26/00770/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00542/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Extensions-approved	
<a href="#">CB/26/00641/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00617/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<b>20th April 2026</b>				
<a href="#">CB/26/00619/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Demolition and replacement of outbuilding- not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/26/00852/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00074/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Extensions-granted	
<a href="#">CB/26/00380/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Staircase-granted	
<a href="#">CB/26/01006/DOC (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/01076/NMA (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		

Application Number & Link	HRTC response	Objections / Comments	Description & result	NP quoted by CBC?
<a href="#">CB/26/01050/TDM (click for more details)</a>	Noting	N/A		
<a href="#">CB/26/00870/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Objection -but no reference to NP	Manor Farm, conversion of barns to offices, change of use of doctor's surgery to dwelling - not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/26/00871/LB (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Objection -but no reference to NP	Manor Farm, conversion of barns to offices, change of use of doctor's surgery to dwelling - not yet determined	
<a href="#">CB/26/00903/FULL (click for more details)</a>	Yes	Delegated	Extension to replace conservatory -not yet determined	

## 4. Table showing NP Aspirations

4.1. It should be noted that NP aspirations hold no weight in the planning process. However, they are very useful in setting out potential future plans for Houghton Regis.

Aspirations		Notes/progress
Aspiration TC1: Town Centre	<p>The Town Council will encourage Central Bedfordshire Council to work together with them and various stakeholders on a Town Centre Masterplan.</p> <p>The Town Council will explore options, including sourcing and negotiating funding, in conjunction with Bedford Square site owners, retail unit occupants, and the users and owners of Bedford Square Library, Health and Community complex, to regenerate the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to examine any opportunity to open it up more to the High Street.</li> <li>• to examine the desirability and feasibility of covering the pedestrian area to create an all-weather shopping area and to produce a costed way forward.</li> <li>• to retain and enhance the viability of the community centre, library and health facility.</li> </ul> <p>The following are community aspirations to enhance the vibrancy and vitality of the town's retail areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a site for markets and events on the open space in Bedford Square, and temporary arts/ culture uses in empty shops,</li> <li>• improvements to public realm - pavements, street furniture, lighting, extend main themes to new developments, rationalise signs and improve signage/directions for visitors</li> <li>• improve the road safety, particularly for pedestrians, and parking</li> <li>• if Thomas Whitehead CE Academy were ever to relocate, add a new road with additional car parking behind the Community Centre to Bedford Road to be able to close the High Street from the Tithe Farm Road roundabout to the Bedford Road roundabout during the day and make it a pedestrian-only zone</li> <li>• include new public car parking in western end entertainment area</li> <li>• review town centre and proposals to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• install secure bike parking and electric car charging points in the car park adjacent to All Saints Churchyard</li> <li>• improve pedestrian links from the High Street to The Green,</li> <li>• improve accessibility to the town centre for the enlarged Houghton Regis</li> </ul>	
Aspiration H1: Integration of communities	<p>The Town Council will aim to support the integration of existing and new communities by encouraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good access to new multi-use community facilities, including public and non-motorised transport options,</li> <li>• Integration of library, recreation and Town Council functions across the parish</li> <li>• Inter-schools and youth activities</li> <li>• Events being held in new communities</li> <li>• Publicity for events, facilities and services being provided across the communities</li> </ul>	
Aspiration H2: Safety and Security	<p>The Town Council will work towards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that appropriate safety infrastructure is installed in Town Centre and other locations to reduce the incidence of crime</li> <li>• Reducing enviro crime through direct action to remove incidences of fly tipping and graffiti</li> <li>• Encouraging the use of Secure By Design development and Design Guides for new development</li> </ul>	

<p>Aspiration GSR1: Play and Recreation</p>	<p>Aspirations to enhance facilities in the Parish include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of healthy leisure facilities within the parks and recreation areas including exercise and equipment to charge mobile phones,</li> <li>• Improvement or provision of sustainable transport options to facilities and providing benches and cycle stands where appropriate,</li> <li>• provision of better lighting for parks, MUGAs and playgrounds to extend times of use,</li> <li>• the provision of art installations and fitness equipment on the walking routes connecting the open spaces created as part of Houghton Regis North 1 and 2 - particularly along the eastern, northern and western margins of the new developments - and which create connections into existing open spaces/pathways in the Parish,</li> <li>• include major leisure facilities in town centre e.g., drama, dance studios, fitness centre, available to all schools.</li> </ul> <p>Identify body/bodies responsible to manage and maintain a) open space and green areas, b) heritage sites, c) sports facilities – and how they will be maintained sustainably.</p> <p>Houghton Regis Town Council will investigate ways to make more use of the pavilion on The Green.</p> <p>Houghton Regis Town Council will aim to provide, or where appropriate, to make recommendations to Central Bedfordshire Council, to provide additional facilities, play equipment, rubbish and dog excrement bins and spectator seating at appropriate open space locations, for example, additional children’s play equipment at Frogmore Road.</p>	
<p>Aspiration GSR2: Major New Recreational Facilities</p>	<p>Any proposals for the development of recreational areas within HRN1 and HRN2 per outline planning consents are recognised and supported.</p> <p>The provision of allotment developments is generally supported throughout the parish. Any proposals for the development of adult football pitches, are generally supported.</p> <p>Any proposals for the development of up to two more cricket grounds within the parish are generally supported.</p> <p>Any proposals for the development of additional rugby union pitches, with parking and facilities, within the parish are generally supported.</p> <p>Any new recreational facility proposals should allow for the continuity of existing recreational facilities.</p> <p>Improve Sewell Greenway for multiple users including walkers, cyclists and horses, safeguarded from off-road motorcycling.</p> <p>The provision of parking at Windsor Drive between the road and the existing shared use path.</p>	
<p>Aspiration GSR3: Protecting and Enhancing the Houghton Regis Chalk Pit Nature Reserve</p>	<p>A Masterplan will be prepared by the Wildlife Trust BCN which anticipates resuming management by agreement with CBC and the owners in the near future. The Masterplan will seek to protect and improve the fragile ecology while keeping access on foot open to the public for enjoyment of the flora and fauna in this highly valued outdoor space.</p> <p>To facilitate the management of the site, a visitor centre with office, storage, cycle parking and parking will be built on or near the northern rim of the Chalk Pit, accessed from the HRN2 road network. To enhance the visitor experience, this building will also house an education room, café and toilets for public use.</p> <p>In addition, funding for essential infrastructure, such as protective barriers to keep out motorcycles, and signposts and information boards to guide walkers, will be sourced.</p>	
<p>Aspiration GSR4: Aiming</p>	<p>The Town Council supports the use and development of existing footpaths and bridleways to create a network of walking/running/jogging/family cycling routes that also highlights the history of the parish.</p>	

<p>for a Green Wheel around the parish</p>	<p>It is recognised that not all routes would ever be suitable for all these different active user groups. The route will be varied in places, for example, a route more favourable to walkers than to cyclists.</p> <p>The ideal aim would be to complete a Wheel of Paths consisting of 'spokes' leading out from neighbourhood 'hubs', all connected by an outer 'rim' around the parish perimeter.</p> <p>A complete feasible 'spoke' and 'rim' adult walking and jogging route can already be made that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• closely follows the entire parish boundary;</li> <li>• utilises existing rights of way;</li> <li>• links to or includes the majority of the parish's major open spaces.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, a network of safe cycle paths throughout the parish is envisaged, extending through HRN1 and HRN2, especially accessing schools and those that help to integrate older and newer parts of the parish.</p> <p>Houghton Regis Town Council will organise support from residents and identify other interested parties, including CBC, to traverse the suggested rim and spoke routes.</p> <p>Houghton Regis Town Council will consult with local residents, landowners, and other stakeholders before implementing sections of the route.</p> <p>Houghton Regis Town Council will aim to identify places along the route where improvements may be required.</p> <p>Improvements would aim to make the route more suitable to wider sections of the community including mobility scooters and pushchairs. Funding may be sought to implement schemes.</p>	
<p>Aspiration HE1: Heritage</p>	<p>The Town Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with CBC to update the Houghton Regis Conservation Area Statement and Management Plan: Re-survey buildings and update archaeological information</li> <li>• Ensure that archaeological evidence and other heritage materials from Houghton Regis North 1 and 2 and the M1-A5 link are recorded as part of the town's history and provide information boards at the locations</li> <li>• Explore potential of providing a museum to house items e.g. old Houghton Regis Gaol House door held by Luton Culture and the Houghton Regis Heritage Society's collection of oral history.</li> <li>• Improve local knowledge about Houghton's heritage, including the heritage sites/finds on Houghton Regis North – and erect markers, information boards on those sites</li> <li>• Use the website to describe Houghton Heritage with all the sites and their information</li> <li>• Prepare exercise maps – walks to heritage places, combine with green/exercise paths</li> <li>• Develop a history of local chalk quarrying and cement production – pictures, records, oral history/Living Archive - display in Chalk Pit Nature Reserve Visitor Centre</li> <li>• Develop a history of Houghton Regis people – people who moved to Houghton Regis in the 20th century, or whose families have lived locally for generations - pictures, records, oral history/Living Archive, then build into stories of people who are moving to Houghton Regis now</li> <li>• Create and provide information panels and signs (linked to a heritage website) which describe and explain the historical importance of key sites around the parish</li> <li>• Deliver improvements to the public realm to enhance the setting of key heritage sites.</li> </ul>	
<p>Aspiration BE1: A new Employment Strategy for</p>	<p>The Town Council may produce a new Employment Strategy which should link locations for business and skills/vocational training and build on existing strengths with linked training/apprenticeships - planned logistics, local building firms – to create a skilled labour pool and greater job diversity using range of skills and leading to higher income jobs and high value IT work for all age groups.</p>	

Houghton Regis	In developing the strategy, the Town Council should work with Education and other professional bodies in the Parish to build aspirations among local schools towards good quality jobs and remuneration reflecting local opportunities.	
Aspiration TCP1: Improving foot and cycle connections	<p>The Town Council will work in partnership with landowners, Central Bedfordshire Council, and others fund and implement the improvements in Houghton Regis identified in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) once it has been developed. This will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extending an existing cycle/footpath parallel to Park Road North.</li> <li>• making up a casual footpath to a cycle/footpath between Balmoral Road and Kingsland Close.</li> </ul>	
Aspiration TCP2: Improving connections	<p>To improve connectivity within and between the existing and proposed new parts of the Houghton Regis community, the Town Council will work with Central Bedfordshire Council and operators to look for ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• connect the busway to link Houghton Regis North 1 and 2 with Houghton Regis Town Centre as principal routes,</li> <li>• link the new open spaces within Houghton Regis North 1 and 2 link with an integrated network of paths and leisure routes,</li> <li>• expand the network of paths and cycleways where possible and ensure that routes will be clearly marked with good directional and information signage e.g. about the location and walk/cycle time to specific locations,</li> <li>• see that improved bicycle facilities will be created including safe routes and secure parking/storage in the town centre to encourage greater use of cycling,</li> <li>• improve road safety on Tithe Farm Road, Parkside Drive and Bedford Road with more speed restrictions and pedestrian and cycle crossings, and greater use of CCTV,</li> <li>• conduct a review of parking layouts (e.g. High Street), bay marking in residential parking ‘hotspots’ and parking for facilities to help meet the needs of residents, visitors and business users,</li> <li>• Consider further improvements to public transport in general e.g. to Legrave Station.</li> </ul>	