

21st July 2026

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: **J Carroll, D Jones, C Slough, D Taylor**

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

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

Copies, for information, to:

- Cllr Baker, Executive Member for Finance and Highways, CBC
- Cllr R Goodchild, Deputy Executive Member for Town & Parish Councils and Town Centres, 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 28th July 2026** 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](#)

All attendees are reminded that this meeting must be conducted in a respectful and considerate manner. Comments should remain appropriate and non-defamatory, as behaviour that undermines dignity, respect, or integrity will not be permitted.



Clare Evans
Town Clerk

**THIS MEETING MAY BE
RECORDED ***

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 5 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2026.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2026.

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
- 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
- Laura Ellaway as a representative from Parkside Action Group – new application for co-option for 2026/27

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

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 9 - 11

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

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 2026/27.

10. DRAFT SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS (to 8.15pm)

Pages 12 - 13

Members are invited to consider the draft Partnership Committee Draft Schedule of Committee Reports for 2026/27.

Members are requested to note that reports may be provided by CBC, HRTC or a 3rd party organisation as applicable. Where reports are provided by 3rd party organisations, members of the committee are advised that they are provided for information purposes only as the Committee has no remit to scrutinise the work of 3rd party organisations

11. CBC UPDATE REPORT (to 8.30pm)

Pages 14 - 49

Members will find attached the CBC update report including updates on Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) and the Beat the Street initiative.

This report is provided for information purposes.

12. PROJECT H / HR HIVE (to 8.35pm)

A verbal update will be provided by the Town Clerk covering:

- Lease
- Contractor
- Timelines
- Venue name

This report is provided for information purposes.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 28th April 2026**

Present: Town Cllrs: E Cooper, D Jones, M Herber
CBC Cllrs Y Farrell, S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon
CBC Officers: Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Howard Hughes, Active Lifestyles Manager
HRTC Officers: C Evans, Town Clerk
A Samuels, Administration Officer
Co-opted members: D Gibbons, T Haines (virtual), R Turner

Also in attendance: Cllr R Goodchild and Cllr J Carroll

Apologies: Cllr D Taylor

Absent: Cllr C Slough

Members of the public: 1 (virtual)

1129 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Alderman (Cllr Farrell substituted), Cllr Taylor (Cllr Cooper substituted) and C Regan.

1130 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

**1131 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR
DISPENSATIONS**

None.

1132 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 27th January 2026.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2026 and
for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

1133 BEAT THE STREET

By invitation, Howard Hughes, Active Lifestyles Manager at Central Bedfordshire Council, provided an update on the Beat the Street initiative.

The initiative would run in Houghton Regis between 10 June – 8 July and aimed to encourage residents to engage in active travel and explore their environment. It was hoped this would be an opportunity to change behaviours and increase social engagement.

Participants would use cards or apps to tap onto beat boxes placed around the town and earn points on a leaderboard. Those using the app would be able to access a ‘hidden gem’ which provided additional information on being tapped. Prizes would be awarded at the end of the period.

Primary school pupils would be provided with two cards (one for adult use), and a map free of charge. There would be additional card distribution sites around the town, including the library and the leisure centre and Esquires at Thorn.

This initiative was an opportunity to collect data to measure a number of areas including activity, travel, and barriers and motivations. A survey would also take place after the event.

The marketing and promotion were being completed and the final arrangements were being made for the event. The Beat the Street website for Houghton Regis was due to launch on 13th May.

In answer to questions from the Committee, it was confirmed that:

- Grant funding from Sport England was decided on a number of factors based on activity, inequality and health indicators. Houghton Regis was chosen as it was a good fit: it had seen the provision of a new leisure centre; activities introduced at Houghton Hall Park; and substantial local growth.
- A report would be produced after the event had taken place that provided anonymised data on areas such as demographic, age and gender. Changes pre and post play would be tracked, and the data would help inform future initiatives.
- Participation in the initiative was not obligatory. It was confirmed that GDPR regulations would be followed; however further information would be gathered on how the data would be handled, stored and used, and whether the cards would be specific to individuals.
- Permissions were being sought for those roads not yet adopted.
- There would be boxes on school routes and would form a key part of the exercise.
- It would be possible to insert links into the ‘hidden gem’ feature on the app. It would be checked if messages could be received in an alternative format for those using cards.

Members advised that Carnival and the Arts & Culture event would be held very soon after Beat the Street and might provide a good opportunity to celebrate the initiative.

1134 CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

A verbal update was provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager on the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Members were reminded that this fund would be replacing the Household Support Fund.

It was brought to Members' attention that the crisis element of the fund was up and running; this provided financial assistance to those experiencing financial shock. The resilience aspect was currently being mapped and a further report on the C & RF would be presented at the next Executive meeting.

Members raised concerns regarding those residents who faced digital exclusion and the Community Engagement Manager responded that this had been taken into consideration. Citizens Advice had contributed to the production of a form and would be able to assist. A phone number was also provided as an alternative option.

1135 HRTC UPDATE REPORT

Members were provided with a copy of the HRTC update report. The Town Clerk invited questions.

The value of Operation Hana was questioned, and Members expressed disappointment that priority for policing was being given to other areas. There was also disappointment at the disbandment of the Police and Crime Panel at CBC as it was felt that Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be unable to dedicate the necessary time to policing matters.

1136 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

The Committee's workplan referenced the following community buildings:

Project H / Unit 1 All Saints View (HRTC)

Lease negotiations remained underway.

HRTC was working with a wider project team to develop a tender pack for the fitting out of the property. It was anticipated that the tender period would run during May.

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

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed that they had been working collaboratively with the charity to bring the project forward; work continued on the lease and the transfer of the land. The planning process was underway and a result was anticipated in the near future.

Members questioned if there were any barriers slowing delivery. The Community Engagement Manager stated that funding was always a challenge, but a lot of progress had been seen in recent months.

Cllr R Goodchild expressed enthusiasm for Project H and congratulated the team on its work.

1137 CBC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEES AND CHARGES

Central Bedfordshire Council had launched a six-week consultation on proposed changes to some of its fees and charges.

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed that this item was included on the agenda to make Members aware of the live consultation.

1138 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2025/26.

A co-optee requested that CBC provided a report on the future of the Red House. The Chair confirmed that this could be considered for 2026/27.

Members expressed concern regarding health and wellbeing in Houghton Regis and the insufficient level of primary care. Members also voiced frustration at the disjointed nature of services. It was thought that the Integrated Care Board (ICB), doctors and members of the Patient Participation Group should be brought together to discuss their needs and expectations. It was questioned whether it would be possible to access data in order to establish the areas of greatest need. It was agreed that this item should be taken forward as part of the workplan in 2026/27.

1139 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

Members were 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 stated:

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.

Co-optees were reminded that they would need to reapply for the new council year.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.38pm

Dated this 28th day of July 2026

Chairman

Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee

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.

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
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS ¹ 2026/27**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Areas of Interest 2026/27	Reports to be received / completed
28th July 2026	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 CBC Consultations	The following suggestions are put forward, the timings to be confirmed: • Waste & recycling • Planning • Schools & education • Health & social care • Children & young people • Benefits • Community safety • Housing • Jobs, skills & adult learning • Leisure, libraries & countryside • Business • Transport, roads & parking • Environmental Services	Homelessness in Houghton Regis / Project H / HR Hive Suggested change of date
27th October 2026 1st December 2026	HRTC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC CBC Consultations		Highways Capital Plan Project H / HR Hive
16th March 2027	CBC Update report Work Plan		Project H / HR Hive

¹ Reports may be provided by CBC, HRTC or a 3rd party organisation as applicable.

Where reports are provided by 3rd party organisations, members of the committee are advised that they are provided for information purposes only as the Committee has no remit to scrutinise the work of 3rd party organisations.



	Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year Council Budgets Items Requesting Attention By CBC CBC Consultations		
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Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

**Central
Bedfordshire**

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of the report: for information

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Community Safety

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIP TEAM

During this period there were 159 cases open to the Community Safety Enforcement Team:

- Community Safety General Enquiries - 27
- Dog Barking – 13
- Fly Tipping – 46
- Graffiti – 3
- Drug related – 1
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour - 5
- Pollution Noise – 48
- Pollution Odour – 4
- Nuisance Vehicles - 4
- Nuisance Neighbours – 8

There was 1 cuckooing case investigated which is being monitored.

There were 2 weapon sweeps in the area.

Community Safety Officer completed a door knock/letter drop with Beds Police at Kingland Close

Community Safety Officer attended a partnership event at Central Bedfordshire College and delivered an AI and Online Crime presentation

Community Safety Officer attended a walking event in partnership with Beds Police at Bedford Square and All Saints View

Door knock/letter drop undertaken at Bromley Gardens by Community Safety Officer

Community Safety Officer attended a partnership event with Beds Police at Parkside Estate

Community Safety Officer held a pop-up event with Beds Police at Bedford Square

Community Safety Officer held a pop-up event at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Community Safety Officer attended Houghton Regis Leisure Centre for a pop-up event in partnership with Beds Police

Community Safety Officer attended a community event with Houghton Regis Town Council at Thorn Park

Business visits completed at Bedford Square by a Community Safety Officer

Community Safety Officer held a pop-up event with Beds Police at Morrisons

Community Safety Officer attended a partnership event with Houghton Regis Town Council Youth Team at the Village Green Pavillion, with Beds Fire and the Road Safety Team

Pop-up event at the Bedford Square Library Concourse area by a Community Safety Officer

Pop-up event at Houghton Regis Library by a Community Safety Officer

Environmental Visual Audit completed by Community Safety Officer at Bedford Square, attended by Cllr Hamill and Cllr Goodchild, Beds Police, Beds Fire and Community Safety ASB Officers

Community Safety Officer attended a partnership event at the Academy of Central Bedfordshire with an ASB Officer and the Police Education and Diversion Team

Community Safety Officer attended a partnership event at Bedford Square

CCTV Report

1st May to 31st May 2026

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
01/05/2026	14:30	Collie Place	Intelligence
01/05/2026	15:51	Chalk Hill	Intelligence
03/05/2026	01:41	All Saints Road	Burglary
04/05/2026	00:00	Bedford Road	Burglary
06/05/2026	06:00	High Street	Burglary
10/05/2026	15:53	Bedford Road	Intelligence
10/05/2026	18:50	All Saints Road	Assist General Policing
12/05/2026	02:07	High Street	Burglary
15/05/2026	21:22	Linmere Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour
16/05/2026	15:02	Linmere Walk	Intelligence
18/05/2026	03:23	Bedford Square	Burglary
18/05/2026	11:55	Bedford Square	Wanted Person
23/05/2026	18:47	Bedford Road	Shoplifting
24/05/2026	14:40	Tithe Farm Road	Road Traffic Collision
27/05/2026	18:23	Neptune Square	Op Meteor
28/05/2026	19:25	Neptune Square	Op Meteor
31/05/2026	18:23	Clarkes Way	Missing Persons

Public Health

CHOOSE YOU (STOP SMOKING)

Stop Smoking Support continues to be delivered as part of our integrated behaviour change service, Choose You, offering flexible and accessible support to residents who want to quit smoking. This includes face-to-face and telephone-based support, access to nicotine replacement therapies, prescribed medication, and the provision of e-cigarettes.

As part of the range of support available, the Allen Carr Easyway seminar provides an alternative, structured one-day intervention designed to support smokers to quit without reliance on medication. Delivered as a group-based session and free to Central Bedfordshire residents, it offers a non-clinical option that complements the wider Choose You service, particularly for those who prefer a seminar-based approach.

For Houghton Regis residents, data for April 2025 to March 2026 shows that 119 residents accessed stop smoking support, of whom 96 set a quit date and 55 successfully quit at 4 weeks, giving an overall quit rate of 57%.

Of the 119 Houghton Regis residents accessing stop smoking support, 96 received direct support from specialist advisors within the Choose You service. Of these residents, 79 set a quit date and 49 achieved a successful 4-week quit, resulting in a 62% quit rate. This demonstrates the continued effectiveness of specialist behavioural support delivered directly through the Choose You model.

Other delivery routes show more limited activity. GP-based Level 2 support remains constrained, with 10 residents accessing support, resulting in 1 successful 4-week quit, reflecting ongoing capacity challenges in Primary Care. The Allen Carr seminar offer supported 8 residents with 3 successful 4-week quits, while Luton and Dunstable Hospital Maternity achieved 2 successful 4-week quits from 5 residents accessing support.

As previously reported, reduced capacity for Level 2 delivery in Primary Care continues to impact overall system performance. Work is ongoing to strengthen referral pathways into the Choose You service and to support GP practices to either deliver stop smoking interventions directly or refer appropriately.

Through the delivery of health and wellbeing coaching within Choose You, residents with higher needs are provided additional support alongside our core programme to achieve sustained behaviour change.

Building on this targeted approach, the Financial Incentive Programme for Non-Pregnant Smokers (FINPS), launched in January 2025, provides enhanced support for residents most at risk of smoking-related health inequalities, including those with long-term health conditions, mental health conditions and those in routine and manual occupations. The programme combines extended support, more frequent advisor contact, and voucher card incentives linked to attendance and quitting milestones.

Website: [Quit smoking, lose weight and feel healthier - Choose You](#)

*Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council
working in partnership*



Houghton Regis 25/26 Stop Smoking Access and Quit Outcomes

	Accessed Support	Set Quit Date	4wk QUIT	4wk QUIT rate
Overall	119	96	55	57%
Choose You	96	79	49	62%
Allen Carr	8	8	3	38%
GP Surgery	10	4	1	25%
Maternity L&D	5	5	2	40%

SUPPORT FOR DRUG & ALCOHOL HARM AND MISUSE

Public Health commissions East London NHS Foundation Trust to deliver the Adult Drug & Alcohol Treatment Service, Path2Recovery (P2R), and the Central Bedfordshire service is established at the new Dunstable Health Hub. It is available for residents of CBC who want any support or confidential, non-judgmental advice on how to reduce the health harms that they – or someone close to them - are experiencing from drugs and/or alcohol.

For more details on the service, what is available in-person or on-line and how to access it go to:

[Path to Recovery \(P2R\) Central Bedfordshire | East London NHS Foundation Trust](#) .

Our drug and alcohol support service for young people is provided by Aquarius – details are available by following the link:

[Support for under 18s effected by Substance Misuse in Bedfordshire \(aquarius.org.uk\)](https://aquarius.org.uk)

Public Health also commissions Community Led Initiatives (CLI) to provide the Support, Advocacy, Mentoring and Advice Service (SAMAS) across Central Bedfordshire. SAMAS provides opportunities for those in recovery from drug and/or alcohol use to build their recovery capital whilst contributing to the development of a visible recovery community.

To find out more about CLI and the work of SAMAS visit their website:

[What We Do - Community Led Initiatives](#)

NHS HEALTH CHECKS

The NHS Health Check Programme, commissioned by Public Health, 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. Depending on GP capacity and delivery, an NHS Health Check should be offered to the residents who qualify every five years.

GP practices continue to be the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme; however, performance varies. Although patients are entitled to one Health Check every five years, Practices have a target to invite 20% of their eligible population each year, with a focus on those who have are at the greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

The latest data, for **April-May 2026-27** shows that covering Houghton Regis, in the Chiltern Vale Primary Care Network:

- 218 Health Checks have been delivered against the annual target of 1,424 (15.3% of annual target).
- 311 patients were invited for a Health Check (annual target 5,060) with performance at 6.1% for that indicator.

The local Chiltern Vale Practices are performing as follows:

2026-2027	Offered YTD Activity	YTD Offered Target	Offered % of YTD Target	Delivered YTD Activity	YTD Delivered Target
E81009 - West Street Surgery	64	112	57.1% R	89	32
E81027 - Houghton Regis Medical Centre	81	116	69.8% R	56	34
E81069 - Caddington Surgery	-	46	0.0% R	18	12
E81034 - Toddington Medical Centre	3	76	3.9% R	19	20
E81052 - Kirby Road Surgery	-	76	0.0% R	12	20
E81014 - Priory Gardens Surgery	43	154	27.9% R	13	44
E81635 - Eastgate Surgery	3	62	4.8% R	3	18
E81008 - Wheatfield Surgery	114	110	103.6% E	5	32
E81045 - Kingsbury Court Surgery	3	94	3.2% R	3	26

The overall quality measure for these practices in relation to Health Checks is generally good, ranging from 89.3% (Caddington Surgery) to 100% (5 Practices). The average quality score for the practices is up, to 97.7% (green). This compares to 97.4% for quality as a measure across all Primary Care in BMK.

NHS Community Outreach Service

BEDOC are now starting to deliver NHS Health Checks through an outreach programme, and will be increasing the offer across Central Bedfordshire, both in community settings and workplaces, targeting those residents who are most at risk from CVD. We hope to be able to raise awareness and provide further information about this service as it becomes established and increases delivery.

Business, Investment, Employment and Skills

Business Support

General statistics:

- The Business support team currently have **90 companies** on our CRM system which are based in Houghton Regis
- To date, we have had **145 business support interactions** with these businesses – which includes via UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity (REPF) support.

Post UKSPF and REPF, the Business support team has undertaken the following activities based in Central Bedfordshire to support local businesses, promote events & opportunities:

- Promoted the Launch of the [King's Enterprise Awards 2026](#)
- Promoted and attended the BEDX Bedfordshire Exchange Opportunities event

BEDX empowers and supports local firms to capitalise on the transformative economic impact of the **Universal Destinations & Experiences (UDX) theme park** and wider regional developments on the horizon.

- Attended **4 in person Business networking events** with colleagues and Strategic Business Support Partners
- **Venture Day** held at Cranfield University – local businesses provided complimentary tickets courtesy of Central Bedfordshire Council
- Held a **Business Breakfast event** – led by the Leader of Central Bedfordshire Business (CBC), Councillor Adam Zerny on 18th May 2026, follow up in August with reference to the Local Plan
- Regular **Social media posts**, including LinkedIn
- **Business Consultations** posted to engage with local businesses and gain their input
- **Developments in Houghton Regis** – CBC corporate website page link:

[Development in Houghton Regis | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Commercial Property Enquiries

Houghton Regis / Dunstable – Property Enquiries : January – June 2026

The reporting period covers Jan -June 2026 with a total of 38 property enquiries during the reporting period, comprising 22 leasehold enquiries (58%) and 16 freehold enquiries (42%). Enquiry levels remained relatively consistent throughout the period, with monthly volumes ranging between 9 and 10 enquiries, indicating steady market interest rather than seasonal spikes.

A review of enquiry locations highlights that Houghton Regis/Dunstable is the strongest-performing area, generating 14 enquiries, making it the second largest location group after the M1 Corridor (24 enquiries). This means Houghton Regis/Dunstable accounts for approximately 37% of all recorded enquiries, demonstrating significant demand and positioning it as one of the area's key commercial property hotspots.

Houghton Regis / Dunstable Focus:

The level of interest in Houghton Regis/Dunstable suggests that the area continues to attract strong occupier demand. Key observations include:

- High enquiry volumes indicate that Houghton Regis/Dunstable remains an attractive location for businesses seeking premises.
- The area's strategic position with excellent access to the M1 motorway and surrounding logistics network is likely supporting continued demand.
- The consistent enquiry activity suggests a healthy level of market confidence, making Houghton Regis/Dunstable one of the most active local markets within the dataset.
- Given its share of enquiries, the area should remain a priority for future marketing, investment promotion and monitoring of available commercial space.
- Houghton Regis/Dunstable stands out as one of the area's strongest-performing locations, attracting over one-third of all enquiries and reinforcing its importance as a key employment and business location

Other Trends

- The majority of enquiries relate to business start-ups (18 enquiries) and early-stage businesses (9 enquiries), indicating that demand is being driven largely by small and growing businesses.
- Enquiries span a range of property sizes, although there is a noticeable concentration in smaller industrial and commercial units, reflecting demand from SMEs and start-up businesses.
- The relatively even distribution of enquiries across the reporting period suggests that demand has remained resilient throughout the first half of 2026.

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) – Supporting residents with skills, training and employment opportunities

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) continues to deliver funded learning and employment support opportunities across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough, helping residents gain the skills and confidence needed to improve employability, access new career opportunities, and enhance wellbeing.

Residents can access a wide range of support including short courses to build confidence and essential skills for life, accredited qualifications, apprenticeships that allow learners to earn whilst they learn, and tailored employability support.

To find out more about the courses and services available, residents can visit the [BESA website](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/besa-website) or register their interest by completing the online enquiry form: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/besa-contact-us

Skills Bootcamps launched!

BESA has recently launched a new programme of fully funded Skills Bootcamps designed to help adult residents (aged 19+) gain in-demand skills and fast-track their route into employment or career progression.

Skills Bootcamps are flexible, short courses (up to 16 weeks) that give adults the opportunity to build sector-specific skills and gain industry-recognised qualifications. They are ideal for those who are looking to change careers, return to work, progress in their current role, or move into higher-paying employment.

Delivered in partnership with local employers and training providers, the Bootcamps focus on priority growth sectors across the region, helping to ensure that the skills being developed match real job opportunities in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. Sectors include early years, construction, digital, warehousing and logistics.

Participants will also benefit from tailored employability support, including CV development, interview preparation and direct links to live vacancies.

On completion, learners will be guaranteed a job interview with a local employer or supported to progress into new responsibilities or roles within their current workplace.

The Skills Bootcamps are fully funded for eligible residents, making them an accessible way to upskill without financial barriers.

Further details on the courses available and how to apply can be found on our [Skills Bootcamps webpage](#).

Connect to Work programme success since launching in January 2026!

BESA recently launched a new employability support programme, [Connect to Work](#), and so far (as of 30 June 2026), has supported 133 residents into, or closer towards employment.

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Connect to Work is a government funded programme for people with health conditions, disabilities or other barriers to employment. As part of this programme, BESA is working closely with residents to help connect them appropriate job opportunities and provide support to help them to sustain employment and succeed in the workplace, as well as connecting with local businesses to help them fill job vacancies. You can [find out more about Connect to Work](#) online.

Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, May 2025 to May 2026

	May 2025	Aug 2025	Nov 2025	Feb 2026	May 2026
Town	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant
Ampthill	7.0	8.0	7.8	6.9	6.9
Arlesey	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Biggleswade	8.3	8.3	7.7	6.4	9.6
Dunstable	15.0	14.3	13.4	13.4	13.0
Flitwick	6.5	6.5	2.2	2.2	2.2
Houghton Regis	9.4	6.3	9.4	9.4	9.4
Leighton Buzzard	7.6	7.2	9.7	11.0	8.9
Potton	8.0	8.0	8.0	11.5	4.0
Sandy	4.3	4.3	2.9	1.4	0.0
Shefford	7.0	9.3	7.0	7.0	7.0
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall vacancy rate	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.5

In May 2025 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 9.1%. There were a total of 989 units of which 90 were vacant. One year later, in May 2026, the vacancy rate decreased to 8.5%. with a total of 992 units and 84 vacancies. During this time, the vacancy rates for Houghton Regis, Shefford and Stotfold remain the same, Dunstable, Flitwick, Potton and Sandy have decreased and the rate for Leighton Buzzard has slightly increased.

Leisure, Libraries and Countryside

HOUGHTON REGIS LEISURE CENTRE

Customer usage of the leisure centre is continuing to grow, and we are expecting a busy summer holiday period, with a range of activities planned.

April 2026	38305
May 2026	36741

Swimming Lessons

June 2026	Everyone Active Swimming Lessons	1204
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New Teachers have come on board to support continuous growth of the swim programme, however, ongoing training and recruitment for new swim teachers is still at the forefront for Everyone Active.

Fitness

May 2025	Fitness members	2151
May 2026	Fitness members	3230

Fitness member numbers are steadily increasing. EA has focused on further recruitment to the fitness team to help ongoing member retention and increased customer service.

Community involvement:

- The leisure centre team will be attending the Houghton Regis carnival on the 13th of July.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TEAM

Beat the Street

The *Beat the Street* programme ended on 8 July 2026 and at the time of writing the game is midway through the final week of delivery. Engagement with the programme has been excellent, particularly with primary schools that have all shown real enthusiasm and support in promoting Beat the Street, resulting in high levels of participation. Community teams have been lower and although we would have liked more groups to have taken part, it is not unusual that school communities (including pupils, parents and staff) make up the majority of participants.

While a full evaluation report on the Beat the Street programme is not expected to be finalised until mid-August (and will be reported at the next available Partnership Committee), we can provide a summary of headline data for this report.

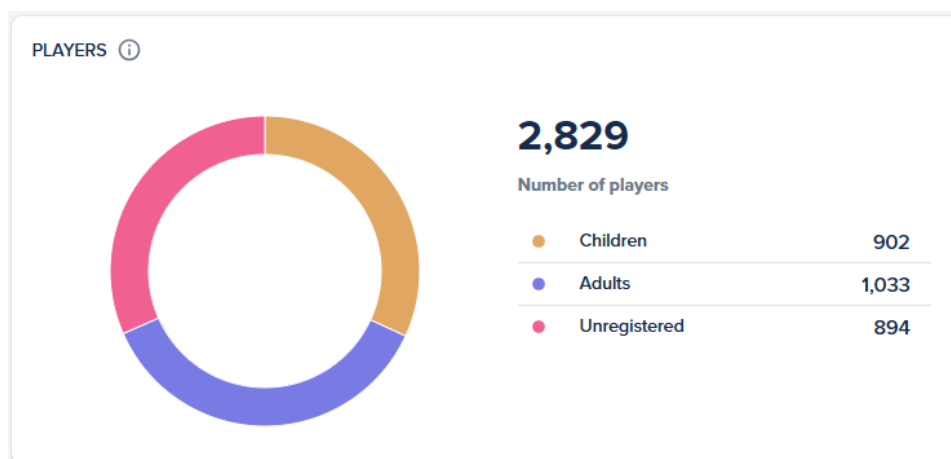
As of **Day 3 of Week 4** (3 July 2026), the Houghton Regis Beat the Street game has achieved strong engagement levels, with **2,829 participants** registered, representing **141% of the original 2,000 participation target**. This is much more than expected and while not all participants will be regular players throughout the four-week period, we are delighted with the overall number that have taken part.

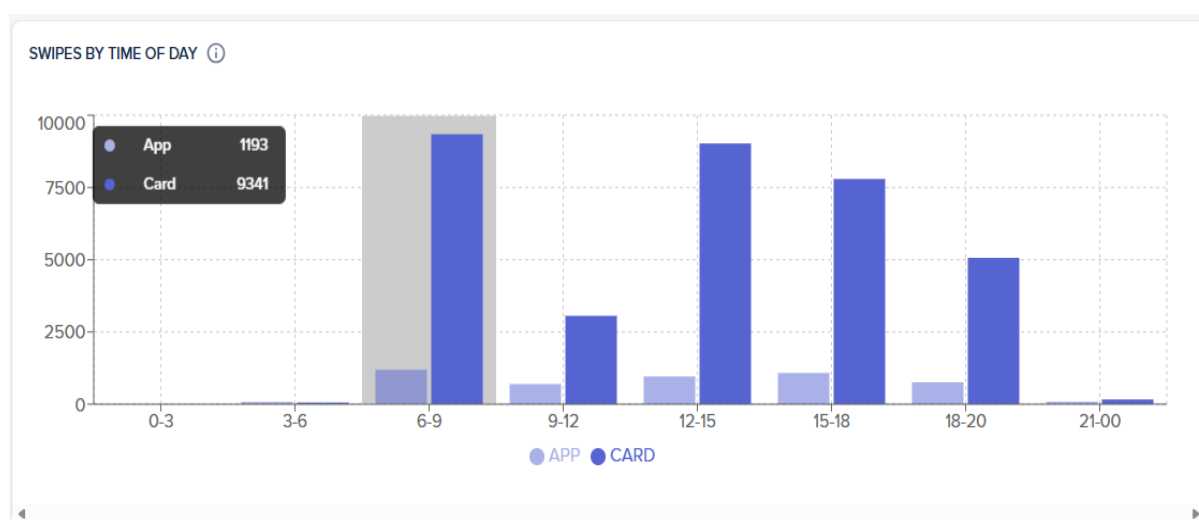
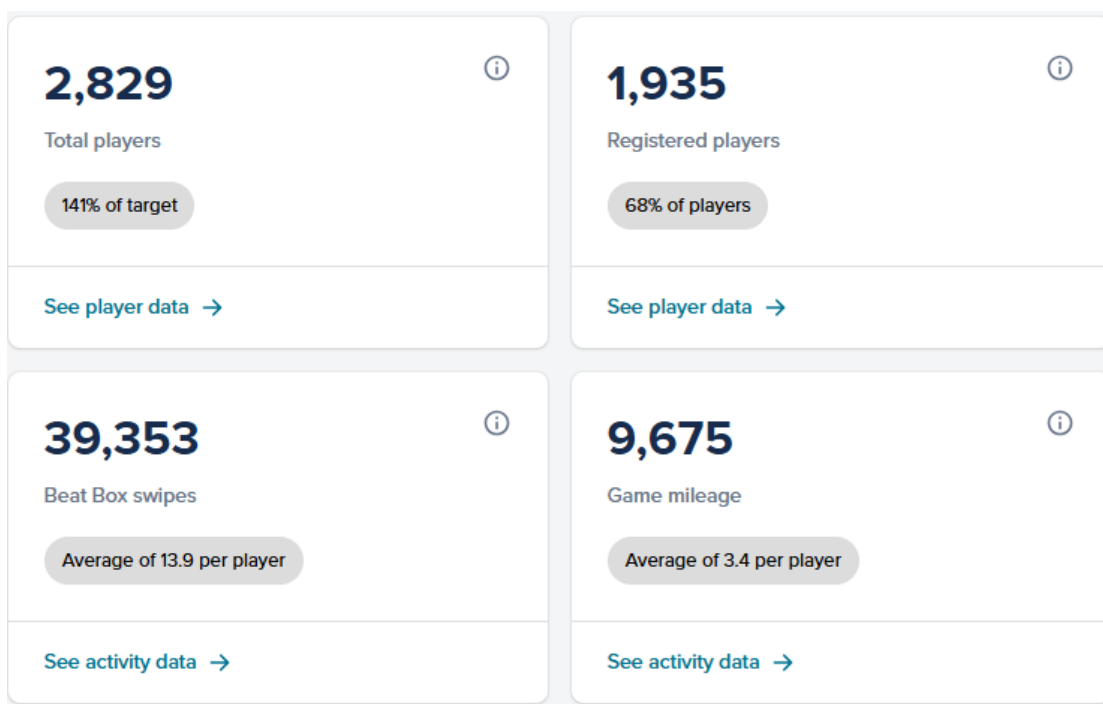
A total of **1,935 participants (68%)** registered their details, which included **902 children** and **1,033 adults**. *Beat box* swipes and miles covered per participant have steadily increased throughout the game, and with just a few days remaining over **39,000 swipes** and more than **9,600 miles** have been covered by participants.

The demographic profile demonstrates good reach across priority groups. Children account for **47% of registered participants**, while **67% of adult participants are female**. Among adult participants, **315 individuals (47%)** identified as inactive before joining the programme, highlighting the scheme's success in engaging less active residents. Similarly, **154 children (48%)** reported lower activity levels prior to participation.

The programme has also engaged a diverse audience, with **213 participants (22%)** identifying as being from a non-white ethnic background. In addition, **142 participants (14%)** reported having a long-term medical condition and **51 participants (5%)** identified as having a disability.

Engagement beyond the game itself has been positive, with **754 adults (73%)** opting to receive partner communications in future. This will provide an opportunity to share information about other initiatives and events. Furthermore, **984 health surveys** have been completed, providing valuable insight into participant behaviours and outcomes. An additional post game survey went live in the final week of the game that will enable any changes in behaviour to be assessed. The following page shows headline data charts from the game dashboard.





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

Falls Prevention – Strength and Balance Referral Programme: Our Falls Prevention Strength & Balance referral programme is running at all leisure facilities including Houghton Regis Leisure & 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 Assessments - GaitSmart is an innovative technology which provides an objective measure of gait/walking ability in a person friendly report. It provides an opportunity to improve muscle strength and balance and reduce the risk of falls. For more information, please email: active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Health and Wellbeing Kiosks: The health and wellbeing kiosks are located across all 6 of our leisure centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member to use the kiosk. The health and wellbeing kiosks are free to use. For more information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-kiosks

The health kiosks offer a secure and medically approved body analysis and use personal profiles with specific links to commissioned services in Central Bedfordshire including mental health support, weight management, physical activity and stop smoking services. Clinically validated, the kiosks them to self-monitor and continue to improve their healthy lifestyle choices. Health and Wellbeing Kiosks can be found in Houghton Regis Leisure & Community Centre.



Community Physical Activity Programme: Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football and Netball, outdoor bootcamp. Most of the activities are FREE. Residents must book on via our booking page. www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

Children and Families – Active Lifestyles: The team are now offering an Active Families Referral Programme for families with children 2-12yrs. It comprises a FREE 6 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, the library has continued to support and engage the local community through a period of change. Callum left the service after 7 years, and we thank him for his contribution. Following recruitment, we are pleased to welcome a new team member Sam who will be starting in July.

We have also seen strong volunteer engagement, with both new young volunteers joining the library and returning volunteers from 2025 coming back to support activities. Their involvement continues to play an important role in delivering events and creating a welcoming environment for the community.

The team is currently busy planning a range of summer events and preparing for the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge this year's theme is 'Read to the Beat', aiming to provide fun and engaging opportunities for local children and families.

Full House Theatre

The library continues to work in partnership with Full House Theatre, who deliver a monthly themed toddler session. These sessions provide a welcoming and interactive space for young children and their families and remain extremely popular, with places frequently fully booked.

Council events

The library remains an important local venue for council services and community engagement. A range of Central Bedfordshire Council activities have taken place, the Housing team returned and resume their drop-in sessions at the library. Monthly councillor surgeries also continue to be well attended, giving residents the opportunity to speak directly with their local representatives and raise issues that matter to them.

Adult craft group

The monthly adult craft group continues to provide a friendly and inclusive space for residents to come together, supporting wellbeing and reducing social isolation. The group has a steady attendance of around 8–12 regular participants, who value the opportunity to meet, chat and take part in creative activity in a relaxed setting.

School visits

The library continues to build strong links with local schools through regular visits, helping children to become familiar with library services and encouraging reading for pleasure. These visits also support wider engagement, including promoting initiatives such as the Summer Reading Challenge and keeping children connected to reading outside of school.

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Regular events

A range of regular activities continue to be well attended and support community engagement. Term-time rhyme sessions are held weekly, providing a welcoming environment for young children and their families to develop early literacy, communication skills and social connections. Midweek sessions for children remain popular, offering creative and informal opportunities for after-school engagement and use of library space.

The Knit, Natter & More group continues to attract regular participants, providing a social setting for residents to meet, share interests and reduce isolation.

The Lego Coding Club remains established with a core group of children, supported by a volunteer, giving participants the opportunity to develop digital and problem-solving skills in a structured but enjoyable environment.



The monthly Dough Club continues to grow in popularity, encouraging imaginative and sensory play for younger children and families.

The Board Games Club, held after school on Fridays, continues to perform strongly, regularly attracting high attendance. These sessions provide an inclusive space for children and families to interact, socialise and enjoy shared activities.

Scout group visit

We were pleased to welcome a local Scout group to the library, where they spent time enjoying the space and exploring what the library has to offer. During their visit, they took part in a fun library quiz, helping them learn about our services while working towards earning their reading badge.



New groups/Events

Coffee and Cards A new volunteer-led Coffee and Cards group has recently been introduced, providing a welcoming and inclusive space for adults to come together. The sessions offer an opportunity for residents to enjoy a hot drink, take part in games and social interaction, and build



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connections within the community. The group has been well attended and is particularly valued by some residents with learning needs, helping to create a safe, supportive and accessible environment.

Open Pages (coming soon)

A new 'Open Pages' group is being introduced to provide a welcoming space for adults to come together and share their enjoyment of reading. The group will offer opportunities for participants to talk about books, recommend reads and discuss their thoughts and experiences in a relaxed and supportive setting. It aims to encourage reading for pleasure while helping to build connections within the local community.

Sustainability

Eco-Schools support

We are pleased that Houghton Regis schools continue to be involved in the Eco-Schools programme for this year, including Thornhill Primary School. We continue to offer support to schools through teacher forums, advice and outreach workshops to ensure that schools achieve their Green Flag Award. Find out more through the [Eco-Schools website](#).

Our support is entirely free to access and includes:

- **Eco-Forums:** meetings to upskill and network with other sustainability leads and Eco-Schools coordinators
- **Sustainable Student Programme:** Pilot initiative for students in Years 10 – 12 to explore climate change, acquire green skills, and lead environmental projects in their school
- **Monthly E-Bulletin:** Packed with advice, guidance and funding opportunities
- **Green Boxes:** A selection of activities and games available to borrow from select libraries, to support environmental education in schools
- **Travel Plans and Bikeability Training**
- **Tailored one-to-one support**

If your local school is interested in becoming an Eco-School and would like to find out more about how the Sustainability Team can support you, please email begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Warm Homes Local Grant

Central Bedfordshire Council is partnering with Cornerstone to deliver the **Warm Homes: Local Grant** scheme, which helps low-income households improve the energy efficiency of their homes. More information, including eligibility criteria, is available at [Keeping warm | Central Bedfordshire Council](#). Interested residents can register their interest at [Central Bedfordshire Council | Warm Homes Local Grant scheme](#).

Free Carbon Literacy training

Town Councils, 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 session. 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

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combatting and adapting to climate change. This Carbon Literacy training will provide support and information which will help in making a meaningful contribution.

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

Please contact the Sustainability Team to register your interest in a course:
begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Highways

Capital Programme of Works

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.

This year we've continued to use a 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. This way, we're able to schedule and carry out the work that will have the biggest impact.

The below are listed schemes for the Houghton Regis Wards.

Works Category	Scheme Type	Scheme Name	Street Name
Carriageway Resurfacing	Design and construction	Humphreys Road	Humphreys Road
Micro Asphalt	Design and construction	Eddiwick Avenue	Eddiwick Avenue
Micro Asphalt	Design and construction	St Michaels Avenue/Watling Place & Roman Gardens	St Michaels Avenue/Watling Place & Roman Gardens
Micro Asphalt	Design and construction	Drury Lane	Drury Lane
Walking & wheeling	Design and construction	Toucan crossing, Sundon Road, Houghton Regis	Sundon Road
Cycle Route Improvements	Design and construction	Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis	Parkside Drive

You can search for all schemes by visiting -

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

Highways Reporting

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

- Picture first reporting – you can make reports on the system by uploading a photo first.
- A further updated mapping layer to include new assets and newly adopted roads
- ROW integration – the Rights of Way layer is now on the system and integrated with our back end system for more efficient reports.
- We have added a graffiti category for residents to be able to report this issue.
- 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/>

Highways Consultations

- TRO-080 Lime Tree Drive and Hockett Way, Houghton Regis – Bus Gate and No Entry
- TRO-119 Clarkes Way, Houghton Regis – Disabled Bay

PCNS

PCN's issued and visited conducted in Houghton Regis.

Houghton Regis Partnership Report 2026	PCN's issued	Visits conducted
January	16	106
February	40	155
March	69	169
April	32	105
May	23	133
June	20	207
Total	200	875

Environmental Services

Waste Management

Waste Collections

All waste collection service changes for Simpler Recycling, including day changes, have now been implemented

Litter Bins

Repairs:

- Longbrooke - Dog bin repair
- Brentwood Close – Dog bin repair
- Windsor Drive – Litter bin repair

Removals:

- Brentwood Close – Litter bin removal
- Elm Park Close – Litter bin removal

Environmental Management

Fly Tips and Street Cleansing

Large Fly Tip Clearances:

- A5/M1 Link Road - Building materials, Chemicals / oil drums, Construction waste, Household waste.
- Woodside Link Road – Household waste.
- Blackburn Road - 2 large bags of insulation. Chest freezer. 4 pallets. 2 Christmas trees.
- Bedford Road - Black bags, Building materials, Furniture, Household waste.
- B5120 - Sofa and black bags.
- Woodside Link Road - Furniture and general waste.

Grounds Maintenance

Ground maintenance season started beginning of April. Two grass cuts have been completed, currently working through cut three.

Abandoned Vehicles

10 Abandoned vehicles collected and destroyed between 1st January and 30th June

Dog Patrols (January to June)	
Location	Notes
1. Bedford Road 2. Bromley Gardens 3. Drury Lane 4. Hillborough Crescent 5. Leafields 6. Redhouse Court Recreation Ground 7. Tudor Drive	All roads are patrolled once a week, with the exception of Hillborough Crescent, Bedford Road and Redhouse Court which are patrolled twice per week. No fixed penalty notices were issued during this time.

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 May 2026.

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area					
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive (EET) destinations		NEET destinations	
16year olds / Year 12	3610	3494	(96.8%)	86	(2.4%)
17year olds / Year 13	3765	3518	(93.4%)	153	(4.1%)
Combined cohort	7375	7012	(95.1%)	239	(3.2%)

Overview for the Houghton Regis area compared to other local areas

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Total YPs in area	974		619		1070	
EET	941	(96.6%)	580	(93.7%)	1019	(95.2%)
NEET	30	(3.1%)	32	(5.2%)	43	(4%)
Unknown/Refused	3	(0.3%)	7	(1.1%)	8	(0.7%)

Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Houghton Regis area

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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	346	20	5.8%
Houghton Regis West	273	12	4.4%
Total	619	32	5.2%

Summary of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort by age, time, and gender

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	3	Less than 3 months	4	Male	16
17 years old	13	3 - 6 months	3	Female	16
18 years old	16	6+ months	25	Not Recorded	0

Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	24	(75%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	8	(25%)

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

Children's Services

Best Start in Life : Giving every child the best possible start in life

Every child deserves the best possible start in life, and every family should feel supported.

The early years are critical in shaping children's health, wellbeing, development, and future opportunities. Our Best Start in Life Local Plan sets out how we will work with families, communities and partners to support children from conception through to age five, making it easy to find help and focus on what families need, when they need it.

Over the coming years, we're bringing together services, schools, health professionals and community organisation's so families can get the right help at the right time. Through Best Start Family Hubs, access to high-quality early education and childcare, and strong partnerships with health and community services, we aim to support children to grow, learn and thrive.

Just as importantly, we want to help families build independence and resilience; giving parents and carers the knowledge, confidence and local support they need to support their children now and in the future. By investing early and working together, we can strengthen families, reduce inequalities and help every child get off to the best possible start in life.

The plan focuses on key areas to improve outcomes for children and families and outlines how we'll work in partnership to build a joined-up system that supports families at the right time and in the right way.

Together, we hope to improve outcomes for babies, young children, and their families across Central Bedfordshire.

[Best Start in Life Plan \(PDF\)](#)

Bidwell West Primary School

On the 2 June 2026, the Councils Executive confirmed the intention to progress the delivery of the new Bidwell West Primary School, nursery provision, and Additional Resource Provision as part of a phased opening . The Executive also approved to proceed to a competition for a sponsor to operate the new school.

While the principle of a new school within Bidwell West had previously been established through the wider housing growth plans for the area, earlier pupil forecasts and admissions trends did not indicate an immediate requirement to commence construction. The position has now changed due to a combination of factors, including all local primary Reception places being filled for September 2026, continuing housing delivery, increased movement of pupils across planning area boundaries and local authorities, and the anticipated impact of wider education system changes within neighbouring areas. Taken together, these factors now demonstrate a clear need to progress the scheme.

Officers will be carrying out further works to seek a potential sponsor to run the New School for the opening in September 2029. In seeking a sponsor to run the new school at Bidwell West, there will be a preliminary consultation to establish the views of key stakeholders, on what the general ethos of the school will look like (Dates to be confirmed).

Schools

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Houstone School and Lime Tree Academy took part in Walk to School Week. Pupils were encouraged to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot, or park and stride to school every day of the week. Classes stepped up to the challenge and were rewarded with active travel goody bags.

The Big Walk and Wheel challenge took place in March which Lime Tree Academy took part in, with 53% of pupils taking part. Classes received active travel prizes.

We continue to work with schools on their Travel Plans, alongside the sustainable travel platform Modeshift STARS. Currently Houstone School, The Chiltern School, Tithe Farm Primary, Thornhill Primary, Lime Tree Academy and St Vincent's Primary have up to date Travel Plans. Tithe Farm has an approved accreditation with Modeshift STARS Education - Delivery of Effective Travel Plans

Tithe Farm held Level 2 Bikeability sessions for 20 pupils. St Vincent's Primary held Level 2 sessions for 20 pupils. Lime Tree Academy held Level 2 sessions for 24 pupils and Learn to Ride sessions for 6 pupils – they also had access to Balance bikes for their younger pupils, and Dr Bike visited to service and maintain pupils' bikes. In partnership with CBC and Linmere Cycle Hub, 12 bikes were donated to the school for pupils who had no access to a bike.

Bikeability L2 training is available to all schools, and we are able to offer limited Dr Bike sessions to ensure pupils' bikes are in a safe condition to use. We also offer bike security marking to schools who have an active Travel Plan.

Please contact TravelChoices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk for more information.

Housing : Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

The homelessness strategy is in development with early engagement from partner organisations. The insight and feedback will be considered and used as part of developing our ongoing strategy, and hopefully those willing will be included in part of a group going forward monitoring the strategy and ensuring the Council is working towards the desired aims.

The plan is that the draft strategy will go to Executive for permission to consult in October and then subject to the consultation period required, be sent for approval by May . Hopefully all partners can help improve the options for homeless households within Central Bedfordshire.

Communications and Engagement

Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund replaces HSF and has greater emphasis on building resilience to sustain financial shock. Applications for a Crisis Fund can be made online and work is underway to shape the resilience strand

Here is a link to the Executive [Crisis and Resilience Fund report](#).

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has been made available to local authorities to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience.

Building on and learning from the experience of the Household Support Fund , local authorities are encouraged to invest in ‘Resilience Services’ that contribute towards improving the financial resilience of individuals. Financial resilience refers to the ability to withstand and recover from financial shocks – such as sudden income loss or unexpected expenses. The purpose of building financial resilience is to enable individuals to better manage future financial shocks and reduce the need for crisis support.

In addition to building resilience , local authorities must also deliver effective crisis support offering timely, needs-based assistance to those with low incomes facing financial shocks. In Central Bedfordshire we launched our Crisis Fund ahead of the government timetable , initially to support households impacted by the rising price of oil and since April 1st it is available to those on low incomes facing financial shocks.

We have a robust process in place to review applications for crisis support and if eligible we aim to issue payment within 48 hours. Referral mechanisms are also in place to ensure people get the support they need e.g employment and skills advice as well professional support to address situations including Domestic Abuse.

We have reported progress to Executive and to our Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and are currently developing the Resilience Plan and working with colleagues and VCS organisations to develop activity to meet the CRF outcomes required by Government. The

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Resilience Plan will seek to support activity to widen access to welfare rights and energy advice to maximise household income ; provide debt advice ; address digital exclusion and support access to low cost finance. We are also connecting to other funded provision such as the Warm Homes grant to ensure there is a holistic and joined up offer to enhance individual and community resilience.

Town and Parish Council Engagement

A regular schedule of in person and online engagement sessions are held on a range of strategic and operational topics. The most recent session, was held on 15th July and included a briefing on the Local Plan, local election planning and a Be a Cllr event planned for 15th October 2026.

The next in person TPC Forum will take place on the 18th November 2026.

Voluntary and Community Sector engagement

The Council in partnership with Beds RCC and CVS is organising 4 meetings a year with the Community and Voluntary Sector. The most recent session took place on 4th June , with a health theme and reflections on the last year since set up.

The next in person event is planned for November 24th 2026 and will focus on the broad theme of ‘connectivity’

Consultations

Current consultations and surveys				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Ivel Valley statutory notice	Statutory notice consultation on the proposal to increase pupil numbers at Ivel Valley School and College to 330, with refurbishment and the building of new classrooms on the current site, and adjacent site.	22 June 2026	17 Aug 2026	Victor Wan 0300 300 5574
Local Plan Call for Sites	Consultation on sites that have been put forward for possible inclusion in the new Local Plan.	6 July 2026	17 Aug 2026	Sian Farrier 0300 300 4113
Ampt Hill and Flitwick Green Wheel	Consultation on the draft green wheel for Ampt Hill and Flitwick	25 June 2026	3 Sept 2026	Lauren Chimes 0300 300 8867

Local Transport Plan 4: 2027-2040	Consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4: 2027-2040 for Central Bedfordshire	29 June 2026	20 Sept 2026	Rebecca Johnson 0300 300 4926
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Upcoming Meetings

Committee Meeting	Date	Time
Executive	04 August 2026	06:30 PM
Development Management Committee	26 August 2026	09:30 AM
Development Management Committee	26 August 2026	09:30 AM

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE

A BUS GATE ON LIME TREE DRIVE, HOUGHTON REGIS

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, propose to introduce a Bus Gate on Lime Tree Drive, Houghton Regis.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a Bus Gate (to be actively enforced by a ANPR camera) on the following length of road in Houghton Regis: -

*Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council
working in partnership*



1. Lime Tree Drive, from a point approximately 34 metres south of the centre of the junction with Waterslade Way and extending in a south-easterly direction, following the curvature of the road for approximately 133 metres ending approximately 10 metres west of the centre of the junction with Silver Birch Avenue.

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 18 February 2026. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made **and must quote unique reference number TRO-080**. 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 (Lime Tree Drive, Houghton Regis) Bus Gate Order 202*"

Central Bedfordshire Council

Gary Powell

Priory House

Service Director

Chicksands

Highways

Shefford SG17 5TQ

28 January 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A NO ENTRY RESTRICTION ON HUCKETT STREET, HOUGHTON REGIS

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road and for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising. More details can be found on the attached Statement of Reasons.

Effect of the Order

To prohibit entry on the following road in Houghton Regis: -

1. Hockett Street – to prohibit the entry of vehicles into Hockett Street from Elmers Gate at the junction.

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

Comments or objections should be sent by e-mail to highways.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 18 February 2026. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made **and must quote unique reference number TRO-080-NE**. If you wish to submit comments in writing please send them to the address below, FAO Emily Hirst.

Please note that any comments received will be redacted of personal information and published on the Central Bedfordshire Council website as part of the report for the relevant Traffic Management Meeting, where they will remain in the public domain. If you do not wish your comments to be published, please state this clearly in your response.

Order Title: If made will be “Central Bedfordshire Council (Hockett Street, Houghton Regis) No Entry Order 202**”

Central Bedfordshire Council

Gary Powell

Priory House

Service Director

Chicksands

Highways

Shefford SG17 5TQ

28 January 2026



PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A DISABLED PARKING BAY ON CLARKES WAY, HOUGHTON REGIS

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

Effect of the Order:

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

1. Clarkes Way, southeast side, from a point approximately 6 metres northeast of the eastern flank wall of No. 1 Clarkes Way and extending in a northeasterly direction covering an area approximately 6.6m in length and 2m in width.

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 22 July 2026. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made. **All comments must quote unique reference number TRO-119.** 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

Lorna Carver

Priory House

Director

Chicksands

Place and Communities

Shefford SG17 5TQ

01 July 2026

*Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council
working in partnership*



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