

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET
ON 10th NOVEMBER 2020**

Present: Town Cllrs: D Jones (Vice-Chair), K Wattingham, Cllr Abbott
CBC Cllrs: P Hamill, Y Farrell, S Goodchild
CBC Officers: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager
Co-opted Member: David Gibbons
HRTC Officers: Clare Evans, Town Clerk
Louise Senior, Head of Democratic Services

Also in Attendance: Carole Hegley: CBC Councillor
Tony Keaveney: Assistant Director Housing Services, Social Care,
Health & Housing Directorate
Jill Dickinson: Assistant Director Leisure Libraries and
Countryside, CBC
Kate Moodey: School Organisation Officer, CBC
John Gelder: Community Action Bedfordshire
Gina Croxford: Community Action Bedfordshire

Apologies: Cllr A Ryan, CBC Cllr

Members of the public: 2

863 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Ryan.

864 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

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

Cllr Goodchild advised members that she was a member of the Baptist Church, however, as her role was unpaid she would still be able to speak on the agenda item.

866 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2020.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2020 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

**867 IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING IN HOUGHTON REGIS:
A TIME TO CONNECT**

Councillor Abbot joined the meeting (7.14pm)

John Gelder, Director, Community Action Bedfordshire and Gina Croxford were in attendance at the meeting to update members and respond to any queries or comments on this project.

Members were advised that Zoom had been purchased to increase opportunities of reaching a wider section of the community.

Members were advised that meetings had been held with some groups who were predominantly struggling with loneliness due to the pandemic. Members were advised that some areas within the community were not always aware of the services and groups that were available to them in Houghton Regis.

868 KINGSLAND / HR LEISURE CENTRE

Jill Dickinson, Assistant Director Leisure Libraries and Countryside was in attendance at the meeting. Members received an update on the look of the new high school, the Trust who would be managing the school and the surrounding land proposals.

It was requested that Stuart Lock, CEO of Advantage Schools meet with council and update members on the plans, values and aspirations of the school.

Members raised concerns that despite the proposed additional three new primary schools, this would remain inadequate to accommodate the growing needs of the town.

Members were advised further work would be needed to ascertain the need for a health hub in Houghton Regis.

869 HOUSING PROVISION AND ALLOCATIONS

Tony Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services, Social Care, Health & Housing Directorate, was in attendance at the meeting and updated members on the All Saints View development and advised that it was hoped that Central Bedfordshire Council would be in a position to invite occupancy applications in the new year.

Members raised concerns that some residents of the elderly community believed that they had already registered for All Saints View, members were advised that extensive communications would be sent out to residents who had expressed interest.

870 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members received the Partnership Committee workplan for information.

- Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (HRN 2 Community Building)

Members were advised that an expression of interest had been received. Moving forward to the next stage, a full business case would be prepared.

Members requested that the invitation to Stuart Lock, CEO Vantage Schools be added to the workplan.

871 TITHE FARM SPORTS PROVISION

Members were updated on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.

Members were advised that a funding issue had arisen regarding the application to the Football Foundation. Members were advised that a report would be submitted to the Environment and Leisure Committee meeting on 16th November 2020.

872 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Town Partnership Committee were invited to provide a verbal report on matters of relevance to Houghton Regis arising in particular from the Committee/s on which they serve.

Councillor Goodchild updated members on Corporate Parenting Panel and Social Care; A spokesperson from NHS who spoke of specialist recovery and non-emergency care, also received was an over-view of the NHS and the services available to residents.

Councillor Farrell updated members that on receipt of an Op Hana document, crime figures in Houghton Regis were decreasing.

873 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC Update Report for information and a brief overview of services over the last three months.

- The Chalk Pit Quarry; there had been a decline in the reports of ASB. A site visit with the landowner was being arranged.
- Library services; The select and collect service remained available
- Business investment update, over the month of July – September, 34 inquiries had been received
- Estate regeneration: Feasibility, viability and resident engagement for potential scheme(s) for Tithe Farm and Parkside was still in place.

- Community engagement: members were encouraged to nominate for cheering for volunteering. It was recognised that the voluntary community had been outstanding.
- Community Services asset grant scheme: Members were advised that the second bidding scheme had closed.
- Reminder of the garden waste collections cessation on December 7th
- BT payphone consultations report to be submitted on 8th December

874 SUPPORTING TOWN CENTRES AND THE WIDER ECONOMY

HRTC has received communication from Marcel Coiffait, looking for ideas / suggestions to support town centres and the wider economy.

The town council would like to prepare a response to this letter. A considerable amount of work had already been completed on aspirations for Houghton Regis including the town centre. Members received supporting documents to the items below:

- HRTC had responded to the CBC consultation on the Future High Streets fund
- in 2018 HRTC put together a list of services and facilities that the council would like to see in Houghton Regis
- HRTC has also developed a corporate plan for 2020/24.

Members of this Committee were asked to review the above and to discuss any other issues which they would like to see. Feedback from the Partnership Committee would be provided to Town Council in December to enable a full response to be provided to CBC.

The Town Clerk was thanked for the extensive work already completed on the aspirations of Houghton Regis.

875 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

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

Co-option

1. To support engagement with local stakeholders the Town Joint Committee can co-opt members from local representative groups, as appropriate up to a maximum of 15. Each co-opted Member will be able to engage fully in all discussions but will not have any voting rights. Co-opted members can be

removed from the Town Joint Committee. Decision making around removals can either be taken by the whole Town Joint committee or by joint agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair, depending on each Town Joint Committee's preference.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.24pm

Dated this 26th day of January 2021.

Chairman