



## Houghton Regis Town Council Committee Updates

### Town Council

The Town Council signed off the Annual Accounts for 2008 / 09 and received the Internal Auditors report.

Central Bedfordshire Council are considering how best to improve the economic prosperity of town centres across the area. The Town Council has considered and commented on their plan and it is hoped that both authorities will continue to work together to support and development the town centre for the benefit of all.

### Policy and Resources Committee

The Committee considered and appointed a contractor for Phase II of the Council office refurbishment. Work is progressing well on the refurbishment on the Council Chamber, improvements include better disabled access and the installation of a hearing loop. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is received work will be completed.

### Planning and Licensing Committee

The last six or seven weeks have been quiet with only ten applications to consider, of which five were passed and five objected to on various planning grounds. The Committee was also asked to put forward possible names for the streets in the new housing development off Sandringham Drive, based on a Royal Theme. A number of suggestions were submitted.

### Environment Committee

The Committee were pleased to appointment a local contractor for the development of a new sports pavilion on Moore Crescent. Work is due to start mid September and the pavilion should be completed Spring 2010.

An Allotments Working Group, consisting of representatives from both the Houghton Regis Allotments

Association and the Town Council, has been set up to progress the adopted Project Plan with a view to the development of an allotment site in Houghton Regis. The first stage is to visit local allotment sites to look at their set up and how they work. The next stage is to look for local land opportunities.

Following the successful refurbishment of two of the Town Council's play sites, the Play Areas Working Group is now considering the options for the next stage of the refurbishment programme,

notably the play sites on The Green and Tithe Farm recreation grounds, and investigating possible sources of funding.

The Environment Committee has also put forward suggestions for highways improvements to the Central Bedfordshire Highways Partnership. It was decided to concentrate on pavement improvements within the town this year especially on routes known to be used as routes to school.

## Annual Report 2009/10

The Town Councils Annual Report was approved on 29th June 2009. The report contains the Chairman's Foreword, Chairman's Overview, Review of the Policy & Resources Committee, the Environment Committee and the Planning & Licensing Committee, a look forward to 2009 / 2010, a Summary of Accounts (as detailed below), contact details for Houghton Regis Town Council including office contact details, town councillor contact details and areas of responsibility and contact details for Central Bedfordshire Council including office contact details, Central Bedfordshire Councillor contact details and areas of responsibility. A full copy of the Annual Report can be found on the Town Councils website, [www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk) or from the council offices.

The Summary of Accounts in the Annual Report provides the following information:

INCOME 2008 - 2009	Income £	EXPENDITURE 2008 - 2009	Expenditure £
Precept	620,000	Establishment/general admin	369,578
Agency	18,354	Agency Costs	9,036
Loan & capital receipts	85,224	Election expenses	0
Interest & investment income	17,859	Grants	14,365
Leisure & recreation, including pavilions	14,238	Capital expenditure	52,604
Cemetery fees	12,788	Leisure & recreation – play areas & pavilions	75,959
Cash office reimbursement	0	Cemetery	6,365
Miscellaneous income	451	Christmas lights	10,129
Town security	0	Democratic representation & management	14,019
Mayors Charity Grant	0	Highways	1,440
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>773,120</b>	Town security	29,053
		Community development	8,608
		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>591,156</b>

# Houghton Regis TOWN CRIER

## Houghton Regis Town Council

Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Telephone: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102

E-mail: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)

Web: [www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk)

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

## Carnival 2009

**The Houghton Regis Carnival was a terrific success with lots of sunshine! The event was kicked off by the colourful and energetic arrival of the Carnival procession on the Village Green. It is estimated that 3,000 people attended the event throughout the day.**

The winners of the procession competition were Northfields Technology College followed by Donna's Dancing School, who won £300 and £150 respectively along with trophy cups. As the procession winners Northfields Technology College won the Yvonne Corkerton Memorial trophy.

The planning has already started for 2010 and the date has been confirmed as Saturday 10th July, with the theme of the event set

as Books and Stories. For more details and for early booking, please contact Sarah on **01582 708523** or [sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk).

The Town Council would also like to hear from residents who are interested in becoming co-opted on to the Carnival Working Group. The Carnival Working Group meets six times a year for approx 2 hours to discuss ideas for the event. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and some time to spare on Carnival Day itself. For more details, please contact Sarah.

**The Town Council and Carnival Working Group would like to thank Greenstar, Houghton Regis Youth FC and all our advertisers for assisting with the event.**



### Parking

The Town Council would like to request that vehicles are not parked on grassed / green areas around the estates in the town. This is especially important as we enter into Autumn as parking on the grassed areas drags mud and dirt across footpaths making them slippery and dangerous for pedestrians.

### Town Mayor's Christmas Cards

Every year the Town Mayor sends Christmas cards to residents over 65 years of age. The time is approaching again to ensure that your details are on the list. To register or to check that your details are included on the 2009 list please call Sarah on 01582 708523.

# Town Council Calendar of Meetings



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from the Environment Committee (1st Sept) – end of November. All Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Offices on Peel Street at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. The agendas for forthcoming meetings can be found on the notice boards outside the offices, Houghton Regis Library and on the Town Council website. Copies can also be obtained from the office.

2009	DAY	COMMITTEE	TIME
1st Sept	Tuesday	Environment Committee	
7th Sept	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee	(6.30pm)
14th Sept	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee	
17th Sept	Thursday	HR Town Centre Management Committee	(7.00pm)
28th Sept	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee	(6.30pm)
		Policy & Resources Committee	
1st October	Thursday	Town Centre Management Committee	(7.00pm)
13th October	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee	
20th October	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee	(6.30pm)
3rd Nov	Monday	Environment Committee	
10th Nov	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee	(6.30pm)
		Planning & Licensing Committee	
24th Nov	Monday	Policy & Resources Committee	
27th Nov	Thursday	HR Town Centre Management Committee	(7.00pm)

## HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council, Peel Street,  
Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY  
Tel: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102  
Email: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)  
Website: [www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk)

### Officers:

Clare Evans, Town Clerk	01582 708542
Stuart Oliver, Deputy Town Clerk	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp, Town Centre and Development Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett, Accounts and Administration Officer	01582 708541
John Lawson, Projects and Assignments Officer	01582 708544
Sandra Brandham, Administration Officer	01582 708540

### Councillors:

#### HOUGHTON HALL WARD:

Clr Edward Costello	862147
1 Clarkes Way, Houghton Regis	
Clr Rita Egan	868746
4 Bidwell Close, Houghton Regis, LU5 5TP	
Clr Robin Hines	759026
5 Bidwell Hill, Houghton Regis, LU5 5DR	
Clr Andrew Roberts	868288
40 Manor Park, Houghton Regis, LU5 5BX	
Clr Tony Swain	522952
19 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	
Clr Mrs Lynda Walsley	660408
22 Houghton Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5AD	

#### PARKSIDE WARD:

Clr Eric Ball	514257
39 Dolphin Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5QE	
Clr Mrs Janine Dixon-Wilkinson	514696
127 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	
Clr David Jones	655162
2 Halley's Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	
Clr Alan Winter	514654
100 Westminster Gardens, Houghton Regis, LU5 5RU	

#### TITHE FARM WARD:

Clr Gerald Fill	866373
101 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NJ	
Clr Mrs Shirley Gilchrist	519087
129 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	
Clr Ms Karen Sanderson	518482
149 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5JQ	
Clr Ms Ros Williams	519327
18, The Link, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HQ	

#### CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Clr Rita Egan	868746
4 Bidwell Close, Houghton Regis, LU5 5TP	
Clr Mrs Susan Goodchild	867557
21 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	
Clr David Jones	655162
2 Halley's Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	
Clr Peter Williams	
25 Dalling Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5EF	

## More than 190 Bedfordshire walks to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

### Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So [www.walkinginbeds.co.uk](http://www.walkinginbeds.co.uk) came into being.

[www.walkinginbeds.co.uk](http://www.walkinginbeds.co.uk) gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Details of more than 190 walks to download and print free, details of all the Bedfordshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information.

**So check out the website and get walking!**

## Town Mayor's Photograph Competition

The Town Mayor is launching a photography competition to find the picture that best records the spirit and community of Houghton Regis. The contest is open to all residents of the town and there are three age categories:

**7 years and below**

**8 years – 15 years**

**16 years plus**

The photographs can record any aspect of the community and can include people, buildings, landscapes or local events. The winner of each age category will receive a prize of a £15 voucher and the photographs will be displayed on Town Council Website and in future editions of the Town Crier.

The entry fee for the competition is 50p per photograph and all proceeds will go to the Town Mayor's Appeal Fund, which this year is supporting Macmillan Nurses, YAWN (Young Adults With Needs) and the Cancer Unit of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

The closing date for entries is 31st January 2010. Entries should be delivered to the Town Council offices. **Good luck and happy snapping.**

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT 'THE MAYOR'S APPEAL FUND'.



Priced at only £4.25

GET YOUR 2010 CALENDAR WITH LOTS OF GREAT PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A BYGONE AGE...

FOR AVAILABILITY CONTACT:  
HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL TEL: 01582 708540

## Dog fowling on the Village Green

Dog owners and walkers are reminded that there are dog bins placed around the Village Green for placing in dog waste.

Dog fowling is becoming a large problem on the Village Green - please be considerate and if you see a dog bin, please put your dog waste in!

## Quiz Challenge Series!

Houghton Regis Town Council is delighted to confirm the dates for the Town Mayor's Quiz Challenge Series 2009/10

Heat 1	Friday 25th September 2009
Heat 2	Friday 23rd October 2009
Heat 3	Friday 20th November 2009

The dates for 2010 will follow in a future edition.

Heats one and two of the competition are being held at St Vincent's Social Club, Houghton Regis, with Heat three being held at The Dunstablians Rugby Club, Bidwell Hill, Houghton Regis from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Each heat of the quiz is a separate competition and the winning teams from each heat will qualify to play at the Grand Final in March. At the Grand Final, the winning team will win £300 cash prize with the runner up taking home £150.

To register your team, please call Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708540. Teams may consist of up to six players and entrance to the quiz costs £3.00 per person, with 50p of the entrance fee going towards a cash prize on the night.

The Quiz Challenge Series 2009/10 is being sponsored by **Robert Noble Associates**.

