



# LET'S TALK CENTRAL

Central Bedfordshire residents will have a new website from 8 June as Central Bedfordshire Council launches Let's Talk Central ([www.letstalkcentral.com](http://www.letstalkcentral.com)). The site will be dedicated to giving local people a place to talk to each other, post comments, photos and videos about where they live.

Central Bedfordshire Council is keen to understand how residents feel and will be generating online discussions about:

- What's the best thing about where you live?
- What do you think is special about Central Bedfordshire?
- What do you want to see protected or developed for the future?
- What challenges do you think Central Bedfordshire will face in the future?
- What are your hopes for Central Bedfordshire in the future?

The council is launching the website to hear directly from the public about these and other issues, as only by listening to local people can the council take decisions that reflect our communities' priorities.

Existing social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube will be used to promote Let's Talk Central, which will be free and easy to use for the council and their customers.

The website launches on 8th June - please check it out and spread the word as we get talking about Central Bedfordshire.

## DON'T FALL FOWL OF THE LAW!

Central Bedfordshire Council is asking dog owners to show consideration for other residents by using poop-scoops and dog waste bins when they are out walking their pets after receiving 268 complaints in the last year.

The council's dog wardens have the power to hand out fixed penalties of £75 to any dog owners caught failing to clear up after their pet when it's in a public place.

Cllr David McVicar, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles at Central Bedfordshire Council said: "With over 620 dog bins installed across Central Bedfordshire, there is no excuse for not doing the right thing. People take pride in their community but public areas are becoming blighted by dog mess.

"I would urge all dog owners to act responsibly or face receiving a fixed penalty if they fail to clear up after their pets. Dog mess is the public's most hated type of litter and it is dangerous.

"People may not realise that Toxocariasis - an infection of the round worm - is spread via dog faeces and young children are particularly at risk due to their weaker immune systems.

"The Council has already successfully prosecuted a resident for not cleaning up after his pet and I hope that all dog owners do their bit in keeping our pavements and parks mess-free."

Dog walkers must scoop their dog's mess up from all designated land to which the public have access. Designated land includes:

- Footways and paths, including public footpaths
- Play areas, picnic sites and outdoor eating places
- Sport playing pitches including 5 metre border
- Formal parks and land where the grass is cut
- Land outside schools and hospitals
- Car parks, public transport bays and surrounds
- Cycle ways and surfaced areas near to houses
- Shopping areas, markets and public circulation areas
- Cemeteries and war memorials
- Land surrounding toilets, recycling sites and public buildings

If you want to report a problem with dog mess, please call 0300 300 8631 (North)/ 8632 (South) or email: [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

If you are a dog owner, here are some things you can do to help:

1. If you walk your dog always carry the means to clear up after them. A simple plastic bag will do the trick or buy a poop scoop from a local pet shop
2. You can also buy biodegradable plastic "Doggy Bags" from the a number of pet supply retailers
3. Every time your dog fouls, bag it and bin it. Take the poop scoop home and dispose of it there or use one of the bins if available. Remember rain does not wash the problem away.
4. Never let your dog out alone to "go to the loo".



# 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-cc.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis-cc.org.uk)

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

## CARNIVAL 2010



The Houghton Regis Carnival was a terrific success with scorching weather. The event began with the colourful and energetic arrival of the Carnival procession on the Village Green and it is estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 people attended the event throughout the day.

The joint winners of the procession competition were Balloonies, Donna's Dance School and 1st/3rd Houghton Regis Beavers and Cubs, who each took home £150 prize money. In addition, Balloonies won the Yvonne Corkerton Memorial trophy as the winner of the best float.

The planning has already started for 2011 and the date has been confirmed as Saturday 9th July 2011, with the theme of the event set as 'Carnival 1081 - 2011 World of Celebration'.

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 two 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 Nisa, The Grooming Parlour, Vauxhall Heritage Centre and all our advertisers.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY Houghton Regis W.I!

For more details or to join, please contact Irene Carpenter (Secretary) 01582 826703 or Beverly Lennox (President) 01582 527789.

The Houghton Regis Women's Institute celebrated its 65th birthday party in June. The W.I has 22 members, two of which received long service in recognition of 42 years of attending the group.

Central Bedfordshire Council provided a community grant which funded the event and the Chairman Councillor Peter Hollick, attended the event with Councillor Mrs Brenda Boatwright. Also in attendance were Local MP Andrew Selous and The Mayor and Mayoress of Houghton Regis, Councillor Robin and Mrs Mary Hines.

The theme of the event was Butterflies, and as the Chalk Hill Blue is the emblem of the Bedfordshire Federation, the celebratory cake was decorated with this Butterfly plaque. Members and guests enjoyed a supper followed by entertainment by local trio Razz which led to a packed dance floor. A good time was had by all.

The W.I was also on hand for the Houghton Regis Carnival in July. The group was stationed in the Village Green Pavilion and served a selection of cakes and scones along with tea and coffee.

Are you interested in joining? The W.I meet on the first Tues of the month at The Memorial Hall (opposite the Green) at 7 30 pm and are a friendly group of ladies of all ages. There are always various speakers and craft projects taking place.



## HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council, Peel Street,  
Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Telephone: 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 & Development Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett, Accounts & Administration Officer	01582 708541
John Lawson, Projects and Assignments Officer	01582 708544
Sandra Brandham, Administration Officer	01582 708540

### Councillor contact details:

#### Houghton Hall Ward:

<b>Clr Edward Costello *</b> 1 Clarks Way, Houghton Regis,	01582 862147
<b>Clr Dr Rita Egan **</b> 4 Bidwell Close, Houghton Regis, LU5 5TP	01582 868746
<b>Clr Robin Hines *</b> 5 Bidwell Hill, Houghton Regis, LU5 5DR	01582 759026
<b>Clr Andrew Roberts *</b> 40 Manor Park, Houghton Regis, LU5 5BX	01582 868288
<b>Clr Tony Swain *</b> 19 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	01582 522952
<b>Clr Mrs Lynda Walmsley *</b> 22 Houghton Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5AD	01582 660408

#### Parkside Ward:

<b>Clr Mrs Janine Dixon-Wilkinson *</b> 127 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	01582 514696
<b>Clr David Jones **</b> 2 Halleys Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	01582 655162
<b>Clr Alan Winter *</b> 100 Westminster Gardens, Houghton Regis, LU5 5RU	01582 514654

#### Tithe Farm Ward:

<b>Clr Gerald Fill *</b> 101 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NJ	01582 866373
<b>Clr Mrs Shirley Gilchrist *</b> 129 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	01582 519087
<b>Clr Ms Karen Sanderson *</b> 149 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5JQ	01582 518482

#### Central Bedfordshire Councillors:

<b>Clr Dr Rita Egan **</b> 4 Bidwell Close, Houghton Regis, LU5 5TP	0300 300 8518
<b>Clr Mrs Susan Goodchild **</b> 21 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	0300 300 8525
<b>Clr David Jones **</b> 2 Halleys Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	0300 300 8535
<b>Clr Peter Williams **</b> 25 Dalling Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5EF	0300 300 8535

\* Photos courtesy of Councillor A.D Winter

\*\* Photos courtesy of Central Bedfordshire Council

## Houghton Regis Councillors



Clr Alan Winter \*



Clr Andrew Roberts \*



Clr David Jones  
Central Bedfordshire Councillor



Clr Rita Egan  
Central Bedfordshire Councillor



Clr Edward Costello \*



Clr Mrs Janine  
Dixon-Wilkinson



Clr Gerald Fill \*



Clr Mrs Shirley  
Gilchrist



Clr Mrs Lynda  
Walmsley



Clr Ms Karen  
Sanderson



Clr Mrs Susan Goodchild  
Central Bedfordshire Councillor



Clr Robin Hines



Clr Tony Swain



Clr Peter Williams \*\*



### Councillor Rosemarie Williams

Houghton Regis Town Council is sad to announce the death of Councillor Rosemarie Williams. Rosemarie served on the Tithe Farm Ward since 2007 and was an active member of the community. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

## Council Meetings

### Policy & Resources Committee

Members considered a report advising of a review of public space CCTV by Central Bedfordshire Council. Consideration was given to the location of the CCTV monitoring station, the level of monitoring, the possibility of removing some existing cameras and whether there were any changes or improvements that could be made to the system.

Although it was the height of summer consideration was given to the Christmas light display for 2010.

Grievance and disciplinary procedures were approved.

It was agreed to move workshops to a larger and more suitable premises.

### Town Council

The Accounts for 2009 / 10 were approved subject to audit and the Internal Auditors report was considered. The Annual Report for 2009 / 10 was approved for publication. (Copies are available on the Council's website and at the Council offices).

Councillors provided a number of reports of meetings they had attended as representatives of the Council including the Youth At Risk Steering Group, the Dial-A-Ride AGM, National Trust community event and the Town and Parish Council Conference at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Further consideration was given to the next stage of the Electoral Review. The following points were noted:

- By 2013 Houghton Hall would have 8% fewer, Parkside 2% more and Tithe Farm 8% fewer electors per councillor than the district wide average;
- The proposed Houghton Hall Ward was 2 member and Parkside and Tithe Farm were single member wards;
- There were no proposed alterations to the parish electoral arrangements.

Members expressed again their concerns that a Council size of 59 Members was insufficient to meet the requirements of CBC and that this number of councillors resulted in a considerable workload such that those in employment were disadvantaged from taking on the role.

### Environment Committee

Only one meeting of the Committee has taken place since the last edition of the Town Crier. Members received, and noted, a report on where things stood as regards finding land for allotments, reviewed the structure of cemetery fees, and approved the use of recreation grounds for two Fun Days.

### Planning and Licensing Committee

14 planning applications have been considered since the June edition. Of these, only 2 were not found acceptable and objections submitted.

## Annual Report 2010/11

The Town Councils Annual Report was approved on 28th June 2010. 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 2010 / 2011, 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.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk) or from the council offices.

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

### Income 2009 - 2010

	Income (£)
Precept	637,500
Agency	21,002
Loan & capital receipts	494,025
Interest & investment income	5,199
Leisure & recreation, including pavilions	14,650
Cemetery fees	14,368
Miscellaneous income	1,708
Community Development	5,711
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,194,163</b>

### Expenditure 2009 - 2010

	Expenditure (£)
Establishment/general admin	355,545
Agency Costs	6,550
S137 Expenditure	9,331
Capital expenditure	566,335
Loan interest and Capital Repayments	17,887
Leisure & recreation – play areas & pavilions	84,736
Cemetery	11,749
Tourism	9,863
Highways	5,453
Democratic representation & management	16,009
Town security	30,939
Community development	8,003
Grants under specific powers	4,740
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,127,140</b>

\* The Year End Accounts are yet to be finalised, so the above figures are an estimate.



The Town Council are keen to see local organisations and residents work together to produce a Town Plan for Houghton Regis and has taken the first steps to start this process. The plan will cover social, economic and environmental aspirations for the town and is very useful tool to bring some real improvements to the town.

The Town Council are seeking local residents, organisations and businesses to join a Town Plan Steering group. Ideally this group should be representative of the town, so if you are young, old or in the middle, from Parkside, Tithe Farm or Houghton Hall, interested in sport, education or care we would like to hear from you.

It is envisaged that this group will meet approximately once a month at a time to suit. So if you live, work or play in the town and are interested in joining this group please contact the Town Clerk on **01582 708540** or e-mail [clare.evans@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:clare.evans@houghtonregis.org.uk)

## Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from September to the end of November. 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.

Date	Day	Committee/Time
6th September	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee (6.30pm)
6th September	Monday	Grants Sub Committee (7.30pm)
13th September	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee (7.30pm)
23rd September	Thursday	Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committee (7pm)
27th September	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee (6.30pm)
27th September	Monday	Policy and Resources Committee (7.30pm)
4th October	Monday	Town Council Meeting (7.30pm)
11th October	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee (6.30pm)
11th October	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee (7.30pm)
1st November	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee (6.30pm)
1st November	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee (7.30pm)
8th November	Monday	Environment Committee (7.30pm)
15th November	Monday	Grants Sub Committee (7.30pm)
22nd November	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee (6.30pm)
22nd November	Monday	Planning & Licensing Committee (7.30pm)
29th November	Monday	Policy and Resources Committee (7.30pm)

## Images of Houghton Regis

15th September – 14th October  
In Houghton Regis Library.  
An exhibition of photographs by Pat Lovering.