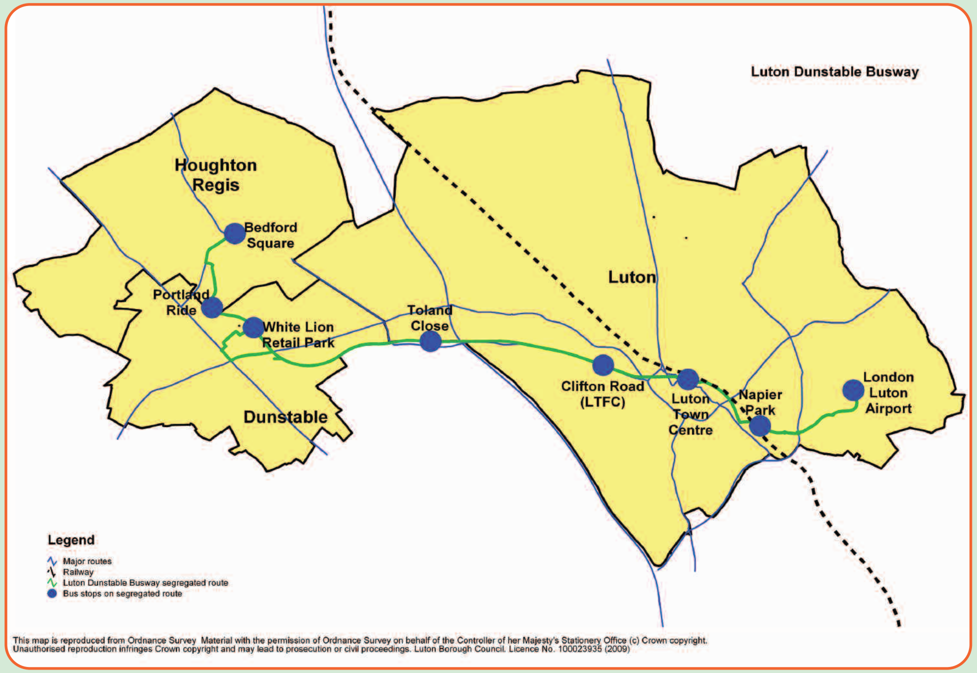

Development, said: "All our local residents should have accessible, convenient and high class public transport services in order to access local amenities and facilities safely and comfortably. The Luton Dunstable Busway will provide local residents with a fast and efficient alternative to the car, which is commercially viable. This will not only go a long way to reducing congestion in the town but provide easy access to the town centre, Luton Airport, and Dunstable."

Luton Borough Council is currently looking for the best company to develop the busway with works expected to start early next year.

For more information go to www.luton.gov.uk/busway

Telephone: 01582 547294 Email: busway@luton.gov.uk

Want to know more?

Public information sessions about the Luton Dunstable Busway are being held on **Thursday 19th November** - Committee Rooms 1&2, Central Bedfordshire Council Offices, High Street North 6pm - 8pm

Saturday 21st November - Dunstable Library, Vernon Place, 10am - 3pm (Library opening times are 9am - 5pm)

Saturday 28th November - Houghton Regis Library, Bedford Square, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

THE MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL • **SPECIAL EDITION**

Houghton Regis TOWN CRIER

OCT 2009

Houghton Regis Town Council
Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY
Telephone: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102
E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk
Web: www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Future Plans for Houghton Regis

Houghton Regis is expanding and plans are emerging to provide additional housing, employment, retail and community facilities. As a local resident your views are important. You have the right to comment on the proposals which will shape the town and surrounding area. ***It is really important that you let your views be known. Your opportunity is now...... don't let it pass.***

The purpose of this newsletter is to set out in a simple way how the planning system works and which authority or body is responsible for what. With this information you can direct your inquiries, comments and concerns, find and research information and access consultations.

Luton and southern Bedfordshire is expected to deliver 26,300 new homes and 12,600 new jobs between 2001-2021. These figures have been passed down from national bodies and are based on population trends and forecasts. At the top of the hierarchy is the government Department for Communities and Local Government. This feeds down into the Government Office for the East of England, the East of England Regional Assembly and the East of England Development Agency. These bodies largely cover the same geographical area and essentially aim to make the region a better place to live and work.

The governments' intentions for housing and employment growth in this area first became apparent in July 2003 with the publication of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (MKSMSRS). This document is now being incorporated into the **East of England Plan** 2031 which is being produced by the East of England Regional Assembly. A draft of this document is currently being consulted on until **24th November 2009**. You can find the document on www.eera.gov.uk or it can be viewed at the Town Council offices.

At a more local level the local authority covering Houghton Regis is Central Bedfordshire Council. Development control, the team that decides whether a development can go ahead or not, remains the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council. As Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton-Linslade form a major growth area it was decided that it would be more sensible to treat this area as one. In order to do this a new body was established called the Joint Technical Unit. It has the responsibility for establishing the planning policy, the Local Development Framework, for this area.

More detail on this Framework can be found in their document entitled Statement of Community Involvement, which includes details about how to get involved in emerging planning policy and how to get involved in planning applications. The Local Development Framework comprises a number of

documents many subject to statutory consultation. Most recent was the Core Strategy which set out where development should go and what standards it should aim to achieve. Over the next few months or so further documents will be produced and put out to consultation. A useful website to look at is www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk

Central Bedfordshire is further divided into towns and parishes. Houghton Regis Town Council is the parish / town council for this area. The Town Council is a statutory consultee on planning policy documents and on all planning applications. This means the Town Council is specifically invited to comment on planning policy and planning applications. The Town Council does not make decisions on policy matters or planning applications.

Summary

National
- Department for Communities and Local Government

Regional
- Government Office for East of England
- East of England Regional Assembly
- East of England Development Agency

Local
- Central Bedfordshire Council –
- Development Control
- Joint Technical Unit – Planning Policy

Parish
- Houghton Regis Town Council

Houghton Regis Town Council considers consultation documents and planning applications at committee meetings. These meetings are open to the public and the Town Council values hearing views and comments from residents. There is an opportunity at each meeting for residents to make comments and ask questions. Meeting dates are published on our website and agendas are available a few days before each meeting.

Organisation	Address	Telephone	e-mail address	Website
Department for Communities and Local Government	Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU	020 7944 4400	contactus@communities.gsi.gov.uk	www.communities.gov.uk
Government Office for East of England	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	01223 372500	Enquiries.GOEast@Goeast.gsi.gov.uk	www.go-east.gov.uk
East of England Regional Assembly	Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6EG	01284 728151	info@eera.gov.uk	www.eera.gov.uk
East of England Development Agency	Victory House, Vision Park, Chivers Way, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9ZR	01223 713900	Please see feedback form on their website for e-mail contact.	www.eeda.org.uk
Central Bedfordshire Council	Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ	0300 300 8000	customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Joint Technical Unit	Regus House, 960 Capability Green, Luton LU1 3PE	01582 547096	consultation@shapeyourfuture.org.uk	www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk
Houghton Regis Town Council	Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Beds LU5 5EY	01582 708540	info@houghtonregis.org.uk	www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

Please do take note of these emerging plans and comment on them as you see fit. The local voice is very important and decision makers need to hear from you.

A lot of information can be found on the internet. You can access the internet for free in the Houghton Regis library. For booking details drop into the library or contact them on **0300 300 8058.**

Additional help can also be obtained from an organisation called Planning Aid. This organisation offers free, independent and professional advice on planning matters to community groups and individuals. Their website is www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk or phone **01223-351597**. For advice about a specific planning problem (extension, loft conversion etc), phone 0870 850 8901.

The Town Council will try to keep you informed of future consultations through our website, www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk, and through future editions of the Town Crier. However if you would like to receive e-mails from us informing you of future consultations and events please e-mail the Town Clerk on info@houghtonregis.org.uk in order that your contact details can be added to our database.

Don't miss the bus on this one

A new high-tech public transport system is set to spectacularly change the way people travel in and around Southern Bedfordshire..

The Luton Dunstable Busway, one of the County's biggest transport projects, will dramatically improve journey times and reliability between Luton Airport, Luton Town Centre, Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

The 13.4km busway will provide residents with a fast, frequent and efficient alternative to travelling by car. It will also help to combat congestion and let people to do their bit for the environment.

Due to open in Summer 2012, the service will be provided by specially adapted buses capable of running both on their own track and on public roads.

The majority of the busway will be a concrete guideway between Blackburn Road in Houghton Regis, through Dunstable and into Luton town centre.

The route will then continue on a bus-only road from Luton town centre to Kimpton Road before connecting to the highway on a bus-only lane towards Luton Airport.

Currently it takes a conventional bus more than half an hour to do the 6-mile journey from Dunstable town centre to Luton train station. The Busway will do the same journey on its dedicated guideway in about quarter of an hour, including three scheduled stops.

Luton and Central Bedfordshire Councils are jointly leading on the project as part of their commitment to improving public transport, making getting to work, going to the shops and travelling around easier and more affordable for residents.

Cllr Roy Davis, Executive Member for Regeneration at Luton Borough Council said: "This Busway gives us a real opportunity to change people's travel to work habits. This system should provide public transport which local residents will really want to use in preference to the car."

Councillor Tom Nicols, Central Bedfordshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Sustainable