

# Independent Living

## Houghton Regis Central

### Newsletter No.3 –Jan 2018

Welcome to the third edition of the Houghton Regis Central (HRC) newsletter. These newsletters will help keep you up to date with the development of HRC, the Council's new independent living scheme.

#### **Houghton Regis Central development – the tender process has started!**

On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December we commenced the contractor tendering process that will lead to the appointment of a developer for the Scheme. The first step is to identify those companies that have the capacity and relevant experience to take on a major development in a Town Centre that incorporates a Grade 2 Listed Building (the Red House). The decision to award a contract will be taken by the Council's Executive in August 2018.

#### **Proposal for Whitbread PLC to use part of the HRC site as a temporary staff car park**

Whitbread PLC are a major business located on the Houghton Hall Business Park. They are substantially extending their existing car park and have asked for the Council's help to use the Houghton Regis Central site as a temporary staff car park for six months, whilst the work to provide their new staff car park is carried out.

Whitbread are committed to the local area and are working closely with the Council to invest in business growth and expansion. As this is an opportunity to unlock investment, with a wider benefit for Houghton Regis and significant job creation, the council are keen to support them.

Whitbread will pay for and undertake the works required to make the site fit for purpose as a temporary staff car park. Any works will be supportive of future HRC development works and will not impact on timescales or costs for HRC. The site will be staffed by Whitbread and used by their employees Monday to Friday. Using this space will mean that Whitbread staff will not need to use existing on street parking or public car parks.



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Consideration has been given to the feasibility of a small number of these parking spaces being made available to the public. However, this has not proved possible as public car parks must comply with different regulations to private car parks. Applying these regulations would mean significant changes in the work and management of the car park and require an increase in costs for Whitbread that would be excessive for the relatively short period of time they require for the temporary car park.

### Starting on site

As Whitbread will need to vacate the site by the end of July they are looking to start their preparatory works before the end of this month.

### Whitbread's contribution to the Houghton Regis community

Whitbread understand the importance of the role that a business of its size can play in a local community. In recognition of that role and their commitment to the local area, they have decided to make a sum of money available to support local organisations active in the community, for the longer-term benefit of the residents of Houghton Regis. Further details in how they will manage this arrangement will be available in due course.

### For more information...

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Visit the website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/houghton-regis-central](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/houghton-regis-central)

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E Mail: [IndependentLivingHR@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:IndependentLivingHR@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write: Central Bedfordshire Council, Houghton Regis Central Project Team,  
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