

Kingsland
Centre

have
your
say...

Have your say on the proposed community and leisure centre in Houghton Regis an upgraded, superior leisure provision for residents

We aspire to provide Houghton Regis residents with first-class leisure and community facilities. The existing leisure centre is tired, and the facilities are dated. We want to modernise the leisure provision. This led to a successful £20 million Government Levelling Up Fund bid. We are also contributing over £5 million to create a much-needed £25 million community and leisure centre at Kingsland.

This newsletter sets out our plans, explains where you can find more information, and invites you to get involved in the public consultation on our proposals.



What are we proposing?

The state-of-the-art community and leisure centre is set over two floors. It will include:

- an eight-lane 25 metre community swimming pool, which is more than double the size of the pool at the existing Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, complete with spectator seating
- a 16 metre by 10 metre learner pool with a movable floor to raise or lower the depth for swimming lessons and other activities
- a separate, shallow pool, often called ‘confidence water’ and changing village completes a comprehensive swimming experience
- two squash courts
- a large 151 station fitness suite
- two multi-use studios and a flexible space for a range of classes and activities
- a spinning bike studio
- a spacious reception and foyer area creating a vibrant social hub
- Changing Places facilities on both floors
- a pool pod and Oxford Dipper hoist to provide access into the main pool and learner pool,
- contrasting colours throughout to help visually impaired visitors
- a creche
- a café
- a children’s outdoor play zone
- an outdoor fitness trail to provide another opportunity for exercise
- enjoyable outside public areas and seating
- enhanced landscaping and planting
- improved walking and cycling routes linking to the new school and communities
- a 238 space car park plus motorcycle parking, consisting of 199 standard bays, 24 electric vehicle charging bays, 13 accessible parking bays close to the entrance and 2 spaces for minibuses
- cycle parking, drop-off areas and good access to buses and public transport
- extensive lighting and CCTV to help make the site safe and secure

All of the plans will meet the latest industry standards and Sport England guidelines.



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Location

The proposed site for the new community and leisure centre at the Kingsland Campus is shown below



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Additional Sports Hall Provision

A Community Use Agreement with Houstone School will provide residents with access to a modern sports hall for indoor sports as well as a range of outdoor sports facilities.

We wanted to target the funding on additional facilities and not duplicate sports provision available for school and community use. The new community and leisure centre will offer complementary facilities which create a package of modern sporting and fitness opportunities for residents. If we had included a sports hall in the leisure centre, as well as the one required for the new school, it would have used a considerable portion of the budget and have meant sacrificing other facilities. The preferred option offers additional leisure and community facilities to meet the needs of more residents.

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How to get involved

Our public consultation is running from Wednesday 19th January to Wednesday 16th February 2022.

The planning application was submitted on 16 December 2021 and will be considered by the development management committee later in 2022. The planning consultation process is currently ongoing and representations on the scheme can be made to the Local Planning Portal via the Central Bedfordshire website.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to view our proposals, meet members of the team and share your feedback. We are holding a face-to-face event as well as two webinars. These events are open to everyone.

Please consider staff and other visitors. You will be required to wear face coverings when attending face-to-face events, observe social distancing where possible and use the hand sanitiser stations around the exhibition.

Date	Type	Time	Location
Thursday 27 January	Online	6:00pm-7:30pm	Webinar
Saturday 29 January	In Person	11:00am-4:00pm	Bedford Square Community Library Concourse
Monday 31 January	Online	12:30pm- 2:00pm	Webinar

How do I sign-up to a webinar?

Please see the website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kingsland for details on how to join a webinar.

Give us your feedback

Your views are important to us and can be very helpful in showing us where we can make improvements.

Please use the online feedback form at: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kingsland.

However, if you would prefer a paper copy please email: Kingslandcentre@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and we will send you one along with a Freepost envelope so you send your feedback to us.

