

# Potton Town Council

Potton Town Council, Town Council Office, The Community Centre, Brook End,  
Potton SG19 2QS Tel: 01767 260086

Email: [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com) Web: [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk)

## Autumn Newsletter 2015

### THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - COUNCILLOR PETER J. LANGRIDGE

Autumn is upon us so quickly and for some of us our summer holidays are just becoming memories. The children are back to their schools and the playing fields are much quieter during the day. Those halcyon days of sunshine and my last letter seem like just yesterday.

The town has been relatively quiet over the past little while except really for the excellent music festivals.

The town council has continued in its deliberations on behalf of the people. We have tried to listen to you all and strike the best deals we can for all concerned. We have listened to you, when the attitude of the traders in the town changed regarding the parking restrictions. The town council approached Central Beds Council, who are the authority in this issue, on their behalf to have the regulations changed to accommodate those people who contacted us for an extension.

We were also approached by members of the public regarding antisocial behaviour in and around the Mill Lane pavilion and carpark, especially at night. To this end we have agreed to implement methods to close off the area when it is not in use by bona fide hirers. It was good to hear a view from a younger member of the community having an alternative perspective on the issue, and was willing to work with local residents and the council to resolve the matter. I am confident that future discussions with the younger adults could prove fruitful for all concerned.

Most people will be aware now that Peter Hutchinson has recently passed away. I feel that it would not be right to let this pass without acknowledging the fact. Longer term residents will know, Peter; in his day he was a major force in Potton and did a lot for the town. Unfortunate circumstances meant that he had to move his base of operations elsewhere or the town could have benefitted an awful lot more. I personally feel that his contribution to Potton should be recognised.

If you want to know what is happening with the town council then please come along on either the 1st or 3rd Tuesday of the month (Except August) in the community centre. The meetings start at 7pm. It would be good to hear from all members of the public but at the moment especially from the younger element and the ladies.

Lastly this is a newsletter for Potton. If you have a matter you would like "aired" in this publication please contact Jonathan Whitehurst the town clerk.

Best Wishes

**Peter J. Langridge, Chairman, Potton Town Council**

## TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

For enquiries regarding the following:

Cemetery, Allotments, Henry Smith Playground, Mill Lane Playground, Recreation Fields, Public Conveniences, Brook End Car Park, Pavilion and Community Centre.

### Councillor contact details:

Denis Ellison	261925	Peter Langridge	260362
Geoff Emery	261710	Jonathan Lean	262404
Andrew Gibb	260067	Alan Leggatt	260001
Richard Harris	262596	John Lewis	260726
John Hobbs	260710	Angus Macdonald	262006
Les Ivall	261559	Chris Temple	262535
Roger Jordan	261143	Rex Whitfield	262246
		Adam Zerny	261319

### Officers:

Jonathan Whitehurst - Town Clerk

Sarah Williamson - Clerical Assistant

### Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Doreen Gurney	680395	Adam Zerny	261319
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For enquiries regarding the following:

Libraries, sports & arts, elections, education, waste & recycling, housing, planning, building control, trading standards, council tax, grants, benefits, buses, blue badges.

Central Bedfordshire Council

Tel: 0300 300 8000

Email: [customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

For enquiries regarding Highway issues including roads, potholes, street lighting, pavements, hedge cutting.

Central Bedfordshire Council Highways

Tel: 0300 300 8049

Email: [highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

### Summer Bedding

Following permission from Central Bedfordshire Council, Potton Town Council has been able to display and maintain six hanging baskets on the Library this summer.



### Potton Library

Library staff – Debbie & Leon

Tel 03003008063

Our friendly library is open to everyone and we invite non-members & our regular customers to join in with our events / activities as well as use our traditional library facilities.

We are introducing a craft group to the library. Starting from September, this will be held on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month. The first meeting will be held on Monday September 7th from 2.00 to 3.30pm. Come along, meet others & bring your craft project along too.

We will have a stall at the next Potton Seasonal market – 19th September – come and see us & find out more about library services & what is coming up soon.

Coming soon – following a win in a national competition run by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, we are having a day of history events attended by history author, Chris Lloyd, on 22nd October 2015. Two of these events will be held the local school, followed by an evening event for teenagers & adults at the library. Pencil the date in your diary & look out for more details in the near future.

## **POTTON COMMUNITY AGENT NEWS - SUPPORTING THE OVER 60s IN POTTON**

**Tel Andrea on 0300 555 5949**

**Potton Town Teas** – is moving to every Thursday morning, between 10am and 12 noon, as from 17th September. It's a friendly community drop-in at the Community Centre, Brook End, all are welcome. Come and join us for a game of Scrabble, Triominos or cards, or simply sit and chat over tea and homemade cakes. During October, the over 60s can pop in and collect their free 'Get Ready for Winter' items.

**Free section timers for the over 60s** – don't come home to a dark house this autumn! These timers can be used to bring on a light at a set time and help give the impression an empty home is occupied. This can help give you peace of mind when you are on holiday or in hospital. They have been kindly donated by Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust.

**Winter Fuel Payment** – if you were born before 5th January 1953, then you are entitled to get your Winter Fuel Payment of between £100 and £300. Many men are missing out on this payment, as they are yet to reach state pensionable age, but are over 62. Call Andrea to find out if you qualify.

**Warm Home Discount** – are you eligible to claim a £140 discount off your electricity bill? The Warm Home Discount Scheme is running again through winter 2015-2016. If you get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit, you will automatically qualify. However, many electricity suppliers offer the discount to pensioners on a low annual household income, approx £16,190. You will have to apply directly to your electricity supplier to claim. Call Andrea to find out if your supplier is part of the scheme and for help applying.

**Potton Men's Group** – the first lunch meeting has been booked for Tuesday 22nd September, at The Royal Oak, Potton, 12.15pm. If you would like to make new friends or acquaint with old ones, please contact Mike Horgan on 01767 261954 and book your place.

**Samsung Tablet Training** – we are continuing to train up small groups of Potton over 60s residents to teach them how to use a computer tablet. The project is kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity. If you are over 60 and think that learning how to do your shopping on a computer or keeping in touch with family by email would benefit you, then give Andrea a call for more information.

**Indoor Carpet Bowls** – Potton Consolidated Charity have generously funded a short mat indoor bowls set, which will be housed for use at the Community Centre. A weekly bowls group will take place as soon as the equipment arrives! Look out for the posters advertising dates and times.

Don't forget, if you have an issue you can't find any information on or perhaps you don't want to discuss with your relatives, the please call Andrea, Potton Community Agent, in confidence on **0300 555 5949**.

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## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

The Town Council plans to produce four Newsletters each year and these are delivered to every household in Potton.

The Town Council has asked Community Groups if they would be interested in delivering the Newsletter as a fundraiser; though none of the Groups are currently in a position to deliver the Newsletter.

The Town Council is now looking at paying 13 – 18 year olds to deliver the Newsletter. 13 – 18 year olds need a permit from Central Bedfordshire Council, see link for more information <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/pupil-support/child-employment.aspx> Any 13 – 18 year olds interested in delivering the Newsletter; please contact the Town Council Office.

### Dates for the Diary

#### September

- Sat 12th Potton Show St Mary's Church Hall and Field 2pm-5pm
- Sat 19th Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllrs Gibb and Jordan)
- Sat 19th Seasonal Market – Potton Market Square 9am-1pm

#### October

- Sat 10th Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllrs Leggatt and Temple)
- Sun 11th Potton Town Council Civic Service - St Mary's Church Potton 3pm

#### November

- Sat 7th Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllrs Ellison and Harris)
- Fri 27th Christmas lights switch-on – Potton Market Square 6pm onwards

#### December

- Sat 5th Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllrs Emery and Hobbs)
- Sat 5th Seasonal Market – Potton Market Square 9am - 1pm

### Council and Committee Meetings

All meetings are usually held in the Mail Hall of the Community Centre unless otherwise stated and the first meeting of the evening starts at 7pm. Press and public welcome to attend.

#### September

- Tue 1st Town Council Meeting.
- Tue 15th Town Council Meeting.

#### October

- Tue 6th Town Council Meeting.
- Tue 20th Town Council Meeting.

#### November

- Tue 3rd Town Council Meeting.
- Tue 17th Town Council Meeting.

#### December

- Tue 1st Town Council Meeting.
- Tue 15th Town Council Meeting.

### Public Toilets

The public conveniences in Brook End were painted inside and outside in June / July 2015.



## ALLOTMENTS

The Town Council has an allotment site with over forty plots (half and full size), if you are interested in an allotment plot at some stage in the future please contact Mrs Sarah Williamson Email: [pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com](mailto:pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com) or Tel: 260086 about being added to the allotment waiting list.

The waiting list for an allotment is currently very small, unfortunately we are unable to advise when a plot will become available. Please don't be put off by the waiting list as people's circumstances often change and some people always leave the waiting list or no longer want a plot when they are offered one.

### Hall Hire – Availability at the Community Centre and Mill Lane Pavilion

There is a large hall at the Community Centre in Brook End with a kitchen. There is also a carpeted upstairs hall 5 meters square with kitchen facilities. The upper hall is suited to smaller meetings and group events. There are a number of vacant sessions during the day time and at weekends at the Community Centre, give Mrs. Williamson a call during office opening hours to see if either of the halls would be suitable for your group or function. The Community Centre is near to Potton Market Square for the bus route and shopping and a free car park is very nearby.

The Pavilion at Mill Lane has a large 9 metre square hall and kitchen, there are facilities for people with disabilities and a baby changing unit. The floor may not be suitable for dance groups. We have a large free to use car park. If you are planning your child's Birthday party, the Pavilion at Mill Lane may well be the ideal location

Please contact Mrs. Sarah Williamson to check on availability and make a booking Tel: 260086 or **Email: [pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com](mailto:pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com)**.

### Play areas - Hardwood Chips

In April 2015, 12 cubic metres of additional Hardwood Chips were installed for the aerial runway at Mill Lane Playing Fields. In July 2015, 7.5 cubic metres of additional Hardwood Chips have been installed in the young children's multi unit area at Henry Smith Playing Fields. An additional 16.5 cubic metres of Hardwood Chips have been ordered to be installed in the older children's multi unit area at Henry Smith Playing Fields. Picture right of the young children's multi unit area at Henry Smith Playing Fields after the chips had been installed.



### New seat for Aerial Runway Henry Smith Playing Fields

A new seat was installed on the Aerial Runway Henry Smith Playing Fields in July 2015 just before the start school Summer Holidays. You may recall that in the spring newsletter edition the council advised that the seat was removed due to repeated acts of vandalism.



### Funding for Sports Sessions

The town council agreed to subsidise children sports sessions again this year with a £1,000 budget allocated, sessions were delivered in the summer holidays by Limited Edition Sports Coaching. More than one hundred children have attended the sessions.

## **DOGS - MILL LANE PLAYING FIELDS**

You may be aware that Central Bedfordshire Council establish four dog control orders, which came into effect on 19 October 2014, with the aim to cut down the amount of dog foul, restrict dogs from places such as enclosed children's playgrounds and ensure that dog owners keep their dogs on leads in certain areas including cemeteries and marked sports pitches. Information about the four dog control orders can be found at the following website <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/community-safety/dog-control-orders.aspx>

At the town council meeting on the 21st July 2015 the Town Council discussed again about a request for dogs to be banned from Mill Lane Playing Fields and the council resolved that the Playing Fields, Allotments and Burials Committee discuss about fencing off an area for dog walkers at the next meeting. The Playing Fields, Allotments and Burials Committee will be meeting on the 6th October 2015 in the Community Centre, Brook End.

The town council Chairman is wanting to set up a group with Dog Walkers, Potton Colts Football Club and Potton Town Council to discuss about dogs on Mill Lane Playing Fields. If any Dog Walkers are interested in joining the group please contact the town council.

## **Car Park - Mill Lane**

At the town council meeting on the 7th July 2015 the Town Council resolved to install a Physical Barrier to prevent unauthorised use of Mill Lane Pavilion Car Park.

The town council will be discussing about the physical barrier at the meeting on the 1st September 2015.



## **Oak Tree Branch – Henry Smith Playing Fields**

You may recall in the Summer 2015 Newsletter the Town Council has discussed on numerous occasions about the low oak tree branch which overhangs the footpath in Henry Smith Playing Fields.

The removal of the branch is still delayed waiting for suggestions on ways to make use of the branch once it is removed in the locality. Currently one suggestion has come forward and the town council will be considering this at the meeting on the 1st September 2015.

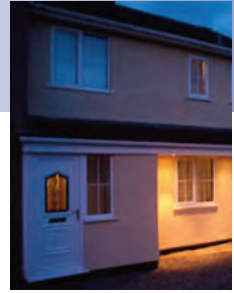
## **Photos**

The town council would like your photos of Potton for future newsletters and a new website. The photos need to be jpeg. Permission is also needed of the parents if the photo includes children. Email your photos to the town council at [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com).



# Focus on Security

## Stay Safe at Home



**Most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves and can be prevented by you thinking about the security of your home and belongings:**

- Fit good quality deadlocks to all exterior doors, including garages and sheds.
- Fit frame locks, especially on ground floor windows and patio doors.
- Don't leave any tools or toys outside the house that could be used to break a window or lever a door.
- Think about where you store your wheelie bins – can they be used as climbing aids?
- Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house/flat number or the first three letters of your house name.
- Register your valuables for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Store your house keys and car keys out of sight in your home – never leave them near a door, a letterbox or window.
- Consider installing a visible burglar alarm and remember to set it when you go out or to bed at night.



- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing lockable gates, two metre minimum fencing or walls. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult.



- Use automatic timer-switches to turn on lights and perhaps a radio to make it look like someone's home, even if you are just going out for a couple of hours.

- Make sure you know the identity of the person you are letting into your home – never open the door if you are in doubt or feel anxious about the caller.

- Consider joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.



### Have you considered joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?



**An active Neighbourhood Watch Area is a safer area**

The aims of Neighbourhood Watch are:

- To develop safer local communities and improve quality of life.
- To involve the local community in the prevention and reduction of crime.
- To raise community confidence by reducing the fear of crime.
- To help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur.

*If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Watch, please contact:*

**Lynne Arch, County Administrator, Neighbourhood Watch Office**

Tel: 01234 275165      Mobile: 07956 388394      [lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)



**Bedfordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service

To sign up for fire safety messages and events by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service please visit [www.bedsfirealert.co.uk/](http://www.bedsfirealert.co.uk/)



# Potton Youth Centre Activities

## Summer 2015

**Where?**  
Skate Park,  
Henry Smith Playing Fields,  
Brook End, Potton

**When?**  
5-7pm  
on Thursdays

**What and why?**  
Free outdoor games  
and team activities!

**Who?**  
For all aged  
12-18

Thursday 13 August  
Thursday 20 August  
Thursday 3 September  
Thursday 10 September  
Thursday 17 September  
Thursday 24 September

Meet at the statue near the brook!

Lisa Steeples, Youth Worker  
07702 941440, [lisa.steeples@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:lisa.steeples@groundwork.org.uk)

[www.groundwork.org.uk/beds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/beds)

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 [www.facebook.com/PottonYouthy](http://www.facebook.com/PottonYouthy)

