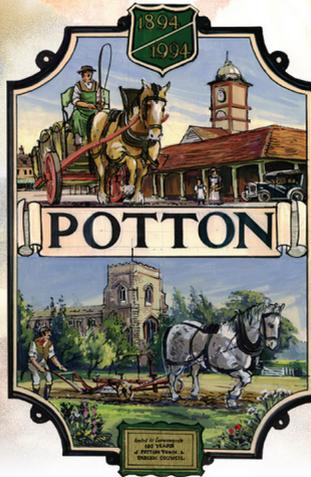


# Potton Town Council

Potton Town Council, Town Council Office, The Community Centre, Brook End,  
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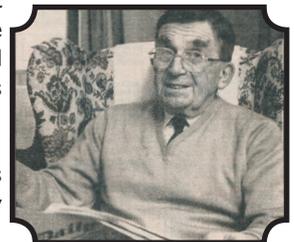
## Newsletter Autumn 2014



Eric Jakes MBE has resigned from Potton Town Council. Many of you will have known Eric for many years, some may even remember him before he was a councillor, but to many he has always been there as a pillar of the community, helping, guiding, advising and representing us in his position as local councillor. Eric has taken this decision due to his continuing ill health. Being the man he has always been I am sure the move was not undertaken lightly, weighing up all the pros and cons, but in the end I am sure that he felt if he could not do the job completely then not at all.

Eric first joined the council in 1955 so it is unfortunate that it has come at this time just short of his diamond jubilee year. Over the intervening years he has represented Potton and the surrounding area not only as a town councillor but also at a district level. He served on the Biggleswade Rural District Council and later on the Mid Beds District Council, part of the forerunner of the current Central Bedfordshire Council. He was elected Chairman of both organisations which was quite an achievement as an independent councillor. He has always done what he considered to be best for the town and surrounding communities, fighting our corner. He was awarded the MBE by the Queen for services to the community for all his efforts on our behalf.

I am sure you will all join in and wish him well in the next stage of his journey through life. His wisdom, insight and experience will be missed by the council. Now he will have more time to be about the town and visit.



## **THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - Councillor Peter J. Langridge**

In May I had the honour to be re-elected as Chairman of Potton Town Council. Some of you may know me or heard of me, some others may not so a brief synopsis of who I am. I have lived in Potton for nearly 40 years with my wife Maria and our 2 sons have grown up here before moving on with their own lives. I have been on the town council for about half of my time in the town and have served in various roles including chair of the Finance Committee and previously as Chairman of the Town Council.

I would like to welcome Chris Temple, Les Ivall and Roger Jordan who have joined us recently as Councillors.

This is another year when Party on Potton was in operation during the August bank holiday weekend. This has proved to be a great weekend in the past and this year was a great success. The reduced Committee has worked very hard over the last two years raising both funds and the profile of the event. Many events were planned for all ages and ranges, many with free participation.



Earlier in the year we had a sports day event in the Henry Smith playing fields organised by our independent Central Bedfordshire Councillor Adam Zerny. It was attended by several sports groups from the town and surrounding areas who encouraged many people to take up a sporting activity from bowls and athletics and the martial arts, which will obviously be beneficial from a health point of view. As a side issue, it is very pleasing to see so many people using the outdoor gym in the park but could parents please read the warning notices regarding smaller children using the equipment.

*Photo: (from the left, Adam Zerny (Central Bedfordshire Councillor), Peter Langridge (Chairman, Potton Town Council), Euan Dickson Earle (Biggleswade Athletics Club) Potton Sports Day 31st May 2014.*

People have complained for a while about “boy racers” speeding through the town. As a result of input from the Town Plan Committee the speed watch programme is doing very well. This operation has volunteers checking the speed of traffic through the town and registering those that are exceeding the limits. Offenders may receive a letter of warning from the police if they have been noted. A pro-active plan to keep our town streets safer.

The Town Plan Committee has also been able to secure the services of the Citizens Advice Bureau in the town. Anyone wishing to make an appointment to discuss any matter with them need to ring the dedicated appointment line **01525 404715**.

In these austere times we must all look after our finances. Your Town Council is no different, in fact we must be extra vigilant with public money and ensure that we obtain good value for money at every opportunity. The past few years has seen the money available to the Town Council reduced in real terms for various reasons. Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) are withholding grant monies due to Town and Parish councils that the National Government have said should be paid. This is several thousands of pounds that the Town Council could and should put to good use for the benefit of the people in the town. We have tried to keep the annual increase in the town's share of the council tax to a minimum to ensure the least burden on the tax payers. Unfortunately having to take on more responsibilities that CBC are not willing to cover, an increase in the precept will be inevitable next year.

This is the growing season and many gardens look beautiful at this time of year but please remember the hedges. Sometimes they can grow wild outside the garden and cause obstructions on the pathways, so please remember to trim the outside as well as in the garden.

It always takes a while for Councils and Government to catch up with the modern world and this is currently apparent on the subject of social media. The Town Council set up its own website some time ago and has an official twitter account, both of which are currently under review. There has been some confusion recently over the "YOU POTTON" Facebook page. This is not an official Pottton Town Council page and should not be viewed as such. The town council is considering setting up a Facebook account. When it does it will be launched and advertised through your newsletter and possibly the local paper.

To finish this article I would like to appeal to all members of our community to think about the future of the town and what direction they would like to see it take. If you have any questions, thoughts or indeed complaints please get in touch through the clerk. Opening times of the council offices can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Councillor Peter J .Langridge Chairman, Pottton Town Council

## NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS



Cllr Chris Temple - My wife and I moved from London to Potton in 2000 when I started working for the RSPB. We chose to live here because Potton has good facilities, a proper town centre and a friendly atmosphere. We have never regretted that decision. Our daughter was born here. She attended Potton Lower School and is currently enjoying being at Burgoyne Middle School.

Potton has always adapted to changing circumstances, but the pace of change is much greater now. There are demands for more housing and better employment opportunities, all of which will alter the character of our town. While many changes are inevitable, it is part of the job of the Town Council to ensure that we take advantage of opportunities for improvement while not losing the things which make Potton attractive.

As a co-opted Councillor I feel privileged to be able to play a part in trying to ensure that Potton remains a good place to live and work. I am now semi-retired, so I can often be found shopping in and around the Market Square and making use of the facilities Potton has to offer.



Cllr Les Ivall - I have lived in Potton for just over two years now and before that down the road in Sutton for thirty five years. I have been on Sutton Parish Council for twenty five years several of those as Vice Chairman. I was also a Governor of Sutton school for several years. Recently I was appointed as Pub Protection Officer for East Beds Campaign for Real Ale. We work with Central Bedfordshire Council and local communities to try to prevent the closure of pubs in our towns and villages that are considered to be community assets.

I am now retired (although many people say I retired years ago) after forty years in the licensed trade. Since moving to Potton my wife and myself have enjoyed living here immensely and having been co-opted onto the Town Council I hope I can assist in keeping and improving Potton as a fine place to live for all.



Cllr Roger Jordan - Having now lived in Potton for over a decade with a young family, I feel it is important that we all take an active responsibility to ensure that we contribute to providing the best environment, opportunities and facilities we are able to and ensuring that the heritage and history of this market town is preserved for all to share and enjoy. In any spare time I have you would probably see me pedalling my way around the lanes and bridleways of the local area.

**Community Emergency Plan** - The Town Council is in the process of updating the Emergency Plan. *(Photo of Henry Smith playing fields taken in May 2014 of when the storm drains were not able to collect all the rain and hail).*

**Potton Playhouse** - Potton Playhouse is an amateur dramatics group of folk who enjoy the challenge of performing a wide variety of material, ranging from panto and farce to black comedy and pathos, from Ayckbourn to Coward and Beckett.



In addition to staging productions we organise impromptu evenings of play readings and many other social events. We are always ready to welcome new members who can share their talents; not only on stage but also with the many most important supporting roles back stage and front of house. To find out more do call either Judy Oliver on **01767 261431** or Mavis Giles on **01767 650227**.

Our next production will be "Tomb with a View", a comedy thriller, directed by Ian Russell and will be performed in St. Mary's Hall on Oct 29th, 30th and 31st.

## 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 centre is near to Potton Market Square for the bus route and shopping and a car park is very nearby.

The Pavilion at Mill Lane has a large 9 metre square hall and kitchen and there are facilities for people with disabilities. The floor may not be suitable for dance groups. This hall has some space for weekend functions.

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

### Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities COMMUNITY CENTRE

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends / Bank Holidays
Main Hall	£7.50	£9.50	£12.00
Upper Hall	£5.00	£6.50	£7.50

### MILL LANE PAVILLION

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends / Bank Holidays
Pavilion	£8.50	£12.00	£16.00

Non- regular commercial and outside users – an additional charge of £4 an hour

There is a one and a half hour minimum charge of the premises for non commercial users and a two hour minimum charge for commercial users. Bookings will only be accepted in half hour blocks subject to the above condition

**Summer Bedding displays** – bedding plants were planted in May and tended during the summer with displays in hanging baskets, containers and the Winepress which was given to the town from Potton's twin town Langenlonsheim, Germany.

**Potton Show - Potton Flower and Vegetable Show** will be held in St Mary's Church Hall and Field on Saturday 6th September 2014 2 - 5pm with entrance charges £1.00 for adults and 50p for children further details about the show are available at **[www.pottonshow.org](http://www.pottonshow.org)**. This is an open show for all and there will be a wide range of classes for both young and old to enter. Teas and cakes will be available during the afternoon as well as ice creams and the beer tent will be serving local ales. A Barn Dance will follow in the evening, tickets for the dance must be purchased in advance.



**Potton Show – Craft Fair** will be held in the Marquee on Sunday 7th September 12 noon – 5pm with a wide range of stalls and refreshments. The weekend will finish with a Potton Churches Together service in the Marquee at 6.30pm.

# **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr Doreen Gurney**

## **Review for the Summer 2014**

N.H.S. & Councils are working together to roll out a Care Plan especially for the elderly. Some residents have received forms from their G.P. and it is important that these are returned as these will help put into place the personal care package that is being designed for you, helping to give you better support at home with less visits to A.&E. & stays in hospital.

Next April will mark a critical point for social care in England, with the pooling of £5.4 billion from councils and the health service in an attempt to support the new Care plan.

Parish & Town councils have been supporting the build of affordable housing in there towns and-parishes when supported with a survey.A change in Central Bedfordshire council policy gives people with local connection a more positive out come to getting housed within there parish. People who are interested in affordable housing in the first instance should contact Central Bedfordshire Council.

I hope you all have had a good summer. Regards Cllr Doreen Gurney **Tel 0300 300 8528**

### **Central Bedfordshire Councillors**

**Doreen Gurney 680395**

**Adam Zerny 261319**

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: [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@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)**

### **Central Bedfordshire Council Potton Library Opening Hours**

Monday 2pm – 6pm

Wednesday 2pm – 6pm

Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Free wireless internet transmitting 24-7. Weekly newspapers are available.

The librarian, Gillian, will be happy to answer any queries on **0300 300 8063**.

**Allotments** - The Town Council has an allotment site with over forty plots in use, if you are interested in an allotment plot 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.

## TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

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)**

### Office opening hours:

Monday	9am – 12.30pm
Tuesday	9am – 12.30pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 4pm
Friday	Closed

### 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:

Ruth Burmo	<b>260712</b>	Denis Ellison	<b>261925</b>
Andy Gibb	<b>260067</b>	Richard Harris	<b>262596</b>
Les Ivall	<b>261559</b>	Roger Jordan	<b>261143</b>
Peter Langridge	<b>260362</b>	Alan Leggatt	<b>260001</b>
John Lewis	<b>260726</b>	Angus Macdonald	<b>262006</b>
Paul Rogers	<b>260977</b>	Chris Temple	<b>262535</b>
Rex Whitfield	<b>262246</b>	Adam Zerny	<b>261319</b>
Vacancy			

Mr P. Langridge is Chairman of the Town Council

Mr A. Macdonald is Vice Chairman of the Town Council

Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of the Finance Committee

Mr P. Rogers is Chairman of the Buildings and Facilities Committee

Mr A. Macdonald is Chairman of the Playing Fields, Allotments and Burials Committee

Mr J. Lewis is Chairman of the Planning Committee

### Officers:

Jonathan Whitehurst	Town Clerk
Sarah Williamson	Clerical Assistant

**Henry Smith and Mill Lane Playing Fields** - The playing fields are well used by many residents of Potton from young to old and for many different uses. The Town Council painted the Henry Smith skate park ramps before the school holidays with 'gravitex' for extra grip. Two things to remember when using the playing fields firstly place litter in the bins provided and secondly responsible dog owners do not allow their dogs to foul public places.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### September

Sat 6th	Potton Flower and Vegetable Show - St Mary's Hall and field 2 – 5pm
Sun 7th	Potton Show – Craft Fair 12 noon – 5pm
Sat 20th	Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllr Gibb and Burmo will be in attendance)
Sat 20th	Seasonal Market - Potton Market Square 9am – 1pm
Sun 28th	Potton Apple Day - St Mary's Hall and field - time to be confirmed

### October

Sat 18th	Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllr Langridge and Leggatt will be in attendance)
Sun 19th	Civic Service 3pm - St Mary's Church
Wed 29th - Fri 31st	Potton Playhouse "Tomb with a View" – St Mary's Hall

### November

Sun 9th	Remembrance Sunday – Starting from the War Memorial
Sat 15th	Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllr Whitfield and Temple will be in attendance)
Fri 28th	Christmas Lights Switch on– Starting at 6pm with the lights turned on at 7pm – Market Square

### December

Sat 6th	Councillor Surgery 10am – 12 noon – Library (Cllr Macdonald and Harris will be in attendance)
Sat 6th	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. Public and press welcome to attend.

### September

Tue 2nd	Town Council followed by Planning Committee
Tue 16th	Finance Committee followed by Planning Committee followed by Buildings and Facilities Committee

### October

Tue 7th	Town Council followed by Planning Committee
Tue 21st	Finance Committee followed by Planning Committee followed by Playing Fields, Allotments and Burials Committee

### November

Tue 4th	Town Council followed by Planning Committee
Tue 18th	Finance Committee followed by Planning Committee

### December

Tue 2nd	Town Council followed by Planning Committee
Tue 16th	Finance Committee followed by Planning Committee

**Wednesday Bus Service to Cambridge** – following discussions between representatives from the Town Council and Ivel Sprinter, the Ivel Sprinter management committee have discussed and approved a proposal to operate Service No.2 weekly running through Tempsford, Sandy and Potton and on to Cambridge. The weekly service will be for a trial period from the 3rd September 2014 to 31st December. The timings of the service will be the same as currently.



Part of the No.2 service timetable with stops for Potton and Cambridge listed below only.

Potton Newtown	0934	Cambridge Bus Station Bay 2	1400
Potton Market Square	0937	Potton Market Square	1435
Cambridge Bus Station	1015	Potton Newtown	1438
Cambridge Grafton Centre	1020		

Ivel Sprinter are always looking for volunteer drivers for this additional service and other regular services, so if there are any people who would like to help the community one day a month, please get in touch **01462 701323**.