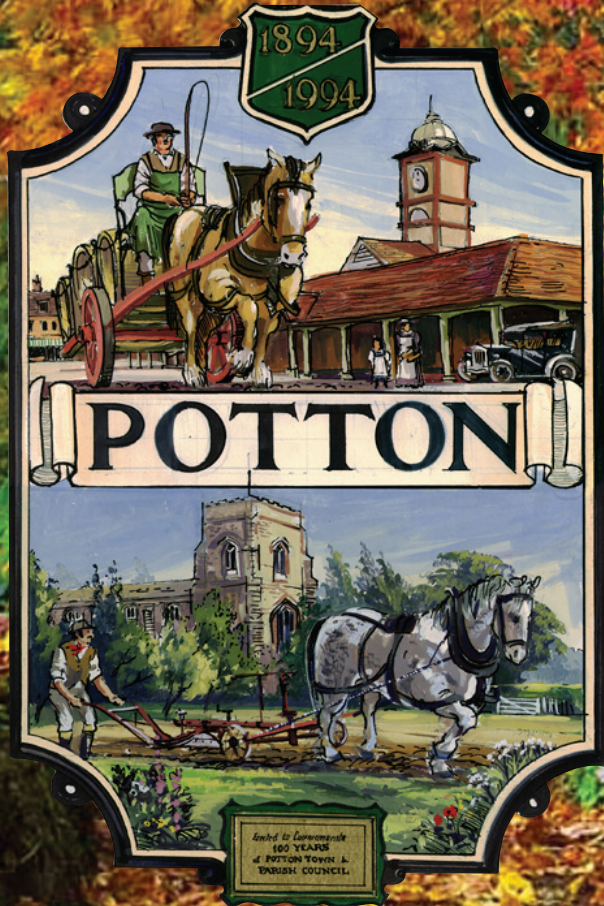


Potton Town Council



Newsletter
Autumn-Winter 2011

Chairman's Report NOV 2011

Following the independent inspectorate's decision that there were no grounds to refuse Central Beds. LDF plan for two developments to the east of Biggleswade Road and to the east of Sutton Mill Road, these developments are now likely to go ahead. Consequently it will be in the best interests of the town now to get the best possible deal from the Section 106 planning gains which will be forthcoming from the developers. The Town Council will be participating in a series of stakeholder meetings comprising CBC, the developers, landowners and any other interested parties in order to identify what will be best for Potton. Recommendations from the Town Plan survey will be one of the main inputs.

This year is the twenty fifth anniversary of our twinning with Langenlonsheim in Germany. To mark this occasion, the Town Council was invited to send representatives to Langenlonsheim to sign a reaffirmation of the twinning charter. This was duly done on 29th October in front of a large audience in the community hall at a celebration concert involving the Gemischte Chor, Langenlonsheim and St. Mary's Singers, Potton. Members of Potton Twinning Association Committee were also represented. I had a long discussion with the Ortsbürgermeister, Hr. Michael Cyfka, regarding how we might revitalise twinning and we have both undertaken to strengthen our links in the future. He is young and very enthusiastic and I have great hopes that he will drive things forward in Langenlonsheim and we must do the same here.

Anyone can benefit from an exchange with our twin town - youth organisations, sports clubs, service organisations (e.g. fire service), singing groups, businesses, friends and families etc. etc., in fact any common interest group. If you are interested please contact the Town Council or Twinning Association for more information. I would like to congratulate both choirs for their outstanding performances during the celebrations under the expert eye of their musical directors – Stefan Göth and Douglas Coombes.



Hr Michael Cyfka and Alan Leggatt

Finally, Christmas is nearly upon us again and that means we start putting up the lights in the town square. Working parties will be out every Sunday throughout November with the exception of Remembrance Sunday. Volunteers are always welcomed and we start at 10.00 am.

Alan Leggatt

Potton Town Council Chairman

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

It's now five months since I was elected as a councillor and it's kept me so busy the time has gone in a flash.

As part of my Central Bedfordshire Council duties I have attended three full council meetings and I also sit on the Audit committee.

More locally, I am please to report that I have carried out my election pledge to give everyone in the ward the chance to have their say on the major issues affecting the area by issuing a survey, the results of which are now coming in.

As far as Potton is concerned, the major issues are the future of the library, the proposed large scale housing developments and the traffic, in particular the number of lorries and other traffic coming through the town, and speeding cars. Full results will soon be on my website, and will also be circulated by email. If you would like to receive the email, please contact me. Also, if you didn't put your name on the form but would like feedback on specific issues raised, do let me know.

Other issues I have taken to Central Beds include local buses, roads, education and the Music Service. I have also fought the extra allowances approved for the former leader and deputy leader of Central Beds council, which amount to £10,721 per year.

I will be aiming to continue to keep people up to date with everything that is going on, and to hold councillor's surgeries in Potton and all the surrounding villages.

You can read more on my website www.adamzerny.co.uk and subscribe to my monthly email newsletter which has the latest on what I've been up to and the major issues at Central Beds council. It currently goes to more than 250 people; if you would like me to add you to the distribution list, please send me an email adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk with "Put me on the mailing list" in the subject heading.

You can also call me on **07519 778538**,
or write to **26 Station Road, Potton, SG19 2PU**.

Adam Zerny

Independent Central Bedfordshire Councillor

POTTON TOWN PLAN

Work continues on implementing your input to the Town Plan. We have recently held a Seasonal Market and Apple Day and are currently working on plans to partly clear the banks of the Brook to encourage the Water Voles.

A team is keen to encourage the installation of more nesting boxes for Swifts in the centre of Potton. These need to be installed before next years nesting in May. A representative from the RSPB will be at the March Seasonal Market to help.

Discussions have commenced between our Town Council, Central Beds Council and the Developers for the Housing Estate East of the Biggleswade Road to look at the proposals and to ensure that the Town receives the expected benefits. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Proposals under discussion at the present time include improvements to the Henry Smith playground, an Adult outside Gym, a Community Orchard / Wildflower Meadow (with picnic area) and trying to find a way to hire a Youth Worker.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with projects to improve your community.

Do not forget that the Xmas lights will be switched on at 7pm on Friday 2nd December with the next Seasonal Market on Saturday 3rd December from 9am until 1pm.

Geoff Emery

Chairman of Potton Town Plan

CAR PARKING

It was noted in the responses to the Town Plan that at times it is difficult to park in the Market Square. The Town Council has received a number of complaints in this regard and has written letters to the businesses that have shops around the Square requesting that they refrain from parking their cars for long periods every day. They continue to ignore our requests and are stopping shoppers from visiting our shops that need every penny in the current climate.

We appear to be failing and would like your help by asking that if you see the misuse of these facilities that you speak to the persons concerned. This also applies to the use of the disabled parking facilities.

The parking is for shoppers and restrictions limit the stay to 1 hour with no return for 2 hours. The Council has now requested that we have increased visits from the Traffic Wardens at an extra cost to everyone in Potton.

Geoff Emery

Chairman of Potton Town Plan

Improvements to Henry Smith Playground

The Town Council is applying for a grant to refurbish the facilities at the Henry Smith Playing Field. It would appreciate feedback from current and potential users so now is your chance to let them know what you think your children want!

For instance, what do you like about the equipment/what do you dislike?

Is there any equipment/facilities you, or your children, would like?

If you have seen anything suitable in another town or village could you say where (preferably within a 20mile radius of Potton, or else provide photographs)?

Are there age groups you feel are currently neglected?

Remember, this is a great opportunity for us to create something really amazing for the children of Potton, and beyond – *don't waste it!*

Please contact the Town Council.

POTTON COUNCIL SURGERIES

Do you wish to discuss anything with your local Town Councillor?

Councillors Alan Leggatt and Peter Langridge will be at the library on Saturday 17th December from 10-12 noon.



Photograph by Councillor Andy Hopkins



The Christmas lights need to be put up in preparation for being switched on by Father Christmas on Friday 2nd December at 7 pm

Everyone enjoys the Christmas lights and volunteers are needed to help put them up on the following Sundays starting at 10 am (usually for 2-4 hours):

**Sunday 6th November
Sunday 20th November
Sunday 27th November**

If you can give some of your time on the above days, your assistance will be gratefully received.

Ladder experience is helpful but not essential as there are plenty of tasks you can assist with.

CONTACT KEVIN WATTERS: 07973 724728

COUNCILLOR PROFILE



In the hot seat this winter is Councillor Andy Hopkins

I have lived in Pottton for 13 years and live with Shaun, my civil partner of 5 years. We both enjoy living in Pottton with its quiet rural life mixed with the great facilities the town has to offer. I work in Letchworth Garden City as the Manager of a Motor Factors and when not working I enjoy my hobby of photography.

Having been co-opted onto the Town Council, I now look forward to working for the community. I am also looking forward to working on the town plan, helping Pottton to continue to thrive while maintaining its character for future generations.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Christmas Lights

Switch on night Friday 2nd December 7pm in the Market Square

Seasonal Market

The Seasonal Market will be on Saturday morning 3rd December with lots of festive goodies from 9am.

DOG WALKERS



The Council has received many complaints about dog faeces being left in the causeways, especially between Horslow Street, Meeting Lane and King Street. There are many older people living near these areas as well as children using the paths.

**Please do not leave dog faeces to be a danger to others.
Please clean up after your dog.**



More officers to tackle Crime in Our Communities

Bedfordshire Police have drawn up ambitious plans to improve the service provided by the Force while also saving taxpayers' money.

From October 2011, the Force and the Police Authority will deliver a more streamlined process to improve both operational capacity and capability. This means that more officers will be available to deal with incidents reported to us by the public.

The Force carried out a detailed review of the way it organised key departments to identify areas where costs could be cut and performance improved. During the process, residents confirmed they were happy for structural matters to be dealt with by the Force so long as they received an appropriate police response when needed and crime continued to fall.

The new changes will see the number of police officers dedicated to local policing double from 92 to 185. This means a larger number of officers will be available to tackle local crime, anti-social behaviour and other community concerns while PCSOs will carry out more patrols.

There will no longer be any geographic boundaries or divisions separating communities. Instead, a Chief Superintendent will oversee Local Policing while another will be responsible for Tackling Crime.

Through reorganisation, the Force and the Police Authority will speed up response times. A new centralised team will respond to incidents county-wide officers will get to where they are needed more quickly as well as save money.

Meanwhile, a greater number of incidents will be resolved over the telephone to reduce demand on frontline staff thanks to a new appointment system for non-emergency issues. A recent survey found that people accepted this as a good way of dealing with non-urgent matters. A new three digit non-emergency number will be introduced in the autumn, after which time all you will need to dial is 101 for non-urgent situations.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "We've listened to our residents throughout the review process and their comments have very much informed our strategic decisions. The changes have been made to promote greater access to police services and deliver a more effective response that meets the expectations of our communities."

Don't miss out: funding opportunity for excellent projects in the Greensand Ridge area

There is around £1 million still available to award eligible businesses and community groups in Potton and the wider Greensand Ridge area.

The Greensand Ridge Local Action Group (LAG) is made up of people with a keen interest in the area. The LAG is awarding funding to projects which meet local objectives: **small-scale tourism, local food and drink, eco-business and resource efficiency, multi-use spaces and small rural business.**

Anyone interested should have a clear business plan and should have already tried to find money from other sources to cover costs. Successful projects can receive, on average, between 40 to 50% funding.

To date, 7 projects have been successful at securing a grant including Gamlingay Eco-Hub, community venue, The Old Piggery, B&B near Haynes, The Green Café in Clophill and the Working Woodlands Centre in Maulden.

If you would like more information or are interested in applying, please contact Alexandra Day on 01767 626467 or via email alexandrad@bedsrcc.org.uk , go to our website www.greensand.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @GreensandRidge



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD): Europe investing in rural areas
The Greensand Ridge Rural Development Programme, part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), is funded by Defra and the EU.

The funding is managed locally by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

REPORTING PROBLEMS

The Town Council looks after the Cemetery, the Allotments, the Henry Smith Playground, the Mill Lane Playground, the Recreation Fields, the Public Conveniences, the Brook End Car Park, the Pavilion and the Community Centre. For problems or enquiries about these facilities please contact the Clerk at the Town Council Office, Brook End.

01767 260086 pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

A large number of Highways and other problems are currently being reported to the Clerk which the Town Council has no power to overcome.

If your problem is about refuse collection, environmental issues, recycling, or street cleaning please contact:-

Central Bedfordshire Council

0300 300 8000

customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If your problem is about safety on the roads, pot holes, problems with the pavements or hedge cutting please contact:-

Central Bedfordshire Council Highways

0300 300 8000

highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Council Web Site

Contacts Information Page

If you are a manager or secretary for a local organisation please have a look at the page on the Potton Council website and let me know if there are any changes I need to make to the published details for your organisation. **www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk** The original page was produced from the Town Guide and was collated a few years ago now. If you would like the details of your community group to be placed on the site please let me know.

Val Moles, Clerk.

HALL HIRE AVAILABILITY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE PAVILION

There is a large 14 x 3.5 meter 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 Sarah a call 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 meter 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
01767 260086

See hourly charges for use of town council facilities on page 12

Town Council Information

Web site – www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk
Town Council Office, The Community Centre,
Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS

Town Clerk Valerie Moles
Clerical Assistant Sarah Williamson
Telephone 01767 260086
Email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

Office opening hours:

Monday 9am to 12.30am
Tuesday 9am to 12.30pm
Wednesday Closed
Thursday 9am to 12.30pm - 2pm to 4pm
Friday Closed

Town Councillors

Jeremy Armond	260521	Alan Leggatt	260001
Ruth Burmo	260712	Anita Lewis	260726
Geoff Emery	261710	John Lewis	260726
Mr Andy Gibb	260067	Angus Macdonald	262006
Andy Hopkins	262672	Paul Rogers	260977
Eric Jakes M.B.E.	260779	Jean Way	260456
Peter Langridge	260362	Adam Zerny	261319

Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of the Town Council
Mr J. Lewis is Vice Chairman of the Town Council
Chairman of the Burials Committee-vacant
Mr A. Hopkins is Chairman of the Buildings and Facilities Committee
Mr A. Macdonald is Chairman of the Playing Fields and Allotment Committee
Mr J. Lewis is Chairman of Planning Committee

The Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month except August. Meetings are usually held on the first floor of the Clock House in the Market Square and start at 7pm. Committee Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the same venue, starting at 7.00 p.m. If you wish to attend a meeting and would find access to the first floor Council Chamber difficult, please notify the Clerk as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

Other Council Representatives for Potton

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Doreen Gurney 680395 doreen.gurney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Adam Zerny 261319 adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk

TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME IN £s	2010-2011 TOTALS TO END FINANCIAL YEAR	2010-2011 TOTALS TO SEPT 10	THIS YEAR TOTALS TO SEPT 11
VAT	5956.30	1720.22	2444.65
Precept	115000.00	115000.00	125925.00
Cemetery	5249.00	2359.00	4439.00
Community Centre	6562.35	2992.70	3761.15
Pavilion	10227.25	4573.00	4983.00
Donations/grants	50.00	50.00	0.00
Grass cutting grant	1623.79	1623.79	0.00
Recreation Fields	1187.00	468.00	391.00
Allotments	1345.00	670.00	575.00
Bank Interest	59.33	29.13	30.74
Charity Interest	59.70	25.56	25.56
Town Plan/Market	904.00	265.00	405.00
Christmas Lights	1307.46	408.96	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	149531.18	130185.36	142980.10
EXPENDITURE			
Public conveniences	4290.55	2156.55	2238.02
Administration*	70253.32	36131.62	35364.02
Verge cutting	2861.75	2505.44	2660.40
Community Centre	10982.47	5450.83	5421.36
Office Utilities and Council Tax	1644.41	836.51	754.60
Street Lighting	779	214.60	214.60
Pavilion	16008.03	8831.91	9417.69
Cemetery**	22413.38	11300.40	16360.36
Clock House- Market Square	4244.23	2451.23	2865.56
Allotments	605.09	330.04	343.74
Car Park***	4845.80	3937.90	1459.56
Mill Lane Playing Field	5771.06	3862.90	5550.90
Henry Smith Playing Field	8060.95	5660.02	4180.96
Total	152760.04	83669.95	86831.77

* Administration includes Clerks salary, all staff NI/Tax Clerical Assistants salary Newsletter, Town Plan,Website Christmas Lights and Grants

Higher cost at Cemetery 11/12 to cover illness *Lower costs at Car Park new fencing purchased 10/11

Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 111

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Main Hall	£7.00	£8.50	£10.50
Upper Hall	£4.50	£5.50	£7.00
Both Rooms	£10.50	£13.00	£15.00

Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Pavilion	£8.00	£11.00	£15.00

To check availability please contact Bookings Clerk Mrs S Williamson 01767 260086

Potton Library Opening Hours

Monday	2pm to 6pm	
Wednesday	2pm to 6pm	
Friday	10am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 1pm	

- Free Wireless Internet transmitting 24-7
- Daily and weekly newspapers are available
- The librarian, Gillian, will be happy to answer any queries on 01767 260740