



In Remembrance

Since the last newsletter, Frederick (Eric) William Jakes MBE, Freeman of Potton and Ruth Burmo have both passed away.



Eric Jakes was a Potton man born and bred. He was born 8th May 1928 and passed away on Monday 12th December 2016. Potton gave a fond farewell

to Eric at his funeral on Friday 6th January 2017. Eric served as a town councillor, a councillor on the old Biggleswade Rural District Council and subsequently on Mid-Beds District Council, Governor of Burgoyne Middle School and a charity trustee.



Ruth Burmo was born in Ceylon in 1947 and died in November 2016. Potton gave a fond farewell to a cherished teacher, head teacher, town councillor

and a charity trustee at a memorial service at St Mary's Church on Saturday 21st January 2017.

Your vision for Potton over the next 15 years is that:

Potton will remain a small Georgian Market Town with a vibrant market square that has a variety of shops and services that meet the needs of the Town and its residents.

There will be medium scale, managed, proportionate and uniform growth over the period of the Plan, offering suitable and affordable housing and encouraging local businesses. Sustainable development will meet the needs of the Town and its residents and will be in conformity with the CBC Local Plan whilst still retaining Potton's heritage and green environment.



Please fill in and return the Potton Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, which is being delivered to every household in Potton.



Chairman's Message



Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of the Potton Town Council quarterly newsletter.

As most of you are no doubt aware it seems to be open season for developers across Central Bedfordshire and Potton in particular. At the time of writing Kier will shortly complete of the first of **150 houses at the Biggleswade Road** site and outline planning permission has been given for **90 houses to the south of Sandy Road, 62 houses to the south of Mill Lane** (opposite the recreational ground) **7 houses off Everton Road** and there is an application going forward to CBC for a further **186 houses to the north of Sandy Road**. A small victory in this war of unsustainable development was achieved last week when CBC refused permission for a further 85 houses to the west of Biggleswade Road, however we wait to see if the developer will appeal this decision, something they seem very adept at.

Potton Town Council will continue to oppose unsustainable development in the town that will put additional pressure on our infrastructure and services. However, whilst the developments are unwanted, we should make every effort to welcome those who may soon join our thriving community. I would hope everyone would welcome our new residents and make them feel part of the community. They will be fortunate indeed to live in a town that has a community spirit that other towns can only envy!

The Town Council continues to try and make improvements in the town. Following on from another spectacular Christmas Lights show we have recently commissioned the **replacement of the skatepark**. As mentioned in previous newsletters the current skatepark was reaching a point where it would have to have been condemned and removed. We are fortunate to be able to replace this with a longer lasting concrete version that should keep our skaters happy for the next 25 years or more. This wouldn't be possible were it not for the support of Potton Consolidated Charity and we thank them again for their help and generosity.

The Council are also pursuing a **cycleway between Potton and Sandy**, via the RSPB Lodge and are also looking at **improving car parking** in the town following a successful application for funds from CBC's Market Town Regeneration fund. We are looking at ways to increase the size and capacity of the car park at Henry Smith Playing Fields to make it easier for locals to shop in the town and attend appointments at the local GP surgery.

Finally as Spring arrives, the weather starts to improve and the swifts return to the skies it is pleasing to see the town looking tidy.

My thanks again go to the volunteers that joined in with the recent litter pick and showed their pride



Skatepark



Litter pick

in Potton. This biannual event makes a difference but sadly shows the extent that people will go to in avoiding the use of a bin. I'd urge you all to promote a pride in Potton and play your part in keeping it looking clean and tidy at all times.

Best Wishes

Angus



Cllr Angus Macdonald

Role of a Town Councillor

Initially, a Councillor may have little knowledge of Council work but this will come, along with experience and confidence. As a new Councillor you will bring to the Council fresh enthusiasm, new ideas, a care for your community and a willingness to learn.

A candidate for the Town Council is qualified if at the time of nomination they are:

- A British subject or Irish citizen
- 18 years of age
- Either on the list of electors for the town or during the last twelve months you have:
 - occupied land or property in Potton as owner or tenant
 - had your principle place of work here
 - lived in, or within three miles of Potton.

A town Councillor is unpaid and give their time for free to the community on a voluntary basis.

The role of a councillor is to bring local issues to the attention of the council and help it make decisions on behalf of the local community.

Potton Town Councillors on taking office, agree to abide by the town council's adopted code of conduct which is consistent with the Nolan principles of;

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

The diversity of the town council is its strength. Diversity often arises because councillors have different backgrounds, enthusiasms and interests. Councillors have different skills and attitudes; for example, some work with ideas while others are very practical; some like accounts while others prefer reports. The town council needs a range of skills to work as a team.

If a vacancy as a Councillor for Potton Town Council arose would you be willing to stand?

Town Council Information and Office Opening Times

For enquiries regarding the following: Cemetery, Allotments, Henry Smith Playground, Mill Lane Playground, Recreation Fields, Public Conveniences, Brook End Car Park, Mill Lane Pavilion and Community Centre.

Monday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Friday	9.30am – 12.30pm

If you want to see a specific member of the team please ring ahead to make an appointment.

Tel: 01767 260086

E: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

W: www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

Councillor contact details

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

Town Council Meetings **Held in the Community Centre, Main Hall at 7pm.**

Tuesday 2nd May 2017

Tuesday 6th June 2017

Tuesday 4th July 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Councillor Surgeries **Held in the library 10am – 12 noon.**

Sat 8th April	Cllrs Leggatt and Lewis
Sat 13th May	Cllrs Ivall and Harris
Sat 17th June	Vice Chairman Cllr Ellison and Cllr Lewis
Sat 15th July	Cllrs Whitfield and Temple

Dates for the Diary

May

Mon 1st	May Day Fete -The Hollow	11am - 3pm
Sat 13th	Potton Show Committee Plant Sale – Potton Market Square	8.30am – 12noon

June

Sat 17th	Seasonal Market – Potton Market Square	9am – 1pm
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What is the council tax in Biggleswade, Gamlingay and Sandy?

	2017/18 Band D
Biggleswade	£128.08
Gamlingay	£135.38
Sandy	£135.96
Potton	£103.57

For Town Council Services information visit:
pottontowncouncil.co.uk

For Council Tax enquiries call Central Bedfordshire Council on:
0300 300 8000



Vacancies for **2 x School Governors**

Could you make a positive contribution to the local schools?

Being a Governor is a rewarding way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people. The Potton Federation (comprising Potton Lower and Potton Middle School) is looking for two new governors to join our team.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the schools.
- an open and enquiring mind and the ability to look at issues objectively.
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements.
- the ability to work well with others.
- Some time to spare (4 full meetings per year held at 7pm midweek plus committee meetings)

Being a governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding and you do not have to be the parent of a child at either school. All governors must complete safeguarding checks.

If you are interested, please contact Andrea Hutchison, Clerk to the Governors ahutchison@pottonfederation.co.uk.

More information about the role of governors can be found online www.pottonfederation.co.uk/governors

Housing development in Potton update

Number of dwellings in Potton at 31 st March 2016	2,277
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Central Bedfordshire Council has **approved** the following to be built in Potton.

Planning application reference	Name and address of site	Total residual number of dwellings under construction, permitted/allocated (net)
HA9	Land to the South of 'The Paddocks', Potton	90
MA5 16/00436	Land at Biggleswade Road, Potton	120
MA5 15/01263	Land at Biggleswade Road, Potton (Phase 1)	31
16/02590/OUT	Land to the South of Sandy Road, Potton	90
16/04460/OUT	Land opposite the Playing Field, Mill Lane, Potton	62
Total Approved Planning Applications		393
		17.3% increase
Total New Number of Dwellings in Potton		2,670

Submitted Planning Applications **still to be decided** by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Planning application reference	Name and address of site	Total residual number of dwellings under construction, permitted/allocated (net)
17/00296/OUT	Land surrounding 100 Sandy Road, Potton, Sandy, SG19 2QQ	186
17/01096/OUT	Off, of Sutton Road, Potton.	80
Total Submitted Planning Applications		266
		11.7% increase if all approved
PLUS Approved Planning Applications		393
		29% increase if all approved
Total New Number of Dwellings if all Approved		2,856

The above doesn't include any planning applications which have been refused or refused and under appeal or developments of less than ten properties. Information correct as of 24th March 2017.

Litter Pick

Potton's latest litter pick took place on Saturday 11th March and it was great to see such a large and enthusiastic turn out of local groups and individuals willing to give up a couple of hours of their time to clean up the town.

With so many people, virtually the whole of Potton was able to be covered. Over a four-hour period 54 bags of litter were collected with a few more to follow from people who said they were able to go out on Sunday. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up Potton.

Refreshments were served in the Community Centre throughout the day for the returning volunteers.



litter pick during week commencing 20th March 2017.

The next litter pick will take place in October. Watch out for the date in the next town council newsletter, on the town council website and in other local media.



A thank you also to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and CBC's waste contractor Biffa, for collecting the bags of litter and for donating twenty litter pickers, twenty pairs of gloves and twenty hi-vis tabards to Potton Town Council for this litter pick. The equipment is retained by the town council for their own future use. Potton Lower School have already made use of the equipment to carry out a



Potton Skate park update

From previous newsletters, readers will be aware our skate park is fast approaching the end of its life. Looking forward, funding has been secured (including a significant contribution from Potton Consolidated Charity) and the users have been consulted. This included the youth group touring several local parks to understand what other parks have which is good and indeed bad.



From all of this the town council has opted to go for a cast concrete park built on the site of the existing footprint. This will offer a more flexible choice of features, a longer design life and less maintenance costs.

A brief of the park being able to provide features suitable for all ages and abilities was given in our enquiry and we believe that the new skate park will be an even better asset to the town bringing even more children and indeed adult users to the park.



Councillors assessed the received tenders and various users including the youth group have reviewed the presented designs.

We are looking to fast track the project and the contractor has been asked to present construction programmes with a completion and handover date of early summer, in time for the school holidays.

Features

- 1 Apex Block – 0.38m-0.5m high, 0.5m wide, 4m long
- 2 Flat Bank – 0.8m high, 1.2m wide
- 3 1/4 Pipe – 1.8m high, 3m wide
- 4 Flat Bank / Channel Gap – 0.8m high, 1.2m wide
- 5 1/4 Pipe – 1.4m high, 2.2m wide
- 6 Flat Bank – 0.8m high, 2.7m wide
- 7 Flat Rail – 0.4m high, 5m long
- 8 "Wedge" Flat Banks – 0.7m high, 1.2m wide
- 9 Jump Box – 1.2m high, 2.2m wide
- 10 1/4 Pipe Blend
- 11 Pump Bump / Roller – 0.54m high, 1m wide
- 12 Spine – 1.2m high, 2.36m wide
- 13 Coloured Concrete Gap – 1.55m wide, 1.4m long
- 14 Grind Block – 0.3m high, 3m long
- 15 Grind Ledge with Wallie End – 0.45m high, 7.54m long
- 16 Flat Rail with Wallie Ends – 0.4m high, 5.1m long
- 17 Flat Bank – 0.45m high, 2m wide
- 18 Descending Rail
- 19 3 Stair-Set – 0.45m high, 0.64m wide
- 20 Hubba Ledge with Wallie End – 0.5m wide
- 21 Flat Bank – 0.45m high, 2.44m wide
- 22 Grind Block with Wallie End – 0.35m-0.5m high, 0.5m wide
- 23 Mini-Jump Box – 0.7m high, 1.2m wide
- 24 1/4 Pipe – 1.2m high, 3m wide
- 25 Mini-1/4 Pipe – 0.5m high, 1m wide
- 26 Volcano Transfer – 0.7m high
- 27 Sub-Box – 0.5m high, 3m wide
- 28 1/4 Pipe – 0.7m high, 5m wide
- 29 1/4 Pipe – 0.7m high, 2m wide
- 30 1/4 Pipe Hip / Blend – 0.7m high
- 31 1/4 Pipe – 0.7m high, 4.5m wide
- 32 Mini-Ramp Section
- 33 Flat Bank – 0.7m high, 2.8m wide
- 34 Grind Block – 0.35m high, 1.8m wide





Potton Youth Club

Where? Mill Lane Pavilion

When? 5-7pm on Thursdays

Who? For all aged 12-18 years

For more information please contact
Angela Dallaris, Senior Youth Worker
07702 532329
angela.dallaris@groundwork.org.uk

 @gwklutonandbeds #PottonYouthClub  Potton Youthy



Potton Show

The Potton Flower & Vegetable Show are now busy preparing for their 44th Show.

Our Show this year will be on Saturday **9th September** at **St Mary's Church field** in a marquee. If you are new to Potton please make sure you put the date in your diary to either exhibit your vegetables, fruit, cookery, handicrafts to name but a few classes, or just come along and enjoy a family afternoon of entertainment.



Schedules for the show will be available early July at the Library, Tysoe's and the Post Office or online at **www.pottonshow.org.uk**

The Show is followed by a Barn Dance in the marquee. On **Sunday 10th** there will be a craft fair with over 40 stall holders.

Our main fundraising event is a sale of bedding plants, perennials and homemade cakes held in the Market Square on **Saturday 13th May 2017** from **8.30am**.

Please support us as we would like the Show to continue for many more years to come.

ANOTHER CHANCE

for a slice of the High Street Improvement Scheme
£1 million grant

The High Street Improvement Scheme aims to revitalise town centres through replacing or renovating high street shop fronts and tackling vacant retail units, which in turn will assist with the long-term economic success of our market towns.



The final deadline for expressions of interest is **Monday 1 May 2017**.

Working in partnership with town councils, Central Bedfordshire Council is offering funding to support businesses to modernise their shop fronts, upper floors and forecourts, while preserving and enhancing the character of individual buildings, as well as expert advice on creating new branding for signage.

Funding is available to independent businesses and landlords with properties

in Central Bedfordshire's 11 market towns including Potton.

Successful applicants will receive a grant of **60%** of the total cost of the work to carry out improvements, with the remaining **40%** to be sourced from private sector and other public sector sources. Want to know more?

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business/developments/market-towns-regen/scheme.aspx



Central Bedfordshire Council
and Potton Town Council

Working in partnership
to improve your town

Town Council Hall Hire

Halls can be hired by private individuals, community groups and commercial hirers.

Please contact Mrs. Sarah Williamson during office opening hours to check on availability and make a booking

Email:

pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com

or **Tel: 260086.**

There are a number of vacant sessions during the day time, evening and at weekends at the **Community Centre** and **Mill Lane Pavilion.**



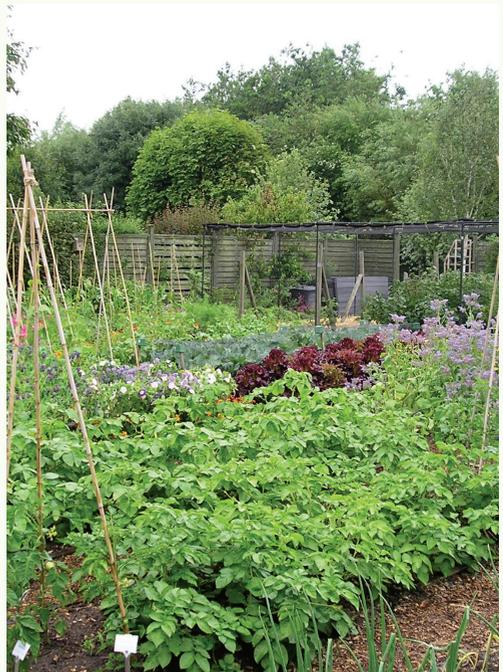
Keeping it fresh with town's allotments

In recent years, there has been a large increase in families wanting to experience the art of growing their own fruit and vegetables, for many reasons:

- No garden
- It is how vegetables should taste
- Good exercise
- Fresh air
- Something to get your teeth into!
- A bolt-hole from everyday stress

Why not think about renting a Town Council Allotment?

Contact Sarah Williamson
E: pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com
or T: 260086.



Mosaic Heritage Trail Update



The children of Potton Federation have been taking part in workshops in making part of a mosaic trail, bringing the unique history of Potton to life using the ancient craft of mosaic making.



Once completed the mosaic stories in stone for Potton, will be placed on the walls of the Library. The aim is to leave a legacy of times past for many future generations to come.

The project is being led by Carolyn Blake and the mosaics have been designed by Oliver Budd one of the finest mosaic artists in the UK.

For further details about the project
www.storyinstone.org.uk

The round mosaic story panel for Potton is planned to be installed during week commencing 22nd May 2017.

Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Tel: Andrea on 0300 555 5949 mobile: 07590 359 630 (working Tues, Weds, Thurs only)

In January, a get-together with hot lunch was enjoyed by 35 regular attendees of the Potton Friendship Group. Further outings and social events are planned for 2017, so if you're looking to make new friends, or reacquaint with old ones, then why not come along to the Potton Friendship Group.

Potton Friendship Group - this gathers every Thursday morning 10-12 at the Community Centre, Brook End. Play Triominoes, carpet bowls, Scrabble or cards or simply sit and chat over tea and homemade cakes. All are very welcome. £1.50 entry.

Smoke alarms save lives - if you don't already have a smoke alarm, then you should seriously consider getting one. People over 65 or with a disability who are unable to fit their own alarm can get one supplied and fitted free of charge. Contact Andrea for more information.

Carbon monoxide alarms - Andrea has a few of these left to install. If you have

gas, oil or solid fuel heating or cooking then fitting an audible alarm will alert you to a carbon monoxide leak, should this arise. Carbon monoxide poisoning can make you very unwell and even kill in high levels. If you would like an alarm please call Andrea.

Maximize your income - many older people struggle on with long term illnesses or disabilities without seeking advice or support on benefit entitlement. If you are over 65, have a long term or progressive illness or disability that affects your day to day life then you may qualify for Attendance Allowance. This is not means tested and you could be awarded with up to £82.30 a week to help pay for support.

Don't forget, if you have any forms that you need help filling in such as Attendance Allowance, Blue Badges or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit or any other issue, then please call Andrea. I am funded to support Potton residents only and unfortunately cannot help people outside of the area.

Potton Library

Opening Times:

Mon 2-6pm,

Wed 2-6pm,

Friday 10-1pm & 2-6pm,

Sat 10-1pm.

Tel: 0300 300 8063

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
or search for 'Bedfordshire Virtual Library'.

Central
Bedfordshire
Libraries

Library Staff - Debbie,
Leon and Emma.

We are open to everyone and welcome new customers. We invite all to join in with our activities and events, or use our traditional library facilities. We are supported by a team of volunteers who help within the library and also assist the staff during events.



Progress with Potton Hall for All,

...but we need your help!

The Potton Hall for All Steering Committee continues to make the prospect of building a multi-purpose Community Hall in Potton an ever-increasing reality.

The proposed Hall will provide a variety of excellent facilities for our wonderful town. It will be an asset for the **whole community**.

We are pleased to report that since the last edition of the Potton Newsletter, amongst other activities, we have;

- Visited Silsoe Hall, which is a similar project to ours and which opened last March. Their committee were able to give us some very useful advice.
- Recruited 3 new members to the committee.
- Participated in fundraising at the Christmas Lights event and Seasonal Market.



We will continue to run various fundraising activities and events throughout the year, some in collaboration with other groups in Potton. If your club would like to run an event in aid of the Hall project please get in touch.

We will keep you informed of all our activities, through our revamped website www.pottonhallforall.co.uk and other social media.

We are naturally always grateful to receive financial support, but what we want most of all, please, is your time, energy and ideas – so if you feel able to give any of these please e-mail hall4allpotton@btinternet.com.

Never forget The Hall for All is exactly what it says on the tin!

May Day Fete

Monday 1st May at The Hollow, Potton
11am - 3pm

12-3pm	Multi-skills Sports Coaching
12noon	Fun Dog Show
1pm	Birds of Prey flying display



Potton Town
Cricket Club



Admission:
£2 adult, £1 child
£5 family (2 adults & up to 3 children)

■ Fun Fair ■ Archery ■ Craft Stalls ■ Car Boot ■ Cricket Fun ■ Live Music ■ Bar & Food



Administration Assistant

Potton Town Council are seeking a Part-time Administration Assistant. To work as part of a team providing a professional public interface. To provide full administrative support to the Town Clerk, Councillors and staff.

The role requires excellent communication and organisational skills, along with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.

15 hours per week in the afternoon.

NJC Scale Point 12 – 16 currently £8.38 - £9.05 per hour.

Please look at the town council website for further details or contact

Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton,
Bedfordshire SG19 2QS.

Tel: 01767 260086

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing Date:

Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 9am.

Newsletter Deliverers

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

The Town Council is interested in hearing from 13 – 18 year olds to deliver the Newsletter and the rate of pay is **£20 for 300 delivered newsletter's.**

13 – 18 year olds need a permit from Central Bedfordshire Council, see link for more information

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/pupil-support/child-employment.aspx