



Opening of Potton Skatepark

Saturday 8th July, 12.30-3.30pm

Brook End, Potton, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS



Potton Skatepark will be officially opened by Cllr Angus Macdonald, Chairman of Potton Town Council and Charles Belcher, Chairman of Potton Consolidated Charity on Saturday 8th July 2017 between 12.30-3.30pm with **competitions, prizes and music**. Party on Potton will also be present with refreshments and food, raising funds towards the next Big Weekend.

The old metal skatepark was closed on the 2nd May 2017 and in less than two months

a replacement concrete skatepark has been built. Potton Town Council would like to thank Potton Consolidated Charity who have given a significant contribution towards the cost of the new skatepark.

The town council would now like to obtain your suggestions for a future projects you would like to see delivered in Potton.



Chairman's Message



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

I would like to start by offering **my thanks and gratitude to both Peter Langridge and Roger Jordan**, both of whom recently resigned from the council, for their service to the council and to Potton. We rely on people unselfishly giving up their free time and committing to serve the town when they become a councillor and it is a commendable undertaking. In Peter's case he has given 23 years of service to the town via the Town Council and was one of our members who is widely known and respected by many people in this town.

The Town Council is now in a position where it can co-opt two new members onto the council so if you are interested in joining Potton Town Council please see the advert later in this newsletter.

Central Bedfordshire Council can now demonstrate a five year supply of housing and the most recent large applications submitted to increase our town have been rejected. The Town Council is also in the process of requesting a Judicial Review into the decision to award permission to build 62 new houses off Mill Lane, a decision this council disagreed with at the time.

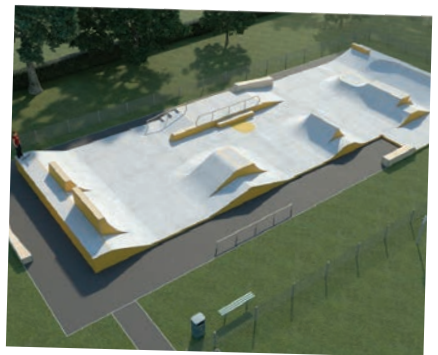
Continuing on the development theme, by the time you will be reading this, there will have been a **public meeting held at Potton Middle School on 22nd June, 7.30pm**. Anybody from the town will have been able to come along and discuss the recent planning activity with **local MP Alistair Burt**, a CBC Executive Committee representative and representatives from CBC Planning Department.

The new skate park will officially open on 8th July at 12:30pm although it will be available for use before then. However it is very disappointing to say that the skate park has already been vandalised before it has even officially opened.

There is a large amount of money been invested into this new facility and the thoughtless actions of a few individuals have caused a delay in the completion as well as increasing costs.

The council tries to provide good facilities for as many people in the town as possible and all this sort of intentional damage does is limit what we can provide in the future.

I would urge all users to treat this new facility and all others with care if you want them to last.



Skatepark

Finally I hope that we can all enjoy a warm summer. A good summer sets us up for the **Potton Show** and **Potton Apple Day** later in the year where we can all enjoy the fruits of our labours. It also allows us to get out and about and enjoy the beauty of our town and surrounding countryside. With that thought in mind I wish you all a long and pleasant summer.

Best Wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald



Potton Apple Day



Central Bedfordshire Councillor's Report - Cllr Adam Zerny

Some good news at last on planning but more battles to come.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) told me last month the planning application for 186 houses on the north side of Sandy Road, Potton was to be turned down by the Council.

CBC told the developer and the next day, the developer withdrew it. It doesn't mean the developer can't resubmit an application but they cannot appeal this one now they have withdrawn.

Well done to the hundreds of people who wrote to CBC with objections and signed the petitions! You can see more on the application, including maps, on CBC's website. Google 'Central Beds Planning' CBC have also announced they have a 5 year supply of housing now so this should make it easier for them to turn down large speculative applications.

The next step will be CBC's Draft Local Plan which should be available in June. This will show where the local authority plan to build more houses over the next 15 years. I will publicise via Facebook and my newsletter as soon as I have any news on this.

To learn more about these applications and find out about decisions as they happen, please email me adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk and I will put you on the distribution list for my monthly email newsletter.

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. The Town Council office is open for drop-in visitors as follows:

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	Alan Leggatt	260001
Geoff Emery	261710	John Lewis	260726
Andrew Gibb	260067	Angus Macdonald	262006
Richard Harris	262596	Chris Temple	262535
John Hobbs	260710	Rex Whitfield	262246
Les Ivall	261559	Adam Zerny	261319
Jonathan Lean	262404		

Town Council Meetings

Held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 4th July 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Tuesday 3rd October 2017

Tuesday 7th November 2017

Councillor Surgeries

Held in the library starting at 10am – 12 noon.

Sat 15th July	CLRs Temple and Whitfield
Sat 19th Aug	CLRs Emery and Lean
Sat 16th Sep	CLr Gibb and a new CLr
Sat 14th Oct	Chairman CLr Macdonald and Vice Chairman CLr Ellison
Sat 11th Nov	CLRs Harris and Ivall



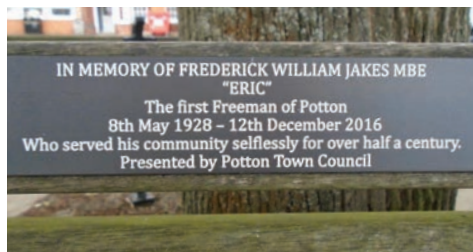
Frederick (Eric) William Jakes M.B.E. Freeman of Potton

Eric was born 8th May 1928 and died 12th December 2016.

To mark Eric's first birthday after his passing and as an initial memory to the extraordinary contribution he made to the town, the town council commissioned a plaque.

This was affixed to a bench in the Market Square so that new residents and old alike will know of him.

An unveiling of the plaque was performed by Lesley Mayne on the 8th May 2017 in the Market Square and was attended by many residents of Potton.



Promote your local group, organisation or business in Potton

Potton Town Council Town Guide

What is the Town Guide?

Potton Town Council are putting together a Town Guide which will be professionally designed and printed and delivered to all households in Potton. It will also be available online. The last guide was produced in 2006 and is now out of date. The guide will be a reference point of all the community groups, services and organisations in Potton

and will also take some paid-for business advertising. The closing date for submissions is **22nd July 2017**.

For more information and how to submit your details visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/questionnaire/town-guide

Potton Town Council Unaudited Balance Sheet as at 31st March'17

Current Assets	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '17
Debtors	1,668	1,401
VAT Control Account	2,841	5,386
Current Account	12,284	17,812
30 Day Account	217,915	255,199
Petty Cash	160	357
Petrol Petty Cash	25	27
Total Assets	234,893	280,183

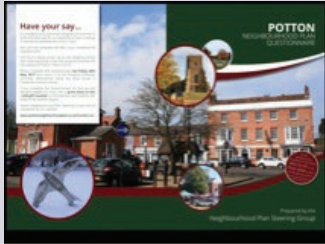
Current Liabilities	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '17
Community Orchard Fund	0	665
Receipts in Advance	1,573	2,698
Party Deposits	250	300
Long Term Deposits	600	650
Total Liabilities	2,423	4,313

Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	232,471	275,870
--	----------------	----------------

Represented By	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '17
General Reserves	71,839	71,735
EMR Community Centre	9,921	12,155
EMR Brook	0	2,873
EMR Cemetery	2,928	5,428
EMR Cemetery Extension	0	3,000
EMR Christmas Lights	5,777	4,599
EMR Neighbourhood Plan	0	9,146
EMR Town Plan	2,084	2,084
EMR Town Guide	0	5,000
EMR Youth Budget	10,921	10,553
EMR Grants	20,786	16,611
EMR Mill Lane Play Area	7,216	4,066
EMR HSPF Play Equipment	0	1,981
EMR Carpark	50,000	50,000
EMR Skatepark	50,000	53,615
EMR Public Conveniences	0	1,609
EMR Website	1,000	0
EMR Office Movement	0	10,000
EMR Training	0	2,415
EMR Legal Fees	0	7,000
EMR Community Agent	0	2,000
Total Reserves	232,471	275,870

Potton Neighbourhood Plan

Survey Results & Green Infrastructure Plan



Find out the results of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire



Check out our new Potton Green Infrastructure Plan

We will also be sharing our draft policies for the Potton Neighbourhood Plan

Come along to one of our roadshows:

Tuesday 11th July between 5pm and 9pm
in the Pavilion, Mill Lane

or

Thursday 13th July between 5pm and 9pm
in the Community Centre, Brook End

Be involved in shaping Potton's future

Caretaker / Groundkeeper / Maintenance Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and reliable General Assistant to carry out caretaking, maintenance and groundkeeping activities.

This is an ideal opportunity for a responsible person, who has pride in their work, conscientious attitude towards work duties, be able to maintain a high standard of work and would like to work for the local community.

15 hours per week and overtime for additional hours. (Times to be confirmed)
NJC Scale Point 6 - 14 currently **£7.80 - £8.72 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: **Monday 17th July 2017 at 9am.**

Dates for the Diary

July

Sat 8 th	Skatepark Opening - Henry Smith Playing Field	12.30pm - 3.30pm
---------------------	---	------------------

September

Sat 9 th	Potton Show - St Mary's Church Field	2pm
Sat 16 th	Seasonal Market - Potton Market Square	9am - 1pm
Sun 24 th	Potton Apple Day - St Mary's Hall	12 noon - 4pm

October

Sat 14 th	Litter Pick - Community Centre Brook End	10am - 2pm
Sun 15 th	Civic Service - St Mary's Church	3pm

November

Sun 12 th	Remembrance Sunday - Market Square	10.15am
----------------------	------------------------------------	---------

This publication has been compiled and published by Potton Town Council who are the owners of the copyright. No reproduction is permitted without the express permission of the Council. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the various entries within this publication. In no circumstances can Potton Town Council accept any liability for any loss or damage of any kind which may arise as a result from any error in, or omission of, any entry, artwork or telephone number. The editorial content is not necessarily the views of the Council

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'.

Library Staff - Debbie, Leon and Emma.

ANIMAL AGENTS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2017

Our annual **Summer Reading Challenge starts on Sat 15th July**. This year's theme is 'Animal Agents', & we are planning themed code and detective activities as well as our more regular crafts & activities. The challenge itself is available to all children, & once they have registered & collected their pack there are prizes to be won for library books read. We are also planning an added library challenge for children aged 8+ who visit us over the summer. The library staff

will be visiting the local schools to promote our summer programme and copies of this will be available at the library from mid-July.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Churchyard Grass Cutting

An appointed representative of the town council met with representatives of St Mary's Church, Diocese of St Albans, Wildlife Trust and Reynolds Landscaping Services in March 2017 to discuss churchyard grass cutting.

At the meeting, it was suggested that the grass in the churchyard is cut a higher height of cut and the schedule for grass cutting is amended, with most of the grass cut on a fortnightly basis and one area of the churchyard be cut on a four-weekly basis. Also at the meeting it was agreed that the grass cut scheduled to be completed during week commencing 29th May 2017 is not carried out to allow any wildflowers to grow, so that an inspection of the flowers could be undertaken by representative(s) of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire before the next cut scheduled during week commencing 12th June 2017.

An inspection of the wildflowers took place during week commencing 5th June 2017 and the flowers identified included Wild Clary.



Wild Clary



A meeting will now take place to discuss how to be sensitive to the users, paying heed to the primary function as a resting place for the dead and a contemplative place for friends and relatives of those buried there and encourage more wildlife.

New arrival at Potton Youth Club



We are really excited to welcome a new Lead Youth Worker to the fantastic Potton Youth Club.

Kira Bernard has 10 years of youth work experience in a variety of settings including, most recently, with Hillingdon Council. Kira has planned an exciting programme over the next few months for the young people of Potton.





We'll be tucking in to a brand new Restaurant Project - young people will learn to cook a three course meal. On top of being able to feast on their delicious food, they'll learn crucial life skills and also be able to achieve a food hygiene certificate.

Interested? You can meet Kira and the team at the **Potton Pavilion** on Mill Lane every **Thursday from 5-7pm**. The youth club is open to all aged **12 to 18 years** and costs just 50p a session.

For more information please contact:
Kira on 07736 132292 or
kira.bernard@groundwork.org.uk

See you on Thursday!

www.groundwork.org.uk/beds

 [@gwklutonandbeds](https://twitter.com/gwklutonandbeds) [#PottonYouthClub](https://twitter.com/PottonYouthClub)
 [Potton Youthy](https://www.facebook.com/PottonYouth)



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)

Potton Friendship Group organised a lovely trip on the John Bunyan river boat last month. A two-hour cruise and ploughman's lunch was enjoyed by a coach full of people. If you would like to join us on future trips and parties then why not come along to the Friendship Group?

This gathers every Thursday morning 10-12 at the Community Centre, Brook End. Play Triominos, carpet bowls, Scrabble or cards or simply sit and chat over tea/coffee, homemade cakes and quiche. All are very welcome. New price of £2.50 entry.

A trip to Brick Lane Music Hall, London has been booked for Tuesday 24th October, tickets £40 include coach, show and afternoon tea. Contact Andrea if you are interested in coming along.

The Friendship Group volunteers take a well deserved break over the summer. Last group is **Thursday 27th July**. We meet again on **Thursday 7th September**.

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, Potton Community Agent, in confidence on **0300 555 5949**.

Please note my working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am funded by Potton Consolidated Charity to support Potton residents only and unfortunately cannot help people outside of the area.



Keeping Potton Tidy

Following on from the successful litter pick in March, Potton's next tidy up will take place on **Saturday 14th October 2017** between **10am and 2pm**. As usual, volunteers will meet at the old telephone exchange next to the community centre where they will be provided with all the necessary equipment and a route to follow.

If you have not been involved with the litter pick before why not consider joining us for a couple of hours and have a bit of fun to see if you can come back with the strangest discarded item. Your efforts really do make a difference to the town.

Refreshments will be served in the Community Centre throughout the day for returning helpers.

Carol Leggatt



Invitation to

Potton Dementia Action Evening

Tibbs Dementia Foundation has been working with the local community in Potton to help establish a successful weekly music group, 'Music 4 Memory', for people living with dementia.

Increasing numbers of people are living with dementia, however the funding needed to support them is becoming more and more scarce.

Our challenge as a community is how we can work together in meaningful and innovative ways, to support people with dementia to continue to live active and fulfilled lives, as well as giving access to the information they need to live well.

Join us on Wednesday 5th July from **5.30pm- 7.30pm** at **Potton Fire Station**, Bury Hill, where we will have a great opportunity to meet, learn about dementia and explore ways that we can work together creatively, refreshments will be provided and all are welcome. Let's take action together to become dementia allies and create a thriving and understanding dementia friendly community within Potton.

For more information contact
Tibbs Dementia Foundation CEO
sarah@tibbsdementia.co.uk
www.tibbsdementia.co.uk

Local Connections

Public art is often a pleasant surprise for people who don't ordinarily think art or art galleries are for them. By working with local people right from the beginning of the project, artists and craftspeople can add distinctiveness, identity and relevance to a location.

Developing a connection with a special place and a piece of artwork can lead to a shared sense of local pride, invested interest and reduced vandalism. Most housing development over a certain size will contribute toward public art. In Potton, there is a project underway to create one or a series of new artworks in the Tall Trees development, between the new roundabout and the planned community centre and orchard.

Kier Living Ltd are funding the project to engage an artist to begin this work. Following national advertising, the selection panel (including the Town Council and local residents) have invited 4 artists to present their ideas. They will appoint one to begin the project at the end of June. The chosen artist will work closely with local community



organisations so watch this space for events in the market square and about the town as they find out more about what makes Potton tick and how they want to capture that in a new piece of art for the town.

Sally Wileman
Public Arts Panel facilitator

You are cordially invited to Potton Apple Day



Sunday 24th September
St Mary's Church Hall, Potton 12 - 4pm



A fun, free, family day out

Potton Flower & Vegetable Show

If you are new to Potton or lived here for years please find time to visit our 'Village Show' held in a marquee on St Mary's Church field on Saturday 9th September.

It is an open show and there will be a wide range of categories for both young and old to enter which includes fruit and vegetables, photography, cookery, home handicrafts and a wide range of classes in the children's section.



Schedules will be available at the library, Tysoes and the Post Office or online at www.pottonshow.org.uk from July.

Entries must be in by **Thursday 7th September**. If you have never entered before and need guidance please contact a committee member.

All exhibits for the Show must be at the show field by 9.45am on show morning.

The show opens for visitors at 2pm and we offer entertainment for the children, beer and Pimm's for the adults.



Do come along and enjoy an old fashioned afternoon with family and friends.

Following the presentation of awards we have a popular and fun auction of produce.

In the evening the marquee is transformed for a 'Barn Dance' with a fish & chip supper.

On Sunday a craft fair with over 40 stalls is open from 12 midday - 5pm in the marquee.

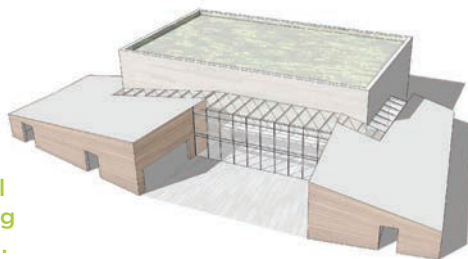
Do please come and support us at the Show, Barn Dance and Craft Fair. If you have any enquiries please contact **Sheila Woods** on **01767 261047**.





The Potton Hall for All Support Committee

The Potton Hall for All Support Committee are pleased to report, that since the Spring Newsletter they have held important meetings with senior officers of Central Bedfordshire Council and Potton Town Council which resulted in the Town Council undertaking the future responsibility for the site of the Hall.



This is a major step forward and the next issue to resolve is the responsibility for the financing of the building.

The Hall for All team played a major part in organising the recent May Day Fete with Potton Town Cricket Club, helping with all the preparatory organisation and running a cake stall, a raffle and the Dog Show.

Thanks go to Linda Sharp, Judy Oliver and Roz Smith for all their hard work. In addition we would like to thank the local businesses and individuals for their generosity who made donations to the Raffle Hamper.

We set up an information stall about the new designs of the proposed Hall on the day and this attracted many positive comments. We hope that this interest will convert to offers of help and support.

We are not after your money particularly, (though donations are always welcome!) but rather people's time, experience, ideas and skills. If you feel able to help in any way, please e-mail your interest to:

hall4allpotton@btinternet.com or like and message us via our Facebook page **www.facebook.com/pottonhallforall**.

Our next major event is participating in the Potton Show in September, where we shall be reprising Gardeners' Question Time following its popularity at last year's show. We will of course be present at every Seasonal Market.

The Hall for All is for everybody of every age and will be a fantastic additional asset to our lovely town.



The picture shows Roz Smith (Support Committee) and Cllr Ellison with the Spring Hamper which was won by Paula. The free prize draw of fizz and chocs was won by Peter. Thanks to all who took part.

Vacancies for 2 x Potton Town Councillors

An opportunity to be part of your community

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

1. A British subject or Irish citizen
2. 18 years of age
3. Either on the list of electors for the town or during the last twelve months you:
 - 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.

Any interested parties must make an application in writing to the Town Clerk, Mr Jonathan Whitehurst at The Town Council Office, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS by 9am on **Monday 3rd July 2017** and include the following information:

- i. reason for wishing to be Councillor;
- ii. previous Community/Council work;
- iii. other skills they can bring to the Council

For further information please refer to the town council's Co-option

procedure in the Our Council, Policies section of the website.

Please note it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and/or e-mail will be public information.

If you require any additional information, please contact the Town Clerk either by email or phone.

Email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com
Phone: 01767 260086

Co-option will take place at the Town Council Meeting held in the Community Centre, Brook End on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7pm.