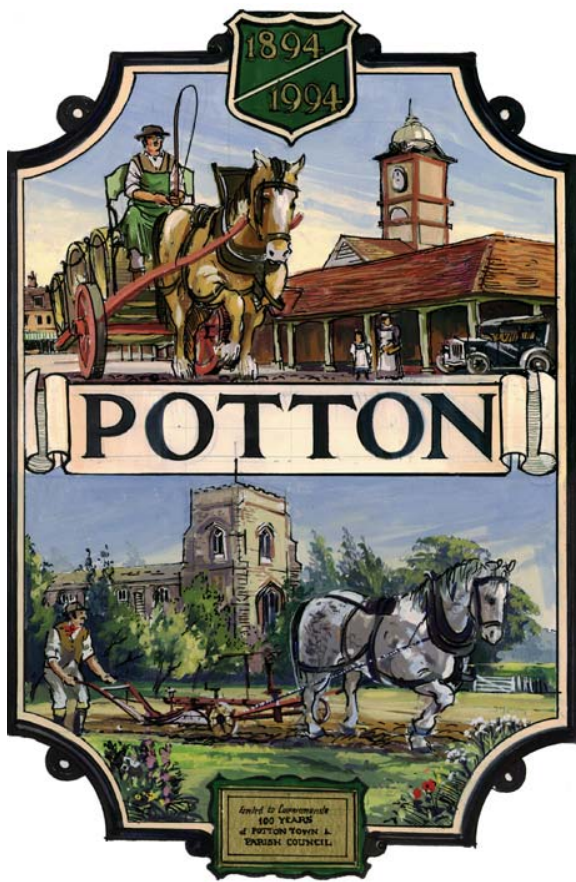


Potton Town Council



Newsletter
Autumn 2010



Chairman's Letter

The Local Development Framework (LDF) plan has been the focus of the Council's activities over the last few months. The main issue is the opposition to the proposal to build two large housing developments off Biggleswade Road. This is contrary to the wishes of Potton residents as indicated in the town plan questionnaire where the consensus was for a greater number of smaller developments in order to keep the character of the town intact. Many representations have been made to the planning authority by individual members of the public as well as the Town Council.

An eight day examination into the soundness of the Central Beds. Site Allocations Development Plan commences on the 25th October where all the submissions from interested parties will be heard.

Another area of concern the Council is pursuing is that of heavy goods vehicles using roads in the town where there is a statutory weight limit. Particular problems have been highlighted in the Horslow Street, Bull Street and Chapel Street area. We have requested the highways authority to investigate and report back on this issue.

With the circular seats now installed around the trees in the Market Square it is pleasing to see that they are in regular use. We are in the process of identifying a suitable preservative so that their appearance is maintained.

With Christmas fast approaching it will soon be time to put up the Christmas lights. This year we will have new lights for the cross street festoons. These will be LEDs which are much more energy efficient than the soon to be obsolete incandescent bulbs. Depending how they look, we will gradually replace the other old strings over future years. Volunteers to help erect the lights are always welcome.

The work is done on Sunday mornings from 31st October until the end of November with the exception of Remembrance Sunday.

Potton Town Council Chairman
Alan Leggatt

GREENSANDS RIDGE LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The Town Plan Shopping Committee has asked for the following information to be included in the Newsletter.

Are the Potton business people aware that they are entitled to apply for a lot of grant funding from the Greensands Ridge Local Action Group to develop their business especially if this development results in new jobs. They are looking for farms, food producers and retailers, micro enterprise and green economy business. Investment can be 50% of costs. Website- www.greensand.org.uk

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please put the dates for the opening ceremony of the Christmas Lights and for the Seasonal Market in your diary.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights will be turned on Friday 3rd December. Father Christmas arrives at 7pm but festivities start around 6pm. Volunteers are needed to help put up the lights on Sundays 31st Oct and 7th, 21st and 28th November from 10am in the Market Square.



Seasonal Market

The Seasonal Market will be on Saturday morning 11th December with lots of festive goodies.

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 Tel: 0300 300 8000

highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Do you know that if you have reported anything to do with roads to Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Helpdesk then you will be given a unique reference number. If you want to track progress on your report their website has a link at <http://highwaysfaults.bedfordshire.gov.uk/> All you should have to do is input your reference number together with your postcode as a security, and a history of your report should be displayed



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.

Hourly charges for use of Town Council facilities

Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 2010

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Main Hall	6.90	8.00	10.00
Upper Hall	4.30	5.40	6.40
Both Rooms	10.00	12.50	14.50

Mill Lane Pavillion, Mill Lane, Potton

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Pavillion	7.50	10.60	14.50

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

Potton Town Plan

The quarterly report on our progress was submitted to the Town Council at the beginning of October and can be viewed on the Town Council Web site. This reflects the progress over the first year of the Plan. Some areas have been difficult to deliver due to the shortage of Volunteers. However there have been a large number of achievements, of which you are no doubt aware.

We have now run four Seasonal Markets with the next due on Saturday 11th December. Every household was issued with a free cotton shopping bag to encourage residents to stop using disposable shopping bags. The Town Council has agreed that we will become a Fairtrade Town and this process is under way.

The Environment Group are arranging for volunteers to start planting daffodil bulbs on the approach roads into Potton, and we should all see the benefit of this in the Spring. They have achieved agreement on a site for an additional Bottle Bank and are now heavily involved in arranging cycle paths etc

The Traffic group have made good progress through meetings with Central Beds and the Sports & Leisure Group continue to push ahead. We hope to see more plans for the expansion of the Skate Park shortly.

The Housing Group has spent a huge number of hours fighting the proposed new large housing developments either side of the Biggleswade Road. The final hearing by the Planning Inspector is to close in early November with his guidance being issued in January next year. Our thanks go to all the Volunteers who have helped to bring the Town Plan to fruition and to those who have worked tirelessly on your behalf to make your ideas a reality.

Geoff Emery

Chairman of Potton Town Plan.

Councillor Profile - Councillor Jeremy Armond



Councillor Jeremy Armond

I was born and raised in Potton and was co-opted to Potton Town Council in 2000 after attending a Council meeting to speak as a member of the public!

Since then I have been Chairman of various committees including Planning and Building & Facilities, I have also held the post of Vice Chairman of the Council. I am currently a member of the Buildings and Facilities Committee.

My Potton family goes back at least two generations, and as such I have a vested interest in the Town, not only moving forward with the times, but trying to maintain the "Potton" that many newcomers and visitors remark about our town.

I have four grown up children who were all born and raised in the town they all attended Potton Lower and Burgoyne schools. I have also been the Chairman of Governors at Potton Lower School. As I had 3 boys I also took an interest in Cubs and Colts football, and along with some other parents helped, supported, managed and ref'd for many years. One of my sons along with friends has just started Potton Town FC, a brand new club that has joined the Bedford League this year. My only sporting action these days is the odd round of Golf.

I am also an allotment holder, and hope that the newly formed users committee can flourish along with our prized vegetables.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

The "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is upon us once more. The Summer has all but left us. The children are back in school and the business of Council has moved up a gear as the coalition government continues to bring regulation and order to our fiscal affairs. The new three "R"s Reassessment. Retrenchment and Recovery show a long steep hill to climb before we achieve our goals.

Good news is therefore doubly welcome; it gives me the greatest pleasure to congratulate our students, teachers, and parents, everyone who was involved, on the results achieved at GCSE examinations this summer. The percentage pass mark has increased nationally but our percentage increase is way above the national figure.

Well done Everyone.

One more piece of news that needs to be reported is that the long debate about additional sites for Travellers in Central Bedfordshire is drawing to a conclusion. The proposals have been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their recommendations now proceed to the Executive Committee. The site in Potton is recommended to be enlarged in area but not in pitch numbers. This will bring the site within national guidelines.

The proposed transit site in Sutton and the site in Dunton Lane Biggleswade are not included in the recommendations.

We are now on the countdown to Christmas. The cards are in the shops. With this in mind, I embarked upon a small project to boost our Christmas Lights Fund. I sat in the Market Square on the occasion of the last seasonal market and asked you all to guess the name of my dog. This turned out to be ROBBIE £163 58p was raised

Thank you all for supporting me to support our Christmas lights.

Anita Lewis
Sun House Potton
Portfolio Holder Children's Services Central Bedfordshire Council
Ward member for Potton. Tel 0300 300 8540

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ
Customer Services 0300 3008000 www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE VACANCY FOR A USER MEMBER

A user member volunteer is required to sit as a non voting member of the Buildings and Facilities Committee as representative of users of the Town Council halls. This committee meets about four times each year on a Tuesday evening and is concerned with issues about the management of both the Brook End Community Centre and the Mill Lane Pavilion. Are you a hirer? Do you wish to help other users? If the answer is yes please contact Mrs Valerie Moles Town Clerk 01767 260086

POTTON COUNCIL SURGERIES

Do you wish to discuss anything with your Councillor

The next Council Surgery will be held in the Library on Wednesday 10th November from 2pm to 4pm.

Councillors in attendance will be Mr J. Burke and Mrs J. Way together with Mrs A Lewis who is also a Central Bedfordshire Councillor.

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@btinternet.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

Council Web Site

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.

Town Councillors

Mick Allen	260227	Peter Langridge	260362
Jeremy Armond	260521	Alan Leggatt	260001
Jim Burke	261275	Anita Lewis	260726
Ruth Burmo	260712	John Lewis	260726
Nigel Butlin	260075	Jean Way	260456
Geoff Emery	261710	Adam Zerny	261319
Eric Jakes M.B.E.	260779	Sarah Fowler	260730
		Angus Macdonald	262006

Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of the Town Council

Mr J. Lewis is Vice Chairman of the Town Council

Mr J. Lewis is Chairman of Planning Committee

Mr P. Langridge is Chairman of Financial and General Purposes Committee

Mr F.W Jakes MBE is Chairman of the Burials Committee

Mr M. Allen is Chairman of the Playing Fields and Allotment Committee

Mr J. Burke is Chairman of Buildings and Facilities 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

Anita Lewis 260726 anita.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME IN £s	2009-2010	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
	TOTALS TO END FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTALS TO SEPT 09	TOTALS TO SEPT 10
VAT	6418.00	2248.31	1720.22
Precept	105000.00	105000.00	115000.00
Cemetery	4349.00	2541.00	2359.00
Community Centre	9255.00	3652.72	2992.70
Pavilion	14464.00	6774.50	4573.00
Donations/grants	13203.00	203.18	50.00
Grass cutting grant	1608.00	1607.71	1623.79
Recreation Fields	375.00	150.00	468.00
Allotments	200.00	135.50	670.00
Bank Interest	64.00	34.01	29.13
Charity Interest	58.00	25.56	25.56
Town Plan	820.00	0.00	265.00
Christmas Lights	1097.00	299.00	408.96
Insurance		0.00	0.00
Other	142.00	7.87	0.00
Total	157053.00	122679.36	130185.36
EXPENDITURE			
Public conveniences	4730.63	1725.08	2156.55
Administration**	71724.89	35456.62	36131.62
Verge cutting	2875.65	2226.18	2505.44
Community Centre	11545.46	5463.33	5450.83
Office	1280.26	755.72	836.51
Street Lighting	579.78	214.60	214.60
Pavilion	20299.94	10790.06	8831.91
Cemetery	23140.25	11420.83	11300.40
Clock House- Market Square	3099.99	1879.28	2451.23
Allotments	383.87	102.73	330.04
Car Park	2616.05	1580.45	3937.90
Mill Lane Playing Field	7117.18	5110.85	3862.90
Henry Smith Playing Field	5602.37	4037.21	5660.02
Total	154996.32	80762.94	83669.95

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

ADVICE FROM LOCAL POLICE ABOUT DRIVING IN BAD WEATHER

"The best way to maintain control and safety once you are out driving in inclement weather is by slowing down your speed. In addition to slick roadways, bad weather can also make driving dangerous because of low visibility. You should lower your speed according to the visibility in front of you, keeping in mind what it would take to stop if you were to suddenly see another vehicle's tail lights a few feet in front of your car.

If you cannot see beyond a few car lengths in front of your vehicle because of snow, rain, fog, or other weather, you should pull off as far as possible to the side of the road at an appropriate place, illuminate your hazard lights, and wait out the weather, preferably a safe distance from the vehicle, which could be struck by another motorist in the low-visibility conditions. This highlights the need for appropriate outerwear such as high visibility jackets and warm clothing."