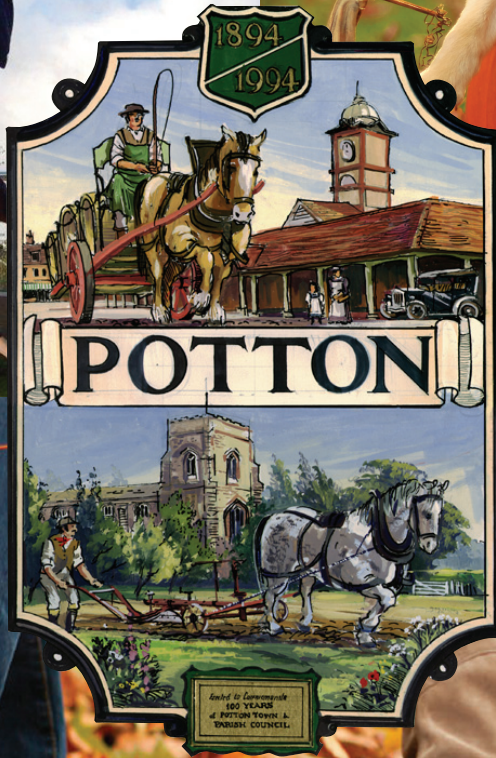


Potton Town Council



Newsletter
Autumn-Winter 2012

The summer of 2012 again proved that Potton can step up to the plate when it comes to celebrations. It started with The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, marking the sixtieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Town Council was pleased to endorse the efforts of a Jubilee Events Committee which put on three days of events in June.

On behalf of the town, the Town Council wrote a message of congratulations to Her Majesty for which a letter of thanks was received in April. In recognition of her historic achievement the Council will be planting a row of trees along the Millennium Path in the Henry Smith Playing Field.

Also under consideration is the erection of a plaque on the Clock House but this has currently been stifled by the insistence of Central Bedfordshire Council that we must purchase a licence and apply for planning permission.

In this Olympic year we continued to fly the flags in the Market Square throughout the summer. At the end of August the Party On Potton team again put on a great bank holiday weekend programme which was hugely supported by the community. This bi-annual event which evolved from the ten day Millennium Celebrations held in a marquee at the Henry Smith Playing Fields continues to grow from strength to strength.

Also in this Olympic year it was pleasing to see some of the Town Plan recommendations coming to fruition, the highlights being the construction of the adult gym facility and the refurbishment of the children's play area in the Henry Smith Playing field. These facilities cater for the whole age range of the population and are being well used by residents. The Town Council has received a number of messages of appreciation. A formal opening ceremony was held on the 13th October, the ribbon being cut by Charles Belcher who is the Chairman of Potton Consolidated Charity without which support the project could not have proceeded.

As we now head into Autumn, thoughts go to Christmas lights. Some further upgrades to displays have been made this year to replace some of the old and tired ones. The big switch – on will be Friday 30th November so put the date in your diary and don't miss this popular and enjoyable evening.

Alan Leggatt

Potton Town Council Chairman

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Autumn Report on Potton/Potton Ward

Health Watch

A new initiative has been set out by Government for Health and Social Care. Health Watch will provide patients and the public a place to air their views to Government Commissioning Bodies. This will replace LINKS

NHS

- 1) Central Bedfordshire is working with the NHS on a Joint Strategic Needs Assessments
- 2) Investing in early intervention on prevention of illness in all ages
- 3) Improving Education Attainment and all age skills which will have a significant impact on a wide range of outcomes.
- 4) To keep the elderly people mobile and enabling them to stay in their own homes

Highways

P.P.P. (Pinch Point Programmes)

The funding of Two Hundred Million Pounds for the P.P.P.

As you know we have been granted 4.6 million pounds for the upgrade of the Black Cat. This is part of the chain to move forward to get the flyover of the A1

I am continuing to push for the improvements as this is the way forward for the local economy, bringing more jobs and keeping in touch with today's economy.

doreengurney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Doreen Gurney

COUNCILLOR PROFILE



In the hot seat this winter is Councillor Rex Whitfield

I have lived in Potton all my life, and the Whitfield family has been resident in the town for nearly 200 years. I spent about 14 years working as a geography teacher in Bedfordshire Upper Schools, and then became an insurance representative and financial adviser, working in Potton and the surrounding villages for nearly 16 years. I have now retired from this role and have returned to teaching, this time on a supply basis. I am also an organist at a number of local churches and the Potton Correspondent for the Biggleswade Chronicle.

Potton has grown significantly during my lifetime. I am interested in the town's history and like to think that I am aware of the problems it faces in the 21st Century. I feel privileged at having been co-opted to help with planning its future. Please contact me if you wish to bring any local matter to the attention of the Council.

POTTON TOWN PLAN

The Council is hoping to have a new Town Plan Chairman in place very soon but in the meantime the Council wishes to thank Geoff Emery for all the work he has done in preparation of the plan and then in guiding the various committees to achieve many of the aspirations that were requested. There is still much to be done, but here is a short summary of some of the more recent achievements.

Shopping Committee

There was a successful Seasonal Market held in September and preparations are underway for the Christmas Market on Saturday 8th December. The Fairtrade Committee has been successful in obtaining Fairtrade status for the Town.

Sports & Leisure Committee

The Adult outside Gym is now in place at the Henry Smith Playing Fields and is very popular and well used, as is the new playground. New benches have been fitted at the Mill Lane sports field. Work has been ordered by the Town Council to bring the skate park up to standard and the Leisure Committee will be looking at long term plans for this facility. There is a need for more volunteers to help on the Sport and Leisure Committee if you can help please contact the Town Clerk?

Environment Group

The swift boxes are now in place on the Clock House in the Market Square and a planter has been placed on the Biggleswade Road, Station Road junction. Work to improve the water vole habitat has been agreed with the Ivel Valley Water Board.

Youth Group

The Youth Club is now up and running and proving very popular with the 12 -18 age group. Grants have been spent on equipment for use by the young people attending the group. The Youth Club meets in the Mill Lane Pavilion on a Thursday evening 7pm until 9.30pm.

SEASONAL FLOWERS AROUND THE TOWN

The floral displays around the town looked particularly good this year. The rain over the summer was good for something! The Council arranged for hanging baskets to be hung on the Clock House. The wine press in the Market Square and the four planters at the entrance to the Car Park were planted with summer bedding followed by winter flowers. A new planter is now in place on the Biggleswade Road junction and there are two small flower beds at the Sandy Road Cemetery near the War Memorial.



The Council would like to thank Colin, the landlord at the Royal Oak, who tends the planter outside his premises. Thank you also to residents at Brook End who keep an eye on the Car Park planters and council staff for planting, watering “between the rain” and generally caring for the flowers and replacing broken or damaged plants.

If you notice vandalism of the flowers the Council would be grateful if you would report it to the Police immediately so that the culprits can be caught in the act and dealt with accordingly.

Councillor Andy Hopkins took these lovely photographs of some of the planters earlier in the year. It is hoped that they cheer up a dull November day.



FEED YOUR CADDY, NOT YOUR BIN

Did you know the average family of four throws away £680 worth of uneaten food every year? Since the introduction of weekly food waste collections, Central Bedfordshire Council has been making good use of any food waste, collected in brown food caddies, and helping the environment too.

Using an anaerobic digester, basically a giant composter, food waste from the weekly collection has, to date, produced enough renewable energy to power more than a thousand homes for a year and prevented more than 13,000 tonnes of CO₂ entering the atmosphere. However with 60% of UK household food waste still ending up in landfill, residents can save money by making the most of their food.

Councillor Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services at Central Bedfordshire Council said:

"Our residents are already doing a fantastic job in helping us keep food waste out of landfill but we can all still do more. There are many ways we can make our food go further – planning meals well, getting our portions right and being creative with leftovers. For any food that has to be thrown away, we encourage residents to use the brown caddies in the north of the area to separate all food waste from the normal refuse.

"Residents reducing the amount of food they throw away can save themselves money." Over the coming weeks the Council's Waste Minimisation Officers will be out and about promoting the benefits of the weekly food waste collection service and addressing some of the concerns of using the caddy such as avoiding food smells, using either corn starch bags or newspaper to wrap the food waste and securing the caddy properly to avoid attracting vermin. They will also be offering some practical ideas on making food go further.

If you're new to the area or just need a reminder about the scheme, here's what leftover food you can put in your brown food waste caddy:

- Fruit and vegetables;
- Bread and pastries
- Dairy products;
- Meat and fish;
- Eggs including shells;
- Teabags and coffee grounds.

But please remember not to put in: large bones, liquids such as cooking oil, fruit juice or soup; any packaging, plastic bags or wrapping. If you prefer not to use compostable bags you can line your caddy with newspaper which will save even more waste and save money.

If you would like any further information on the food waste scheme or any other kerbside recycling scheme please contact the Waste Minimisation Team on **0300 300 8302** or visit the recycling pages on the website. For more hints and tips on how to reduce food waste visit **www.lovefoodhatewaste.com**.

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 Mrs Williamson 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 8

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT AT HENRY SMITH PLAYING FIELD



The Opening Ceremony for the new play Equipment at Henry Smith Playing Field taken by Andy Hopkins

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Ruth Burmo | 260712 | 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 | Rex Whitfield | 262246 |
| Alan Leggatt | 260001 | Adam Zerny | 261319 |
| Anita Lewis | 260726 | | |

Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of the Town Council
 Mr P. Langridge is Vice Chairman of the Town Council
 Mr P. Rogers is Chairman of the Burials Committee
 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 in the main hall at the Community Centre, Brook End, starting at 7pm.

Other Council Representatives for Potton

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

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

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

| INCOME in £'s | Total to end of year 31.3.2012 | Total at 30.9.2012 | EXPENDITURE in £'s | Total to end of year 31.3.2012 | Total at 31.10.2012 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| VAT | 6000 | 902 | Public Conveniences | 4343 | 2704 |
| Precept | 125925 | 132222 | Administration | 71350 | 44651 |
| Cemetery | 8141 | 2060 | Town Verges | 3301 | 3519 |
| Community Centre | 6802 | 2776 | Community Centre | 12978 | 7204 |
| Pavilion | 10211 | 4352 | Office Running Costs | 1310 | 968 |
| Donations/grants | 0 | 500 | Street Lights Costs | 429 | 322 |
| Grass cutting grant | 1640 | 0 | Pavilion | 16926 | 8417 |
| Recreation Fields | 1026 | 308 | Cemetery | 27524 | 14804 |
| Allotments | 1015 | 765 | Clock House -Square | 4607 | 2678 |
| Bank Interest | 63 | 31 | Allotments | 783 | 723 |
| Charity Interest | 60 | 26 | Car Park | 2705 | 2465 |
| Town Plan/Market | 8935 | 33008 | Mill Lane Field | 8138 | 6915 |
| Christmas Lights | 1155 | 0 | Henry Smith Field | 8719 | 34790 |
| Insurance | 335 | 547 | | | |
| TOTAL | 171307 | 177496 | TOTAL | 163113 | 130162 |

During the current year the Town Council and Town Plan Committees have been fortunate in receiving several grants from Potton Consolidated Charities and these are reflected in increased income for Town Plan and increased expenditure for the Henry Smith Playing Field.

Detailed accounts are always available to view by contacting the Clerk at the Town Council Office during office hours.

Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 12

| | Up to 5pm Weekdays | 5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays | Weekends/ Bank Holidays |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Main Hall | £7.00 | £9.00 | £11.00 |
| Upper Hall | £4.50 | £6.00 | £7.00 |

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