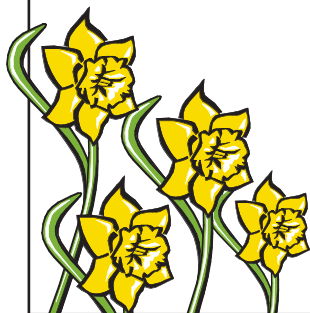
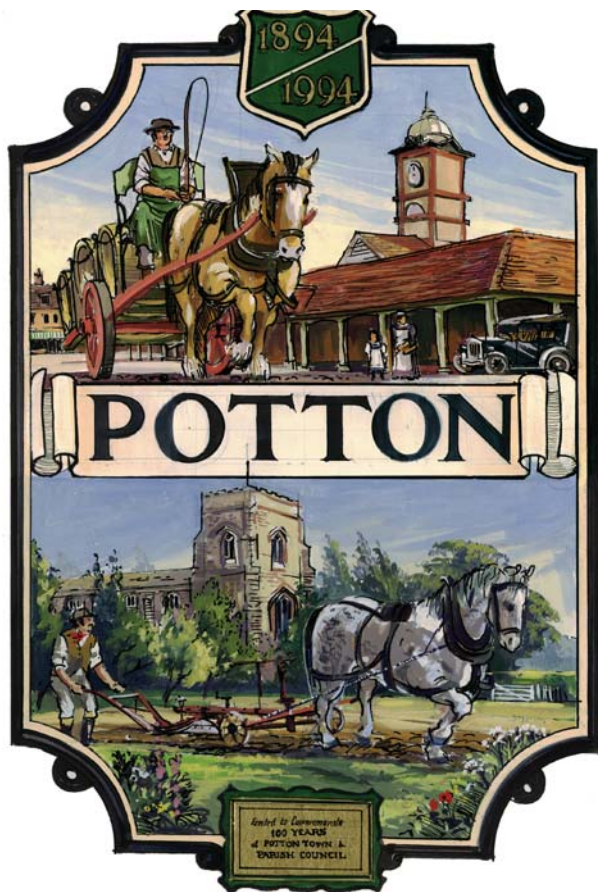
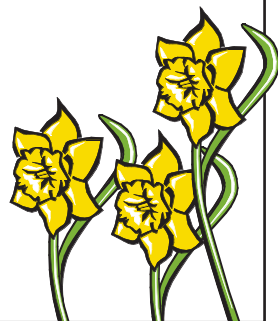


Potton Town Council

www.freenetpages.co.uk/hp/pottontowncouncil



Newsletter
Spring 2007



FROM THE CHAIR

Election Thursday 3rd May 2007

The above date is significant in that not only is it the date for electing Councillors to Mid Beds District Council but also the date when every registered elector in this town has the opportunity to choose who it is desired should serve on the Town Council for the next four years.

More and more matters that were previously the responsibility of councils further up the chain are devolved to Towns and Parishes so that the role of Town Councillor has greater significance.

Apart from a very few exclusions every adult living in or proprietor of a business in Potton is eligible to stand for election to the Town Council and it would be healthy for the community were there to be a contest this year.

I have been a member of the Town Council for about fifteen years during which time there has not been one contested election and vacancies have been filled by cooption. I would dearly like to see a large number of candidates offering to serve their Town in what is a most rewarding role.

The Town Council has never been political although any candidate who wishes for his or her political affiliation to appear on the ballot paper may of course so do.

The Town Council meets on the first Tuesday each month in the Clock House and as Finance and General Purposes Committee usually on the third Tuesday. Every Councillor also serves on the Planning Committee which follows each of the other two meetings. There are also other committees, primarily Burial, Buildings and Playing Fields, which meet as required, usually once each quarter. Councillors are not expected to serve on every committee.

In addition from time to time a small sub committee will be set up for a specific issue.

The Notice of Election will be posted on Tuesday 27th March
Last date and time for Nomination Papers to be delivered to the
Returning Officer at Priory House, Chicksands-12 noon on Wednesday 4th April
Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated – Tuesday 10th April
Publication of Notice of Poll – Wednesday 25th April
Polling Day, hours from 7am to 10pm, Thursday 3rd May

John Lewis
Chairman Potton Town Council

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIME TO GO SOLAR?

With properties for sale soon to be rated for their energy efficiency and CO2 emissions (a requirement of new Home Information Pack), renewable energy systems start to look attractive. Add on global warming, rising gas and electricity prices and worries over UK energy security and it seems logical to harness the energy in the sun, wind and earth, so we are less dependent on gas, oil or coal.

But the basics must come first...

Many of us may still be able to reduce the amount of fuel we burn by simply moving up to today's recommended depth of 270mm loft insulation.

For more about insulation grants and discounts or advice on renewables and energy saving, call the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 or visit the website (www.mkea.org.uk). Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Gordon Glass

Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

The Town Centre Enhancement Group recently agreed a plan for the Town Centre Enhancement that takes account of as many as possible of the recommendations made as a result of the consultation and exhibition held last year. The scheme has also had to comply with conservation area considerations and highway safety requirements. It is intended that details will be made available by April in order for people to be able to assess the revised plans. It is then hoped that the final plan can be implemented and the work completed over the summer months.

LOST PROPERTY

A few items have been found after events at the Mill Lane Pavilion
If you have lost an earring, necklace or emblem, please contact the Clerk 01767 260086 so that we can return these items to their owners





Your Community Needs You!

Have you ever thought about becoming a Town Councillor?

Did you know that local elections in Mid Beds are coming up in May?

A presentation has been arranged on Wednesday 28th March at 7:30pm at the Community Centre, Brook End, Pottton, to provide information on the role of local councils and answer any questions that you may have.

Town councils are the tier of government closest to the local people and have a central role to play in improving local quality of life.

They have wide ranging powers and responsibilities, including provision of allotments, helping to provide funding for community projects, helping to identify land for affordable housing, implementing youth schemes and providing an input on planning applications, to name just a few.

Becoming a member of a Town council can be an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, helping to make it a better place to live and work whilst enhancing your private and social life.

All new councillors are offered induction training by the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils.

For further information please contact Jemma McDonald (BATPC) on 01234 832617 jemmam@bedsrcc.org.uk or contact your local parish or town council directly.

TOWN GUIDE

Pottton United Football Club was not included in the Town Guide. Sorry United. Please can you therefore add the following detail to your copy of the guide

POTTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Affiliated to Bedfordshire Football Association and Member of United Counties League

Pottton United is one of the most senior clubs in the area consisting of two teams. The reserve team will join the United Counties League next season The team is based at:

**The Hollow, Biggleswade Road, Pottton Tel: 01767 261100
pottonunited@btopenworld.com**

The club is always looking for more support, especially from people willing to join the Committee. If you would like further information please contact:

**The Hon. Secretary, Mrs Bev Strong,
20 Berwick Way, Sandy, Beds SG19 1TR Telephone: 01767 692251**



What do I report to the Town Council ?

The Town Council is responsible for:

The Henry Smith Recreation Ground and play area

The Brook End car park

The Mill lane Recreation Ground and play area

The Community Centre in Brook End

The Pavilion at Mill Lane

The Council Chamber Meeting Room at the Clock House and the Town Clock

The Town Cemetery

The closed churchyard at St Mary's Church

Local grass cutting

Some of the street lights

Potton public conveniences

Any queries or bookings with regard to any of the above should be made to the Town Clerk.

Pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk or 01767 260086

or at the office during opening hours

What do I report to Mid Beds District Council?

The District Council is responsible for (amongst other things) waste collection, recycling, street cleaning and litter picking, the bottle banks, dog warden, pest control, street signs (road names)

All these items should be reported to

customer.services@midbeds.gov.uk or 08452 304040

The Mid Beds District Council also deals with planning applications

What do I report to the County Council?

The County Council is responsible for (amongst other things) social services, education, the roads and highways safety signs, potholes, and drain gullies.

All these items should be reported to highways@bedscc.goc.uk

Or Highways Helpline 01234 228661

The Clerk is always happy to advise or refer complaints to the correct authorities but a direct complaint will afford a faster response

CCTV CAMERA AT MILL LANE PAVILION AND RECREATION FIELD



The Town Council, with the help of Potton Consolidate Charities, has installed an upgraded CCTV system to protect the Pavilion at Mill Lane.

The new digital system produces very high definition images even in the dark. Remote monitoring is being installed to enable regular checks to be made on the Pavilion, car park, play area and recreation field.

The Town Council hopes that this will help the Police to identify the perpetrators of the vandalism and anti-social behaviour which have been such a problem at the Mill Lane site.

POTTON SHOW.

Each year Potton Show Committee has a plant stall on the Market Square in order to raise money towards the cost of the Show in September.



The stall will be on the Square on the morning of **Saturday, 19th May.**

There will be a wide range of plants and hanging baskets available at very reasonable prices. This will be a good opportunity to buy your bedding plants ready for summer

– why not join us there!



Town Council Information

Town Council Office, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS
Town Clerk Valerie Moles
Telephone/Fax 01767 260086
Email pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk

Office opening hours:

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

Town Councillors

Mick Allen	260227
Jeremy Armond	260521
Richard Baker BEM	260212
Ruth Burmo	260712
Nigel Butlin	260075
Eric Jakes M.B.E.	260779
Simon Kimber	261206
Peter Langridge	260362
Alan Leggatt	260001
Anita Lewis	260726
John Lewis	260726
Tim Mason	262604
Claire Piffard	262631
Jean Way	260456

Mr Lewis is Chairman of Town Council

Mr Armond is Vice Chair of Town Council and Chairman of Planning Committee

Mr Jakes is Chairman of Burial Committee

Mr Kimber is Chairman of Buildings and Facilities Committee and

Chairman of Financial and General Purposes Committee

Mr Allen is Chairman of the Playing Fields and Environment 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

County Councillor

Richard Baker B.E.M	260212	Richard.baker@bedscc.gov.uk
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Mid.Beds.District Councillors

Doreen Gurney	680395	doreen.gurney@midbeds.gov.uk
Anita Lewis	260726	anita.lewis@midbeds.gov.uk
John Lewis	260726	john.lewis@midbeds.gov.uk

Summary of Town Council Accounts 1st April to 31st January 2007

Income	Total 2005/6	To 31.1.07
Precept	£100,000	£105,000
Cemetery	£5,098	£2,850
Grants/Donations	£1,105	£14,693
Interest	£1,938	£2,446
Hire of Grounds	£1,577	£1,688
Grass cut for B C Council	£1,299	£1,406
Refund of VAT	£6,229	£4,209
Allotments	£530	£675
Hire C. Centre & Pavilion	£15,898	£15,149
Other Income	£1,720	£10,775
	£135,394	£158,891
Expenditure		
Community Centre	£11,492	£9,914
Mill Lane Pavilion	£12,022	£13,058
Recreation Grounds	£11,162	£8,334
Admin/office	£37,990	£47,343
Clock House/Market Sq.	£1,599	*£5,388
Allotments	£379	£380
Cemetery	£19,036	£23,130
New Play Equipment	£0	£8,703
Other Expenditure	£0	£5,131
Street Lighting	£782	£450
Grass Cut Town Verges	£2,379	£2,052
VAT	£3,716	£8,449
Public Conveniences		£8,367
Car Park		£2,656
	£100,557	£143,355

* Includes New Town Clock

Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities

Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as from 1st September

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Main Hall	£6.00	£7.00	£8.50
Upper Hall	£3.80	£4.50	£5.30
Both Rooms	£9.00	£10.50	£12.60

Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton

Pavilion	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
	£6.80	£9.50	£13.00

There is a one and a half-hour minimum charge for the premises for non-commercial users and a two hour minimum charge for commercial users.

Football Pitches – price per game:

Local Colts	£12.00
Local Cubs	£6.00
Local Adults	£24.00
Casual Users – Local	£30.00
Casual Users – Other	£40.00

Hire of Pavilion by Local Sporting Groups:

Full Day (10-6pm)	£50.00
Afternoon	£25.00

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 librarians, Lesley and Gillian, will be happy to answer any queries on 01767 260740