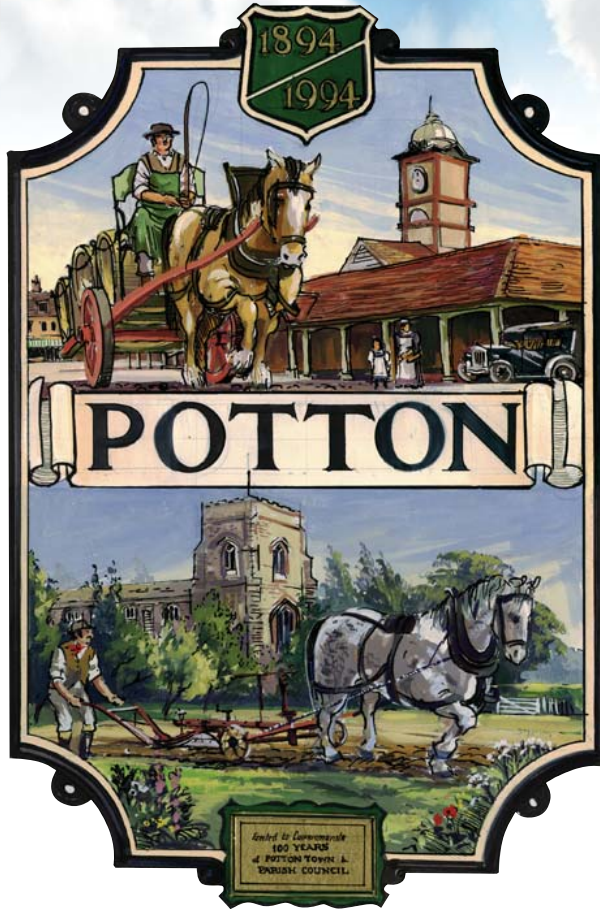
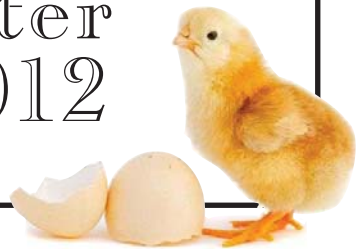


Potton Town Council



Newsletter
Spring 2012



Chairman's Report APRIL 2012

It seems a long time now since Christmas but it has to be said that the lights display in the Market Square over the festive period was better than ever. We received many glowing comments from the community and thanks go to the volunteers and donors who make it all possible. We will continue to upgrade the systems over the coming year.

Consultation continues over the Biggleswade Road development site and a questionnaire has recently been distributed to all households seeking views on the need for a community hall for all. I would encourage you to complete and return this form so that interest can be gauged and an informed decision can be made regarding the feasibility of such a scheme.

The Council has spent much time recently addressing the problem of HGVs using unsuitable roads in Potton, often illegally. A lot of the problem stems from inaccurate data in sat navs. Representations have been made to the highways authority for better signage and stricter enforcement of traffic violations in the affected areas.

On a final note it is disappointing that we are receiving an increasing number of complaints about dog fouling. It is of particular concern that the worst affected areas are the play areas and football fields where many young children are present. Also the alleyways used by families to access the recreational areas seem to suffer. Increased patrols by the dog warden are taking place and action will be taken against offenders who do not clean up after their dog. Disposal bins are placed in strategic areas around the town. Please use them.

Alan Leggatt

Potton Town Council Chairman



Pictures of Potton Christmas Lights 2011
by **Andy Hopkins**

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Since the Unitary council was formed in May 2011 the role of a councillor has increased, in this report I will give you a brief run down of some of the Committees & Boards I represent.



POLICE: Bedfordshire authority will be joining forces with Hertfordshire & Cambridgeshire in November 2012. Criminal actions along with patrolling of the rural areas will continue to be of a high priority. The election procedure for the new police Commissioner can be found on the police web site. Candidates will be declared very soon with an election to follow.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: The Boundary commission has recommended Potton be joined with North Hertfordshire, However C .B.C. has produced a boundary plan to keep Potton ward in North East Bedfordshire., This has been presented to the commission. It has my full support. I met with Oliver Heald, the M.P. for N.E. Hertforshire. He promised if these changes occur he will give all the help we may need.

SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES: As you are aware there are many changes with this service. The greatest is the formation of Trusts, Pyramids, and Clusters, The transaction is being very closely monitored making sure that our children achieve the best results possible.



LIBRARIES: No closures are to take place, the question is, do you have any thoughts on how to improve or bring in other services to enhance this facility? If you have any thoughts or ideas please contact:

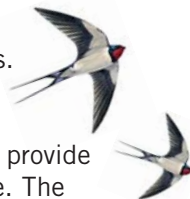
Doreen Gurney

Conservative Councillor Central Bedfordshire

Contact: Doreen.gurney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk 0300 300 8525

SWIFT BOXES

There was a stall at the Seasonal Market in March encouraging people to help to provide more homes for our local colony of swifts. Many nesting sites were lost when the old foundry was demolished. If you missed the stall you can contact the RSPB to find out how to help. The Town Council is hoping to be able to provide nesting places around the Clock House in the Market Square. The Council has been informed that an area where homes are particularly needed is along Shannon Place which is an area in which the colony who live around the Red Lion like to fly.



Spring 2012

The committees of the Town Plan are very active at the present time, particularly as a result of the generosity of Potton Consolidated Charity.

Shopping

There was another Seasonal Market held on the 24th March with a Fairtrade theme. The committee is striving to obtain Fairtrade status for Potton. It has been donated monies from the Charity to purchase some new metal stalls for the market together with some barrows for moving them around. Several other pieces of equipment have been purchased. Please note the next Seasonal Market will be on the 23rd June.



Associated with this committee is the group trying to establish a community orchard in the Town.

Sports & Leisure

The charity has donated monies to purchase an adult outside gym that is proposed to be erected in the Henry Smith Playing fields this summer. The committee is also arranging for some new benches to be installed in the Mill Lane sports field. In addition we are involved in the replacement of most of the play equipment in the Henry Smith field again from monies from the Charity.



Environment Group

The group is very active and has recently had days to clear the banks of the Brook to improve the habitat for the Water Voles that live there. The group is now involved with Sustrans in a project to construct a cycle path from Potton to the RSPB. The feasibility study has been funded by the Charity. PCC has also funded a project to issue a leaflet of walks around Potton to every household. A further project to install interpretation boards along the walks is being looked at in conjunction with the History Society.

It has been a pleasure to see the bulbs that were planted on the approach roads to Potton springing back to life this year.

Would you like to help clear out the Brook in the summer?

Community Safety

The committee continues to meet and has attended several Markets and Shows to publicise its aims and achievements.

Housing

There have been a number of meetings with the developers regarding the proposed new houses on the land east of the Biggleswade Road (between the Garage and the Hollow). The Developers are hoping to obtain outline Planning permission for 150 houses, 2 ½ acres of Industrial land and a new Community Hall. It is planned to have a Public Consultation in April when you can give your opinion.

Hall for All

This committee is very active at the moment with meetings with the Developers and Central Beds trying to understand if a new Hall is a feasible proposition. Hopefully you have completed the questionnaire regarding your views on this and met with committee members at the recent Market.



Traffic

Several members of the Town Council have been around with a Speed Indicator to try and slow down the traffic going in and out of the Town. This should be taken seriously as if caught it may lead to a prosecution. The Traffic group have recently undertaken a review of current weight restrictions for lorries passing through the town.

Young People

The Charity has again been very generous and agreed to fund a Youth Worker for one night a week for people aged 12 to 18. The Youth Club will be held in the Mill Lane Pavilion on a Thursday evening 7pm until 9.30pm starting in May this year. We have funding to run this for a 3 year period. Watch for further announcements regarding the opening.

The Town Plan committee is always looking for Volunteers so if you have an interest in any of the above active groups please contact me through the Town Clerk.

Geoff Emery

Chairman of Potton Town Plan

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**TUESDAY 24th APRIL 2012
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BROOK END, POTTON
at 7pm**

There will be representatives from the Police, Local Schools, Central Bedfordshire Council, Potton Town Council and the Town Plan at the meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and listen to the reports and ask questions at the meeting.

POTTON DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

St Mary's Church is holding a Diamond Jubilee Celebration over the weekend of 2nd-4th June in a marquee, on the church field and in the church. The events kick off with a Flower and Art Festival in the church with displays by many of the organisations in Potton which will continue over the whole weekend. On Saturday there will be a Fete in the afternoon with many attractions followed by a Choral Concert with most of the Choirs of Potton singing. On Sunday, there will be a service in the marquee followed by a Big Sunday Roast Lunch with a Barn Dance in the evening. On Monday there is an Ascot Race day with a posh picnic with musical accompaniment and Widdershins puppet show followed by hobby horse races, then a concert by Almost Abba. In the evening, Party on Potton will be holding auditions for Potton's Got Talent in the Marquee.



Further information can be obtained either on the special Potton Jubilee website <http://pottonjubilee.org.uk/> or on Potton's website."

POTTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Potton Music Festival will be held this year from 27th to 29th July. The Marais Ensemble and guest musicians will perform at St. Mary's Church Potton, Cockayne Hatley Church, and Sutton Church, with a repertoire ranging from Schubert and Mendelssohn to Vaughan Williams and George Crumb. The informal Family Concert will be on Saturday 28th July at Burgoyne Middle School, with a lively programme linked to the 2012 Olympic Games!

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 morning of Saturday 12th 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?

MILL LANE PAVILION

The Town Council recently planted some low growing ground cover plants near the Pavilion to improve a piece of land near to the car park. It is very sad that we will not now see the pretty blue periwinkle flowers and the bright yellow blooms of the rose of sharon as someone has trampled the new plants and destroyed the flower bed. Please report such vandalism to the Police if you see it happening so that the culprits can be brought to justice.

Central Bedfordshire Chairman's Charitable Fund

Councillor Peter Hollick will complete his year as Chairman in April. During the year Councillor Hollick set up the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation. This is a charity designed to make small sums of money £50 - £250 available to volunteers in the local community who are helping others. It could be the elderly, disabled people or young people. If you or your group have a particular purpose or project and wish to apply please contact **mark.west@blcf.org.uk** for an application form but please be prompt as the fund has limited resources.



Pictures of Potton Christmas Lights
2011 by **Andy Hopkins**

TOWN COUNCILLOR PROFILE



In the hot seat this spring is Councillor Paul Rogers

I am 56 years old and have been selected by the Town Council to join them as a councillor.

I work for a local metal supply company in Biggleswade and moved to Potton in 2009 from Barnet in North London, where I was a local councillor for 8 years.

I started this involvement in working in the local community when I was 13 years old at my local youth club. I represented this club on the local youth forum that regularly met with local councillors in planning youth provision. I have also been a youth leader and chair of my local community centre. I was a school governor on 3 local schools for over 15 years.

HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

There is a weight restriction in much of Potton and unless large vehicles are making a delivery they should not be in the weight restricted area. This illegal activity creates difficulties for other traffic and our roads are not suited to these heavy goods vehicles. Property has been damaged repeatedly and the situation is unacceptable. To help to combat this problem, please report the name of the company (often on the side of the vehicle) and the registration number to the Police. If you also give the details to the Council it might be possible to build up a picture of the main offenders and contact the haulage company.

DOG WALKERS



Unfortunately the Council has again received many complaints about dog faeces being left on the pavements, along causeways, and footpaths and even in the children's play areas. As the Chairman has asked in his report please use the many dog litter bins provided for this purpose. Please do not leave dog faeces to be a danger to children. Please clean up after your dog.

COMMUNITY HALL

There have been attempts to build a Community Hall before, without success. A Steering Group of interested organisations has been set up to work on a feasibility study and business plan with the developers and Central Bedfordshire Council. Potton already has over five thousand people living here and if the proposed housing developments go ahead, we would like community facilities to keep up with the growing population and support all the sports and cultural activities we enjoy.

That's why a questionnaire was delivered to every household in Potton to ask whether there are individuals who may be interested in setting up a club e.g. badminton, ball room dancing, martial arts or special interest, or whether you feel there is a need for a community hall large enough to provide private parties, wedding receptions etc. This may be the last opportunity to provide a Community Hall suitable for all our residents, whatever their age or interests. In 2008, 46% of respondents to the Potton Town Plan said there was a need for a larger self-financing hall in Potton. We would like to test this with further public consultation.

We plan to use your responses to produce an outline plan for public consultation in April (details will be in The Chronicle) which will show whether we have a sustainable business plan for the future of the hall. That's why we need to know your views and that there is sufficient demand for this proposal. Even if you don't want a new hall to be built, it would be helpful to know why.

For more details please contact **Judy Oliver, Tel: 01767 261624**
Email: judy@youunlimited.co.uk"

Geoff Emery

Chairman of the Hall for All Steering committee

REFUSE BINS

Please consider people who have to use a wheel chair or pram for a baby when you place your bin out for collection. It is very dangerous to have to push a pram and often impossible for someone in a wheelchair to have to go into the road to get past. It is difficult to find a suitable place on some of our narrow pavements but perhaps if you are at work you could arrange for a neighbour to move your bin as soon as it has been emptied. The Council had a report recently of a lady who had to struggle out of her wheel chair and try to push a wheelie bin out of the way and then climb back into the wheelchair. I am sure we can do better.



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 metre 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 metre 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 12

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

Jeremy Armond	260521	Alan Leggatt	260001
Ruth Burmo	260712	Anita Lewis	260726
Geoff Emery	261710	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	Adam Zerny	261319

Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of the Town Council
Mr J. Lewis 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 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
Adam Zerny 261319 adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk

TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME IN £s	2010-2011 TOTALS TO END FINANCIAL YEAR	2010-2011 TOTALS TO FEB 11	THIS YEAR TOTALS TO FEB 12
VAT	5956.30	4999.00	4542.66
Precept	115000.00	115000.00	125925.00
Cemetery	5249.00	5039.00	8016.00
Community Centre	6562.35	5803.95	6356.10
Pavilion	10227.25	8860.85	9493.30
Donations/grants	50.00	50.00	0.00
Grass cutting grant	1623.79	1623.79	1640.03
Recreation Fields	1187.00	935.00	975.50
Allotments	1345.00	695.00	575.00
Bank Interest	59.33	54.74	57.75
Charity Interest	59.70	39.30	39.30
Town Plan/Market	904.00	904.00	8935.00
Christmas Lights	1307.46	1307.46	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	149531.18	145312.09	166555.64
EXPENDITURE			
Public conveniences	4290.55	3965.55	4101.12
Administration*	70253.32	61474.95	60221.19
Verge cutting	2861.75	2861.75	3300.59
Community Centre	10982.47	9471.19	11205.07
Office Utilities and Council Tax	1644.41	1327.60	1302.02
Street Lighting	779	429.20	429.00
Pavilion	16008.03	14854.70	15246.57
Cemetery**	22413.38	20378.69	25274.56
Clock House- Market Square	4244.23	3556.12	4265.62
Allotments	605.09	605.09	782.92
Car Park***	4845.80	4845.80	2704.79
Mill Lane Playing Field	5771.06	5387.06	7941.67
Henry Smith Playing Field	8060.95	7160.95	8583.07
Total	152760.04	136318.65	145358.19

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

Higher cost at Cemetery 11/12 to cover illness *Lower costs at Car Park new fencing purchased 10/11

Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 111

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Main Hall	£7.00	£8.50	£10.50
Upper Hall	£4.50	£5.50	£7.00
Both Rooms	£10.50	£13.00	£15.00

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