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Potton Council Tax

The town council took the decision to increase the average amount paid per year by £6.01. This represents an increase of 5% or around 50p per month. It means that the 2019/2020 Council Tax charge made by Potton Town Council for an average Band D property will be £126.15 per year which equates to £2.43 per week.



What do residents in Biggleswade, Sandy and Gamlingay pay?

	2018/19 Band D	2019/20 Band D
Biggleswade	£131.92	
Gamlingay	£137.64	
Sandy	£140.65	
Potton	£120.14	£126.15

For further town council services information visit
www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

For Council Tax enquiries call
Central Bedfordshire Council on
0300 300 8000

Please see pages 12 and 13 to find out how we spend your money.





Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of the town council quarterly newsletter.

Christmas has been and gone and I can only hope that Santa was good to each and every one of you!

Civic Service

It's been a busy quarter for all of us with a number of events and meetings having taken place since I last wrote to you. I would like to start though by offering my thanks to the people who supported my Civic Service and it was a pleasure to welcome Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Helen Nellis and Cadet Corporal Élodie Pierlot, from Flitwick and Amphill Sea Cadets.



HM LL Helen Nellis and Cadet Corporal Élodie Pierlot



Rev Gill Smith, HM LL Helen Nellis and Cllr Angus Macdonald



Cadet Corporal Élodie Pierlot, HM LL Helen Nellis, Cllr Angus Macdonald and Mrs Debbie Macdonald

Remembrance Day Service

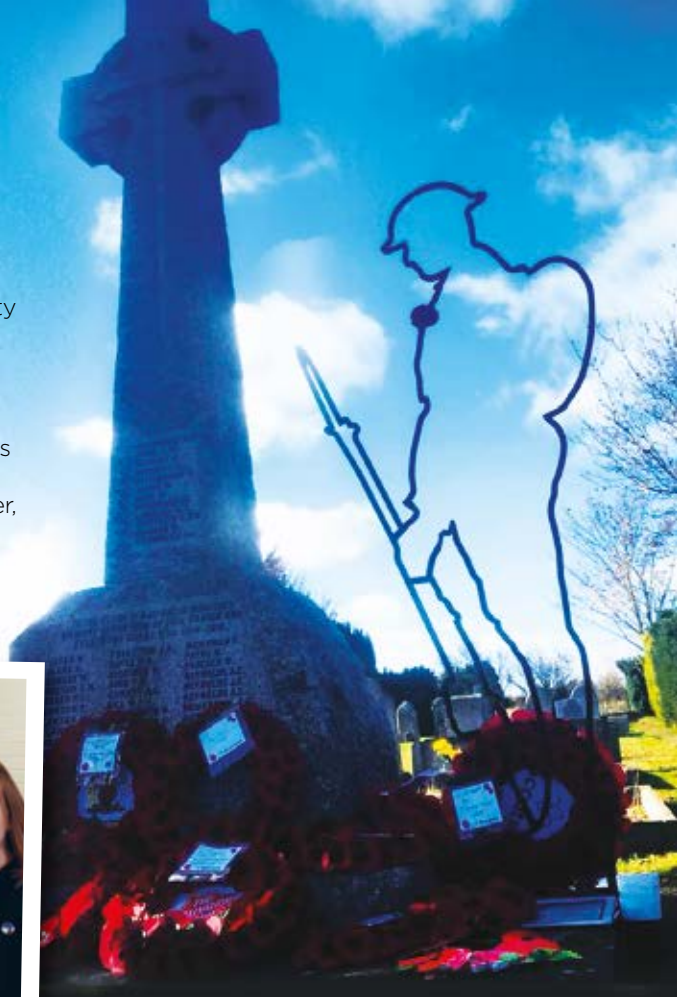
In November, Potton's commemorative events marking the Centenary of the end of the First World War took place. Deputy Lieutenant (DL) Chris Kilroy MBE attended to support our Remembrance Day Service. Our visiting dignitaries always remark on the size of the turnout from this town when we parade to the War Memorial in the cemetery. However, attendance at our service in 2018 was exceptional for a town of our size and it was a fitting tribute to such an occasion.



Mrs Carol Kilroy, DL Chris Kilroy MBE, Cllr Angus Macdonald and Mrs Debbie Macdonald



Cllr Angus Macdonald, DL Paul Fuller CBE QFSM and Cllr Denis Ellison for our Beacon Lighting Ceremony



You also came out and supported our second event of that day - A Nation's Tribute. We were joined by DL Paul Fuller CBE QFSM for our beacon lighting ceremony in the evening and the event concluded with a projection onto the front of The Coach House, displaying the names of all those from this town who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. It was an extremely poignant moment and one that drew comment and praise from many people in the town as well as ex-Pottonians around the world. My thanks go to the organising committee and all those who helped in staging these events.

Christmas lights and trees

Following on from our Remembrance Day celebrations, our volunteers were hard at work again, putting on another fantastic Christmas lights display. It takes around four weeks of preparation each year before Santa Claus comes to town and switches the lights on, usually at the second attempt!

Once again though, our Christmas lights event was very well attended and the lights burned brightly across the festive period prior to their removal in January. They looked fantastic, as they do every year.

My thanks again go to all the volunteers who make this possible and help us put up and take down the lights along with organising the big switch on. Again, we are indebted to Deepdale Trees for contributing the wonderful Christmas trees.



Christmas tree



Christmas lights

Anti-social behaviour

In December, there was a further meeting held in the town concerning anti-social behaviour. Representatives from the Town Council, Bedfordshire Police, Stonewater Housing and our ward councillors were in attendance. The meeting covered a number of issues experienced in and around the town and residents were given the opportunity to question those from the organisations listed above.

This is particularly timely meeting for two reasons. Firstly, over the course of the festive period, there was an increase in crime around the town with a number of homes, sheds and cars being targeted. Residents who were affected by this can

use this meeting as an opportunity to request an update on the approach to tackling this type of crime. Secondly, with an announcement last year concerning a long overdue increase in funding for Bedfordshire Police, residents may wish to attend the next meeting to understand what this means for policing in Pottton and the surrounding area. I know that levels of policing have been an area of contention for many of you over the past few years.

**The next meeting will be held on
Tuesday 26th March 2019 at Mill Lane
Pavilion, starting at 7pm.**

Budgets

On the subject of funding increases, it's that time of year again when Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and local councils set the annual precept for budgets for the financial year 2019-2020. The Town Council has been debating funding requirements over the last quarter and has agreed on our budget for the new financial year. This will result in an increase in our Council Tax by 5% and is needed to ensure we can provide services to the public and pay for capital projects in the town.

Car park extension

Our long-awaited car park extension should start soon and funds are also required to pay for other maintenance projects such as clearing and maintaining the Horse Brook in the Henry Smith Playing Fields. See pages 10 and 11 for more information on the car park extension.



Current car park

Housing update

I wouldn't be able to write to you all without mentioning housing. You won't be surprised to learn that 2019 is starting off in the same manner as the last few years with yet another developer submitting plans to bring further housing to Potton and in turn, pushing the boundary of the town further out in the process. Again, to reiterate the stance of the Town Council, we will not support unsustainable development in this town on a large scale, particularly when there is no accompanying increase in infrastructure and key services. It is understood that there is a need for housing in the country, but what we are seeing is a desire to increase numbers without a sensible and sustainable planning approach accompanying this. **Members of the public are welcome to attend monthly council meetings if they wish to address this or other matters.** We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Community Centre from 7pm, unless otherwise advised.



Housing development



Spring Litter pick

Potton's Spring Litter Pick - which is part of the 2019 Great British Spring Clean event - is planned for **Saturday 23rd March** between 10am and 2pm. Volunteers are always welcome, and we meet at the Community Centre, Brook End. We supply hi-vis vests and all the equipment you need and there are refreshments available to all those who take part. Last year's Autumn Litter Pick was a great success and thank you to those of you who joined in to make Potton a tidier place!



Elections

Finally, 2019 is an election year. If there is to be an election for the Town Council in 2019 then new applicants need to come forward and submit their candidacy. If you have the time to offer and are interested in becoming a councillor, then please consider putting yourself forward for election. Eligibility details and what you need to do can be found on page 32.

Best Wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald

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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 be sure of seeing a specific member of the team, please ring ahead to make an appointment.

T: 01767 260086

E: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

W: www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

Councillor contact details

Chairman Angus Macdonald	262006
Vice Chairman Denis Ellison	261925
John Day	07986 124440
Geoff Emery	261710
Andrew Gibb	260067
Richard Harris	262596
John Hobbs	260710
Les Ivall	261559
Jonathan Lean	262404
Alan Leggatt	260001
John Lewis	260726
Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Chris Temple	262535
Rex Whitfield	262246
Adam Zerny	261319

Councillor Surgeries

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

Saturday 16th March 2019	Cllr Ivall and Cllr Whitfield
Saturday 13th April 2019	Cllr Temple and Cllr Whitfield

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

The next edition is planned for delivery in June 2019. If you would like information to be included, please email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com by midday on Tuesday 16th April 2019. Please be aware that the town council reserves the right not to include articles and images.

Please recycle this newsletter

when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.



Town Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Dates for the Diary

March

Friday 8 th	Garden Waste Collections resume	
Saturday 16 th	Four Seasons Market (see page 9 for information)	9am – 1pm
Tuesday 19 th	Annual Town Meeting (see page 9 for informaton)	from 7pm
Saturday 23 rd	Spring Litter Pick (see page 14 for information)	10am – 2pm
Tuesday 26 th	Public Meeting – Anti Social Behaviour	7pm

May

Thursday 2 nd	2019 Elections (see page 32 for information)	7am – 10pm
Monday 6 th	May Day Fete (see page 23 for information)	11am – 3pm
Wednesday 8 th	Freeman of Potton (Eric Jakes) Birthday Commemoration. Ringing of St Mary's Church Bells	



Potton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2035



The final draft of your Potton Neighbourhood Plan is available on our website pottonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. Please take time to look at our vision for Potton up to 2035 and our policies to make this happen.

This should not be confused with Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Local Plan – the Neighbourhood Plan was compiled as the result of two years consultation with those who matter – Potton residents.

The Potton Neighbourhood Plan is in the final stages of production, currently being scrutinised by an independent assessor and CBC. The next stage is a referendum where residents of the Potton parish can vote yes or no to adopting our Neighbourhood Plan. If the majority vote is 'yes' to the Neighbourhood Plan, CBC must then refer to the mandatory document as part of their planning applications process.

When the referendum is held, **PLEASE** use your vote to ensure that the Potton Neighbourhood Plan is adopted by CBC.

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee will be at the Seasonal Market on Saturday 16th March, so come and speak to us.

Your meeting. Your town.



Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday 19th March 7pm

The Annual Town Meeting will be held by Potton Town Council on **Tuesday 19th March at 7pm** in The Mill Lane Pavilion. It is a chance for residents to talk to their town council about issues of concern in Potton.

Chairman, Cllr Angus Macdonald, will speak about what has been achieved in the year, what is planned for the future and answer questions.

Potton's two Central Bedfordshire Council ward councillors (Cllrs Gurney and Zerry) and representatives from Potton Federation, Potton Neighbourhood Plan and Potton Hall for All have been invited to speak.

Members of the public may address the meeting and raise any issues they feel should be considered for the future. So come along, meet the people who represent your views and tell them how well you think they are doing and what you feel should be their next priority.

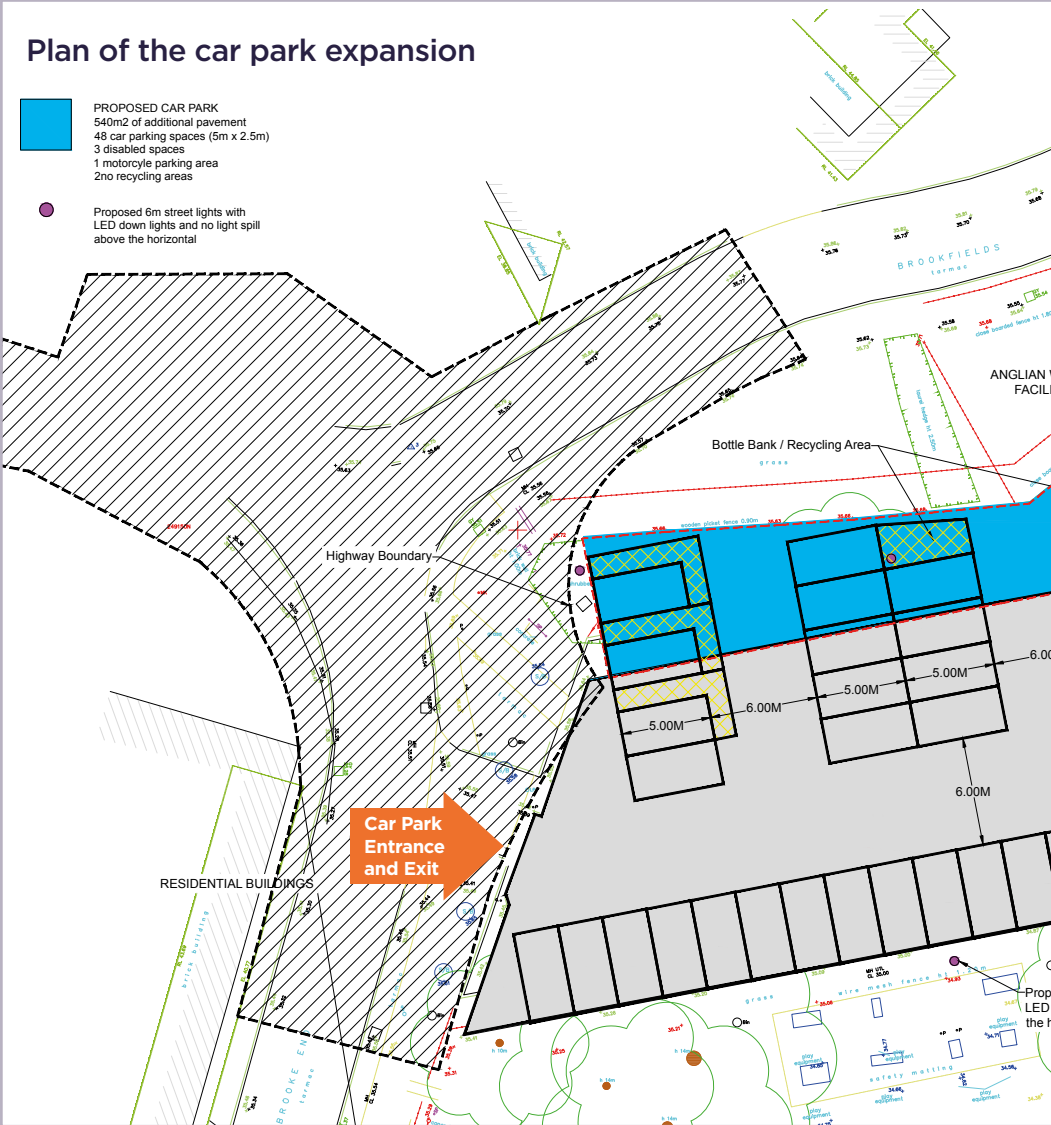
This is **your meeting** about **your town**. Please join us.

A poster for the 'Four Seasons Market' organized by Potton Town Council. The poster features a red and white striped awning over a display of fresh produce including pumpkins, leafy greens, and various fruits. At the top, it says 'Four Seasons Market' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this is the Potton Town Council logo, which includes a stylized house icon and the text 'POTTON TOWN COUNCIL'. To the right of the logo is a circular seal with a clock face and the word 'POTTON' below it. The date and time of the market are prominently displayed: 'Sat 16th March' and '9am - 1pm'. At the bottom, it provides a website for more information: 'For more information visit pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market'.

Car Park extension underway

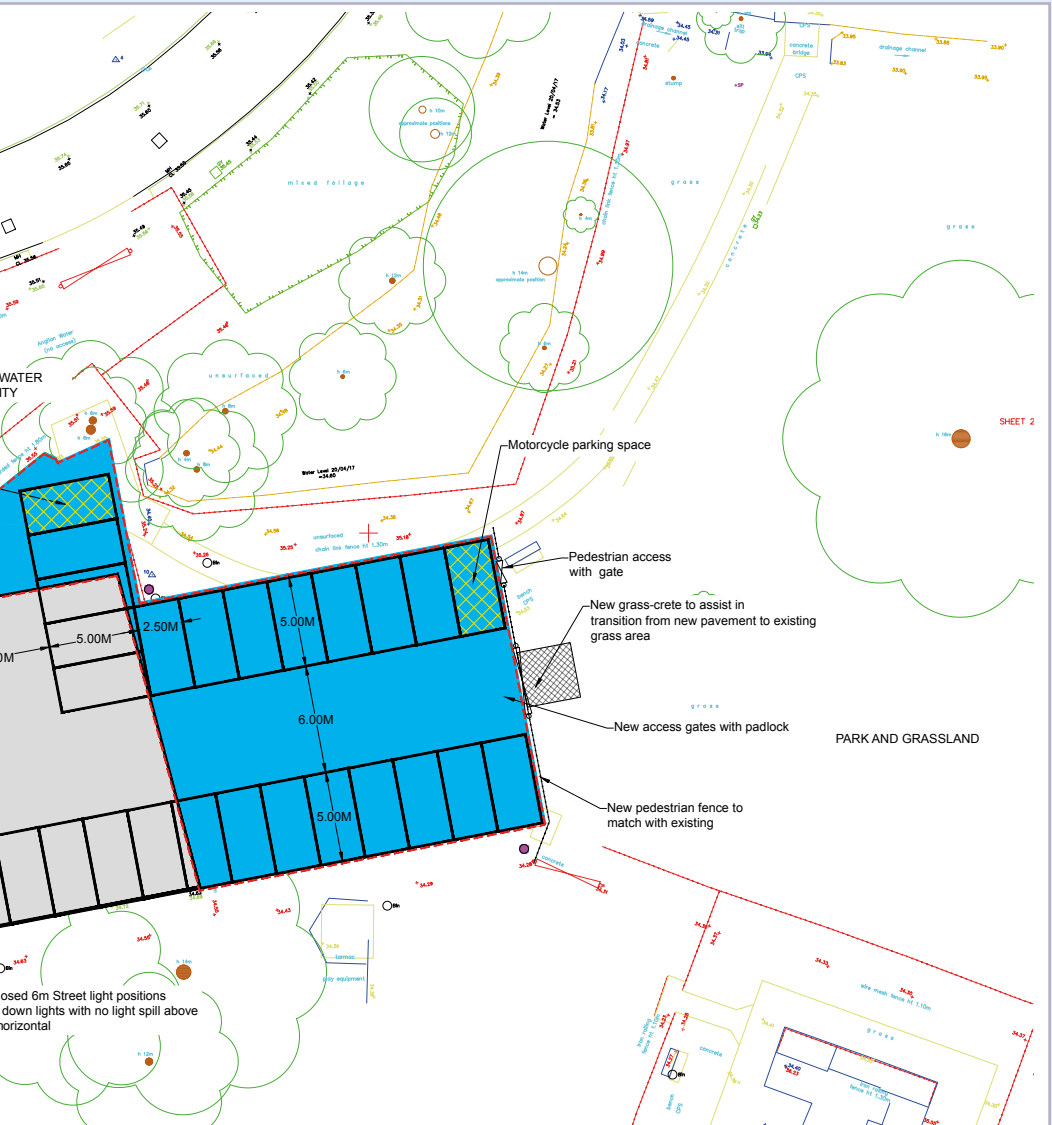
As previously reported the town council has applied for planning permission to increase the number of spaces in the town council owned and managed free public car park. The current car park has thirty spaces and the local planning authority (Central Bedfordshire Council)

has granted the town council planning permission for an additional eighteen spaces taking the number to forty-eight spaces. Work should be completed by the end of March 2019. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused whilst work is undertaken.





Central Bedfordshire Council and Potton Town Council
Working in partnership to improve your town



How we spend your money

What do you get for the annual Council Tax charge you pay to Potton Town Council? As well as providing a democratic voice for residents, Potton Town Council manages and delivers various fantastic quality of life services in the town.

Allotments



Community Centre



Car Park



Outdoor Gym



Cemetery



Henry Smith Playing Fields



Christmas Lights



Mill Lane Pavilion



Mill Lane Recreation Ground



Skatepark



Play Areas



War Memorial



Public Toilets



St Mary's Churchyard



Young People/Youth Club



Spring Litter Pick



Why not grow your own?

Allotments available!

Potton Town Council manages an allotment site at Everton Road, Potton. There are 44 full size allotment plots and currently we have two full plots and one half-size plot available to rent.

If you wish to grow your own fruit and vegetables, have a more active lifestyle and eat healthily, there is a thriving allotment community with tenants of all ages helping and advising each other.

The Potton Allotment Association is back up and running with its own Facebook page.

You can find out more information, including allotment charges, from the Town Clerk by calling **01767 260086** or email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com** giving your name, address and a contact telephone number. Please note that the Council has resolved that tenants must be resident in Potton.



Trying to make Central Bedfordshire Council more accountable

In the coming months Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) will send your household a demand for about £2,000. Our annual Council Tax payment goes toward providing services such as bin collections, road maintenance, leisure centres, libraries and parks.

During the course of each year, important decisions are made about these services at council committee meetings. In the last year these have included which roads get resurfaced, whether the number of bin collections is reduced and of course whether major housing developments are approved in the fields near to our towns or villages.

All of these committees meet during the course of the working day, at Priory House, Chicksands, CBC's HQ. And as you'd imagine, because a significant proportion of those who these decisions affect, are at work, the meetings are often sparsely attended.

These are just some of the issues that have been discussed at these meetings in the last year or will be in the next 12 months:

- Air pollution in Sandy
- Big housing developments near to Pottton, Sandy and Biggleswade
- Major problems with Council outsourcing of Legal Services
- Issues at Sandy Leisure Centre
- Traffic disruption in Biggleswade
- Potholes and the state of the roads
- Big increases to Council Tax
- Changes to schools transport
- Concerns over local care homes
- Reductions in the number of bin collections
- Potential changes to the A1 and A428
- East West Rail between Bedford and Sandy (see pages 24-30 for more details)

The only meetings which take place in the evening are those of the full Council where a handful of the decisions are considered.

CBC met on 17th January to consider a motion I proposed, which requested that for each of the Council's committees, be they Planning, Health, Children's Services and so on, at least one meeting is held in the evening, when the public will be able to attend. To find out what happened at the meeting, read my email newsletter.

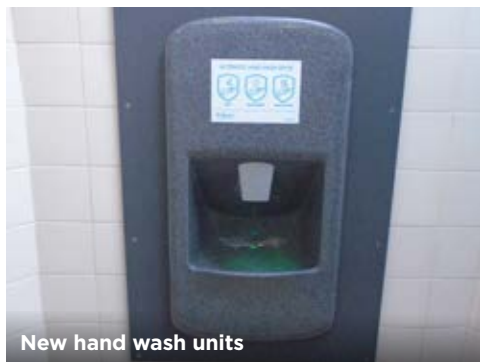
If you don't already get them, and would like to, please drop me a line at adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk and I will send you an update.

Adam Zerny

Independent Central Bedfordshire Councillor for Pottton



Better toilet facilities in Potton



New hand wash units

Works were recently completed to replace the hand wash units in both the gents and ladies toilets of the Public Conveniences in Brook End with environmentally friendly Hand Wash Dryers. Typically using less than 0.02kWh electrical power per cycle, the benefits of the units include:

Soap

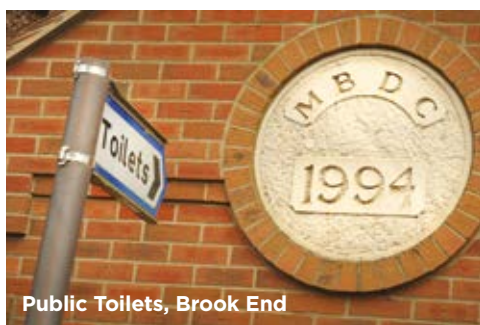
An infra-red light sensor detects hands being placed in the bowl area, which triggers the start of the washing cycle by dispensing soap in foam format.

Water

The water is heated instantly via an integral water heater and dispensed. They use less than 0.3 litres of water per cycle.

Drying

The dryer automatically stops operating if the user removes their hands.



Public Toilets, Brook End

Potton skatepark design

We want your feedback!

In our Autumn 2018 Newsletter, we asked for creative designs, suitable for a public place, that could be used to repaint the yellow parts of the skatepark and we were delighted to receive an entry from Potton resident, Barry Richardson. His design is on the right:

We would love to receive your feedback on this design; please email your opinions to us at pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com. Our thanks to Mr Richardson for submitting his design for the Town Council's consideration.



Grass cutting - when & where?

The town council receives various comments/queries/complaints about grass cutting.

We currently arrange for the grass cutting of over 90 thousand square meters of grass - equivalent to over 18 football pitches or over 350 tennis courts!

We considered the frequency and specification for the grass-cutting contract during 2018. After careful consideration, we awarded a 1-year contract to the contractor who has carried out the grass cutting in 2016-2018 - Reynolds Landscaping Services, a local company specialising in landscape maintenance. The new contract will start in April and will continue to be monitored by the town council staff.

Protecting wildlife

Some grassy areas in the town are home to rare species of wildlife and it is important we protect these species whilst also keeping our town tidy.

Hatley Road by St Mary's Church – A Roadside Nature Reserve

The verge contains the only remaining strong British population of a rare snail (*Truncatellina cyclindrica*) and is also a County Wildlife Site. This verge is only cut once in late summer.

What finds its home in St Mary's Churchyard?

In 2017 the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust (BCNWT) undertook a full plant survey of the churchyard. Lots of interesting plants were found to be growing. The most unusual is the Wild Clary.

During the summer, areas of grass in the churchyard will be cut at different frequencies. Alternative length of grass are very important for all kinds of insects and encourages wildflowers to bloom which will provide nectar for pollinating insects such as bumblebees and butterflies.



Bumble Bee



Wild Clary



Nature reserve



Mouse-ear Hawkweed

Photos: Wild Clary and Mouse-ear Hawkweed by: Laura Downton (BCNWT), Bumble Bee by: Rebecca Cartwright

Potton Sign refurbishment

Some of you may have noticed that the Potton sign has been removed from the Library. It has been sent away for a long overdue refurbishment and so far it has been sand blasted and repainted. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website pottontowncouncil.co.uk for updates on its progress.



Improving your town!

Potton Town Council's General Assistants, John, David and Rob, have been working on various projects to improve areas around the town. A few of the jobs they have been carrying out are:

- improving the flow of the sluice as well as clearing vegetation from the Brook in Henry Smith's Playing Fields
- edging paths in St Mary's Churchyard and Henry Smith's Playing Fields
- maintaining the appearance of the Cemetery
- hedge cutting at Mill Lane Recreation Ground car park



St Mary's Churchyard

**A very big thank you to John,
David and Rob!**



Sluice



Horse Brook

Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Tel: Andrea on 0300 555 5949 mobile: 07590 359 630 (working Weds, Thurs only)

See www.pottoncommunityagent.co.uk for information about how I can help you.

Are you are entitled to any benefits? –

Many people over 60 have an illness or disability which affects their day to day quality of life. You may be entitled to claim benefits such as Attendance Allowance, get a Blue Parking Badge, Pension Credit or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit. Andrea can help you complete these complicated forms if you are unsure doing it yourself. Please call in confidence on **0300 555 5949**.

Potton Friendship Group – Come and meet new friends, or reacquaint with ones you haven't seen for a while. We meet every Thursday morning 10-12 at the Community Centre, Brook End. Chat over tea/coffee and homemade cake and quiche. Have a game of carpet bowls or play cards, crib or dominoes. A warm welcome awaits you. £2.50 entry.

Fundraiser for the British Heart

Foundation – In November, Jane Leonard and her team visited the Friendship Group with Christmas themed plates to paint. The event raised £160. Many thanks to everyone who joined in.

Computer tablet workshop – Did you get a tablet for Christmas and need help using it? Andrea and John would be more than happy to support anyone over 60 who has little or no experience using a tablet or similar device. So, if you would like to know more then contact Andrea or pop down to our drop-in at the Community Centre on a Wednesday between 10 and 12 for a chat. Tea/coffee and biscuits served.



If you have any issues you need advice or help with please contact Andrea in confidence. Please note my working days are Weds and Thurs. I am kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity.



Ivel Sprinter



Ivel Sprinter

Ivel Sprinter is a voluntary Community Bus service operated by the East Beds Community Bus Ltd. The Ivel Sprinter relies entirely on volunteers to manage and drive all its services.

The Ivel Sprinter is always on the lookout for more volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare during the month and would like to help, please contact the Chairman, Terry woods on **01767 261047** or contact them via the website: **ivelsprinter.org.uk** or Facebook **IvelSprinter**.

The Ivel Sprinter may also provide a bus for private hire. Please contact Graham Barbet **01767 260485** or **hire.manager@ivelsprinter.org.uk** for further information.

The Ivel Sprinter operates four services that visit Potton, and these are as follows:

Service No.2 Wednesday

Ickwell to Cambridge

Out

Home

Potton Newtown	09:34	14:38
Potton Market Square	09:37	14:35
Wrestlingworth Crossroads	09:42	14:30
Cambridge Downing Street	10:18	14:00
Cambridge Grafton Centre	10:20	-----

Service No.3 Wednesday

Langford to Cambridge

Out

Home

Potton Market Square	09:34	14:38
Wrestlingworth Crossroads	09:40	14:33
Cambridge Downing Street	10:15	14:03
Cambridge Grafton Centre	10:20	-----

Service No.193 Thursday

Biggleswade to St Neots

Out

Home

Potton Market Square	10:37	13:40
Potton Newtown	10:40	13:37
Everton Thornton Arms	10:45	13:32
Sandy Market Square	10:50	13:28
Sandy Engayne Avenue	10:53	13:26
Little Barford	11:00	13:19
Eynesbury Tesco	11:04	13:15
St Neots Market Square	11:15	13:10

Service No.1B Friday

Sandy to Biggleswade

Out

Home

Potton Newtown	09:57	12:23
Potton Market Square	10:01	12:20
Biggleswade Stratton Way	10:08	RR
Biggleswade Hitchmead Road	10:09	RR
Biggleswade Drove Road	10:10	RR
Biggleswade Banks Road	10:12	RR
Biggleswade Potton Road	10:13	RR
Biggleswade Market Square	-----	RR
Biggleswade Sainsbury's	10:23	11:50

RR = Request Return



The Potton Hall for All

First and foremost everybody associated with Potton Hall for All wishes the good people of our lovely town a happy and prosperous 2019 and thank them for their continued and unstinting support to the Trustees and Support Committee as they strive to bring this exciting and much needed project to a successful conclusion.

Registered
Charity no. 1158751

Since the last newsletter PHfA have supported Potton Apple Day, organised a Beatles' Tribute Night at the Scout Hut, attended the Christmas Lights switch on and shared a stall at the December Seasonal Market with the excellent Potton Community Orchard team.

We are grateful to everybody who supported us through the Co-Op's Local Causes Scheme which ended in October. Together we raised nearly £2,000 for the project. From January to March we are a green coin charity at Asda in Biggleswade. Please support us. We are looking at other schemes and will keep you informed through our website pottonhallforall.org.uk and Facebook, where you will also find our fundraising plans for 2019 include holding an upmarket Jumble Sale and assisting the Cricket Club in running the May Day Fete.

Please note we shall be holding our AGM on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Brook End. We would love to see as many supporters as possible. Before then, new volunteers or aspiring trustees are most welcome to contact David Tall on dandrtall@gmail.com.

Our picture shows Stephanie, the proud winner of our Christmas Hamper.

As always we offer no apology for repeating that the Hall for All, will be just that!!



Potton apple day



Stephanie, winner!



WOMEN'S SOFT BALL CRICKET FESTIVAL

IT'S GOING TO BE
EXPECTACULAR
BUNNET MATCHES COACHING TALENTS & FUN

WHERE
Potton Town Cricket Club
The Hutchinson Hollow
Biggleswade Road, Potton, SG192LX

WHEN
4th May 2019 - 11:30am Start

Come and join in with some fun Cricket,
Accompanied with a glass of prosecco or two.

FREE FESTIVAL T-SHIRT

ECB.CO.UK/WOMENSSOFTBALLCRICKET

ECB



Are you interested in playing cricket?

We are holding a friendly inter-club Twenty20 cricket match

Saturday 4th May 2019
Starting at 2.30pm



Come along to play or support this match.
There will be a BBQ and bar

If you are interested in playing, please contact Sean Stevens on 07725 974334

MAY DAY FÊTE

Monday 6th May

11am to 3pm



At The Hutchinson Hollow, Biggleswade Road, Potton



Registered Charity no. 1158751

- Fun Fair
- Archery
- Craft Stalls
- Car Boot Sale
- Dog Show
- Live Music
- Bar & Food



East West Rail announces five routes for Bedford-Cambridge rail line consultation



The long-awaited public announcement of the route shortlist for the Bedford-Cambridge section of East West Rail has been made.

There are five routes and the current consultation runs from 28th January until 11th March.

The next stage will be another consultation in 2021, on one final route. I understand the track they actually lay is likely to be within 1km of the line they show us on the map at this point.

The final decision is expected to be made later that year.

East West Rail says it expects to complete the Bedford-Cambridge section of the line by the mid-2020s but this seems incredibly ambitious given the number of homes affected by some of the potential routes, and in truth, whichever route they pick they are likely to be legal challenges. If they've passed that stage by 2025 they'll be lucky.

Three of the five routes would have huge repercussions for residents of Sutton and Eyeworth not to mention dozens of villages between Eyeworth and Cambridge such as Shepreth and Meldreth.

Each route shows a hatched 'corridor', wider in some places than others. We do not know where in the corridors the route would go and given this consultation is so see feedback, it is entirely possible the final route may be slightly different.

Route A - Is the quickest route at 76 minutes from Oxford to Cambridge and appears to be the cheapest at £2bn. However, the corridor it cuts right through

Sutton and Eyeworth. It also runs very close to the RSPB and would affect views from Wimpole Hall. It would involve relocating Sandy Station to the south and does not include the cost of a new Bassingbourn station. (See page 26)

Route B - Would take 80 minutes and cost £2.6bn. It looks like it would involve Sandy Station being relocated to the north, to the Tempsford area. Instead of Bassingbourn, this time Cambourne looks to be the next station. Also likely to pave the way for housing north of Sandy. (See page 27)

Route C - Would take 80 minutes and involve sharing the main line around Sandy with existing routes. Seems to involve a new station at Tempsford but retaining Sandy station. It would cost £2.5bn and would have a similar impact to Route A on Sutton and Eyeworth, would go via Bassingbourn and runs very close to the RSPB and would again affect views from Wimpole Hall. Cost does not include the new Bassingbourn station. (See page 28)

Route D - Similar to Route C except would come out of north Bedford and would take 83 minutes and again cost £2.5bn. (See page 29)

Route E - Would take 82 minutes and cost £3.25bn so is the most expensive option. The interchange would be somewhere between Tempsford and St Neots and the next station at Cambourne. Seems to allow new housing north of Sandy. (See page 30)

I have also created my own overlay map for Route A (see my Facebook page or contact me to view) which demonstrates the impact of the corridor on local villages. The section east of Sandy is the same as that on routes C and D.

The options run the risk of dividing local residents in that A, C and D have huge implications for Sutton and Eyeworth while B, C, D and E all affect Tempsford and could also pave the way for lots of housing in the Tempsford area.

Some might argue Option B is the one which has the least impact on local residents but only if the route heads north of Tempsford and does not allow for lots of housing to be built around the town. Of

course, on the flip side, this would mean local residents would possibly be less likely to use trains running on this route.

You can provide feedback and see more information on the routes here:

www.eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay

As ever to find out the latest on this and other local news, email me at **adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk** to get my monthly email newsletter.

Adam Zerny

Independent Central
Bedfordshire councillor
for Potton and Dunton



Consultation events

February

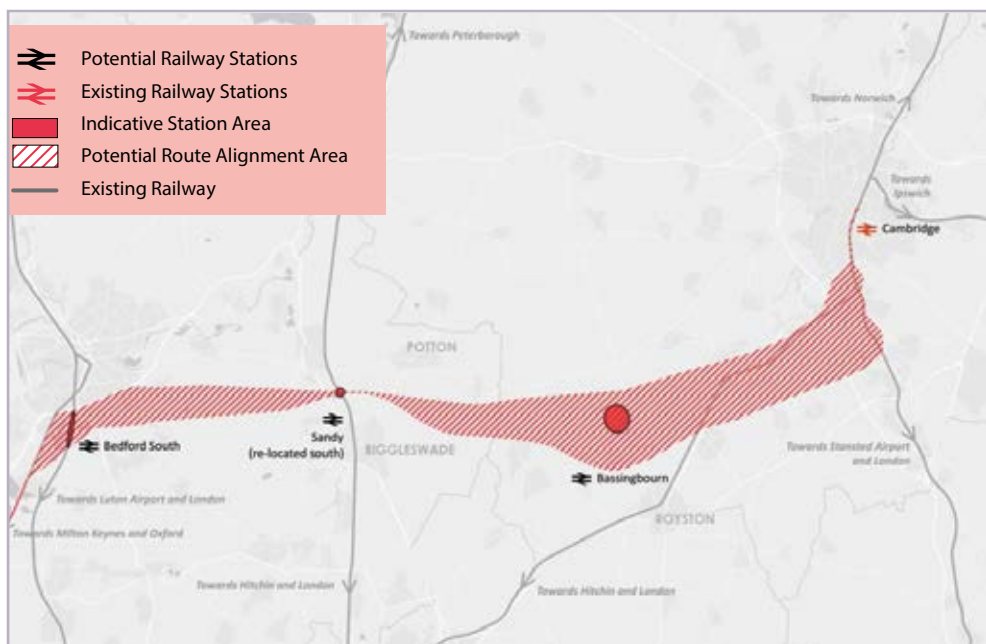
Monday 11th	St Neots: The Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Friday 15th	Bedford: Scott Hall, Barford Avenue, Bedford, MK42 0DS	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Saturday 16th	Bassingbourn: Bassingbourn Community Primary School, Brook Road, Bassingbourn SG8 5NP	10am - 2pm
Tuesday 19th	Potton: Potton and District Club, 34 Station Road, Potton, Sandy SG19 2PZ	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Friday 22nd	Cambridge: The University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge CB2 1RU	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday 26th	Orwell: Orwell Village Hall, 32-66 High St, Orwell, Royston SG8 5QN	2pm - 6pm

March

Friday 1st	Sandy: Sandy Village Hall, Medusa Way, Sandy SG19 1BN	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Saturday 2nd	Cambourne: Belfrey, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6BW	10pm - 2pm

ROUTE A

Bedford South – Sandy (re-located south) – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)



Opportunities:

- Supports economic growth across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Faster journeys, with an estimated Oxford to Cambridge journey time of 76 minutes

Challenges:

- Possible impacts on the Wimpole Hall avenue and mitigation
- Proximity to the RSPB Nature Reserve, Sandy Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Biggleswade Common
- Relocation of Sandy station

Other considerations:

- Could support new homes:
 - South of Bedford
 - Potentially on and around the site of MoD Bassingbourn Barracks*
- Travelling to or from Bedford town centre would require changing trains and using Thameslink services

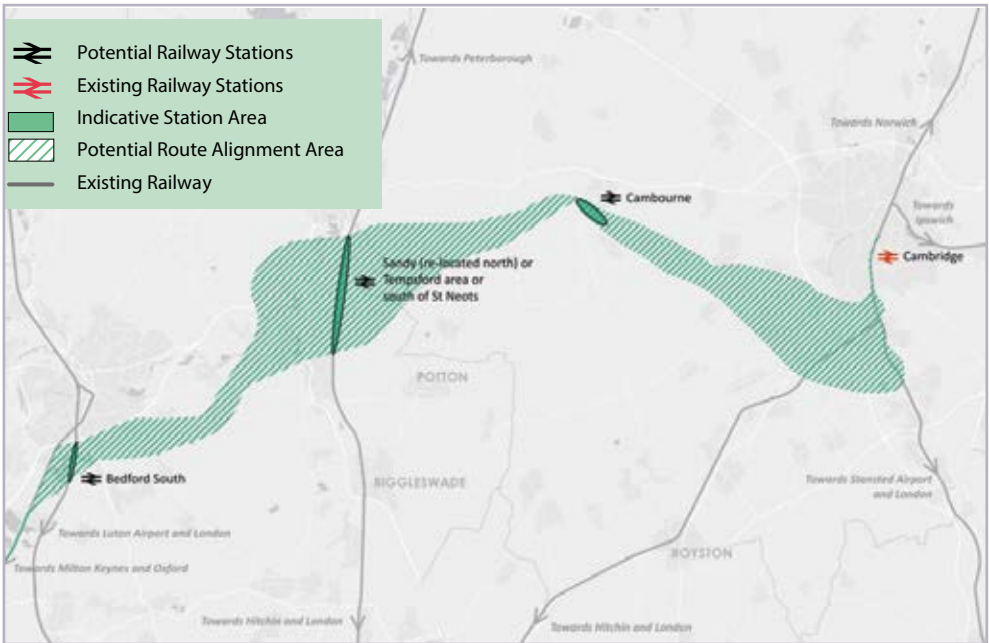
Indicative upfront construction cost:

- c.£2.0 billion (2015 prices)

* A new 'Bassingbourn' station would only be built if the MoD Bassingbourn Barracks is developed. The cost of a station is not included in the initial cost estimates in this document.

ROUTE B

Bedford South – Sandy (re-located north) / Tempsford area / south of St Neots – Cambourne – Cambridge



Opportunities:

- Supports economic growth across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Faster journeys, with an estimated Oxford to Cambridge journey time of 80 minutes

Challenges:

- Might require Sandy station to be re-located (if EWR serves a new station slightly to the north of the existing station rather than in the broad area around Tempsford or to the south of St Neots)
- Might duplicate the proposed Metro in providing public transport links between Cambourne and Cambridge

Other considerations:

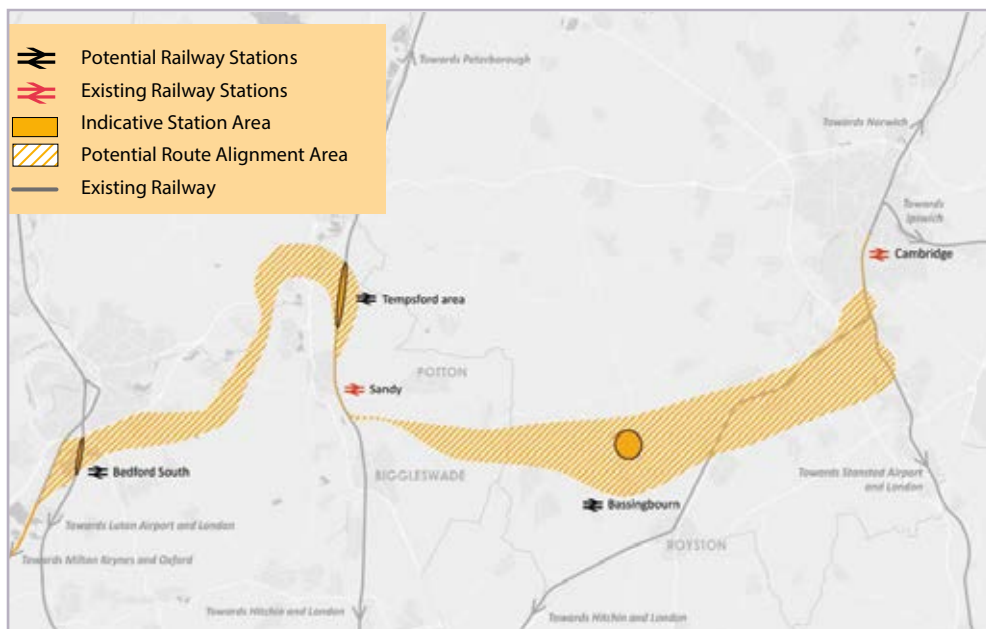
- Could support new homes:
 - South of Bedford
 - Between Sandy and St Neots
 - Around Cambourne
- Travelling to or from Bedford town centre would require changing trains and using Thameslink services

Indicative upfront construction cost:

- c.£2.6 billion (2015 prices)

ROUTE C

Bedford South – Tempsford area – Sandy – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)



Opportunities:

- Supports economic growth across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Faster journeys, with an estimated Oxford to Cambridge journey time of 80 minutes

Challenges:

- Possible impacts on the Wimpole Hall avenue and mitigation
- Proximity to the RSPB Nature Reserve, Sandy Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Biggleswade Common
- Potentially complex links with the East Coast Main Line

Other considerations:

- Serves the existing Sandy station
- Could support new homes:
 - South of Bedford
 - Between Sandy and St Neots
 - Potentially on and around the site of MoD Bassingbourn Barracks*
- Travelling to or from Bedford town centre would require changing trains and using Thameslink services

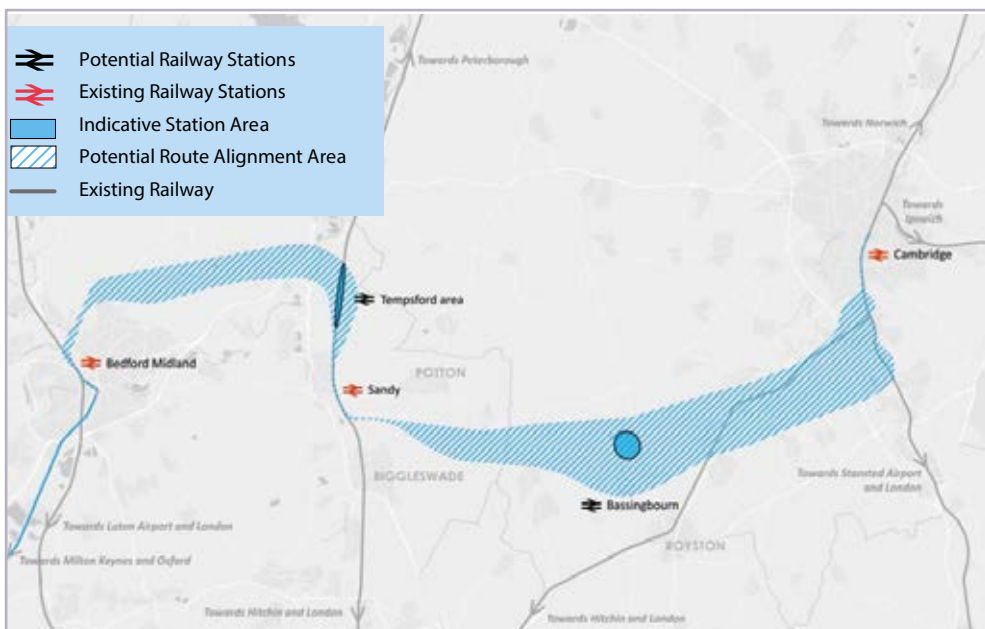
Indicative upfront construction cost:

- c.£2.5 billion (2015 prices)

* A new 'Bassingbourn' station would only be built if the MoD Bassingbourn Barracks is developed. The cost of a station is not included in the initial cost estimates in this document.

ROUTE D

Bedford Midland – Tempsford area – Sandy – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)



Opportunities:

- Supports economic growth across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Faster journeys, with an estimated Oxford to Cambridge journey time of 83 minutes
- Provides direct connectivity to Bedford town centre

Challenges:

- Possible impacts on the Wimpole Hall avenue and mitigation
- Proximity to the RSPB Nature Reserve, Sandy Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Biggleswade Common

- Potentially complex links with the Midland Main Line and East Coast Main Line*

Other considerations:

- Serves the existing Sandy station
- Could support new homes:
 - Through densification of Bedford town centre
 - Between Sandy and St Neots
 - Potentially on and around the site of MoD Bassingbourn Barracks[‡]

Indicative upfront construction cost:

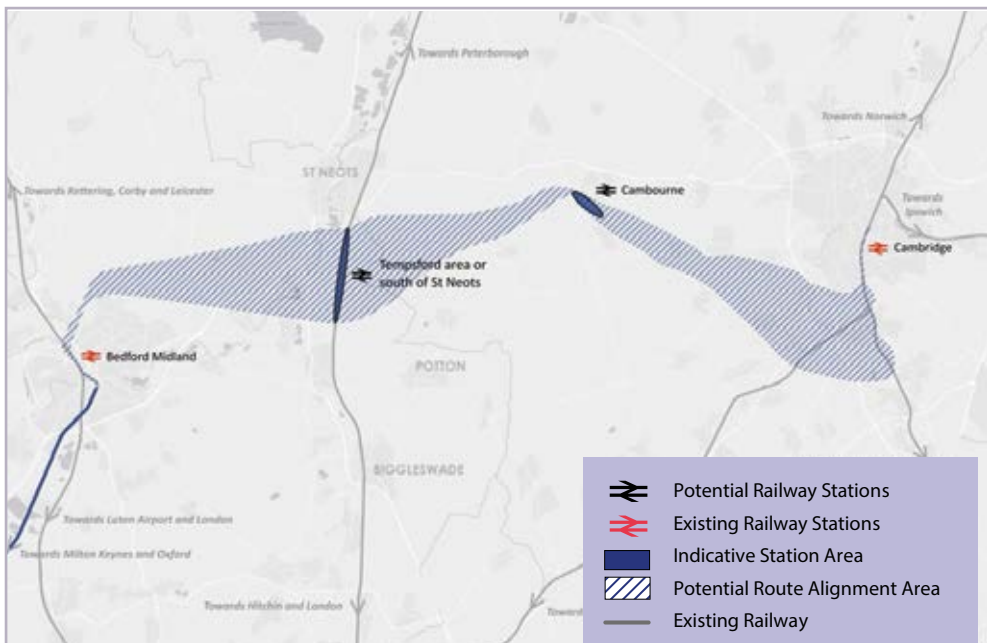
- c.£2.6 billion (2015 prices)

* If EWR were to serve Bedford Midland, this would require works to increase the capacity of the existing station and potentially re-model or re-locate the existing Bedford maintenance depot.

[‡] A new 'Bassingbourn' station would only be built if the MoD Bassingbourn Barracks is developed. The cost of a station is not included in the initial cost estimates in this document.

ROUTE E

Bedford Midland – south of St Neots / Tempsford area – Cambourne – Cambridge



Opportunities:

- Supports economic growth across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Faster journeys, with an estimated Oxford to Cambridge journey time of 82 minutes
- Provides direct connectivity to Bedford town centre

Challenges:

- Might duplicate the proposed Metro in providing public transport links between Cambourne and Cambridge
- Potentially complex links with the Midland Main Line*

Other considerations:

- Avoids relocating the existing Sandy station
- Could support new homes:
 - Through densification of Bedford town centre
 - Between Sandy and St Neots
 - Around Cambourne

Indicative upfront construction cost:

- c.£3.4 billion (2015 prices)

* If EWR were to serve Bedford Midland, this would require works to increase the capacity of the existing station and potentially re-model or re-locate the existing Bedford maintenance depot.

We are looking for on-call Firefighters

at Potton Fire Station

Not everyone is aware that your fire station in Potton is crewed by on-call firefighters who are men and women from your community.

On-call Firefighters attend the same incidents as their whole-time counterparts any time of the day or night and are paid a retaining fee, together with payment for incidents attended.

On-call Firefighters live and/or work within approximately 6 minutes of their local fire station and respond to an alert when an emergency call comes in.



Potton are looking to recruit more on-call firefighters so if you would like to contribute to your community, learn new skills and work as part of a team, as well as earning a little extra, why not think about joining us.



Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service

For more information visit our website:
www.bedsfire.gov.uk/careers/oncall-recruitment

Or email neville.mooney@bedsfire.com

Potton Town Council Election

An opportunity to be part of your community

On **Thursday 2nd May 2019**

elections will be held across Central Bedfordshire to elect councillors to Central Bedfordshire Council and also to elect councillors to town and parish councils and this includes Potton Town Council.

Timetable of key dates

Publication of Notice of Election	Fri 15 th March
Receipt (start) of Nominations	Mon 18 th March
Close of Nominations	Wed 3 rd April 4pm
Day of Poll	Thur 2 nd May 7am to 10pm

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

1. are a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union.
2. are at least 18 years of age
3. meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - are on the list of electors for the town.

Or during the last 12 months you:

- occupied land or property in Potton as owner or tenant.
- had your principal place of work here.
- lived in or within three miles of Potton.

A Town Councillor is unpaid and gives their time for free to the community on a voluntary basis.

Do you need a party venue?

The halls at the Community Centre, Brook End and the Pavilion, Mill Lane can be hired by private individuals, community groups and commercial hirers.

Please contact the office to check on availability and make a booking. You can call **01767 260086**, email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com** or pop in to see us. Check office opening times on page 7.

