



## Your newly elected Councillors

### Potton Town Councillors

Following the Town Council elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, electors voted for fifteen councillors and their term of office will be four years. This includes three new councillors, Lindsay Kitchener, Carol Leggatt and Ben Massey. Photos of the full town council are on page 2.



**Lindsay Kitchener**



**Carol Leggatt**



**Ben Massey**

### Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Following the Central Bedfordshire Council elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, electors voted for Independent councillors Tracey Wye and Adam Zerny.



**Tracey Wye**

"I would like to say a big thank to Potton for having faith in a second Independent Councillor to represent them at Central Bedfordshire Council. Work on local issues began almost immediately after the election, and I have attended several training sessions at CBC to learn the ropes. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any help with council matters." Tracey Wye



**Adam Zerny**



# Your Pottton Town Councillors



**John Day**



**Denis Ellison**



**Geoff Emery**



**Andrew Gibb**



**Richard Harris**



**John Hobbs**



**Les Ivall**



**Lindsay Kitchener**



**Jonathan Lean**



**Carol Leggatt**



**Angus Macdonald**  
(Chairman)



**Ben Massey**



**Chris Temple**



**Rex Whitfield**



**Adam Zerny**

For more details  
on each of the  
fifteen councillors,  
please visit **[www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are)**

# Town Council Information

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](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com)**

**W: [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk)**

## Town Councillors

John Day	07986 124440
Denis Ellison	261925
Geoff Emery	261710
Andrew Gibb	260067
Richard Harris	262596
John Hobbs	260710
Les Ivall	261559
Lindsay Kitchener	260486
Jonathan Lean	262404
Carol Leggatt	260001
Angus Macdonald	262006
Ben Massey	07581 092263
Chris Temple	262535
Rex Whitfield	262246
Adam Zerny	261319

## Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319

## Town Council Meetings

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

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

## Councillor Surgeries

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

For forthcoming surgery dates, refer to town council website and notice boards.

## Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

The next edition is planned for delivery in August 2019. If you would like information to be included, please email: **[pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com)** by midday on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 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.





# Chairman's message

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

I'd like to start this edition of the newsletter by welcoming our new Town Council (see page 1 and 2). Following a request for volunteers to put themselves forward for the position of councillor, we have had an election where you have been given the opportunity to vote for your new council as well as your ward councillors. These councillors will now serve a term of four years until the next election cycle comes around so if anyone out there still has a desire to become a councillor one day, you have plenty of time to think about it and prepare!

## A big thank you

There are two notable absentees from our Town Council that I need to recognise and thank before I move on from the subject of elections. Councillor John Lewis served in excess of 25 years and Councillor Alan Leggatt served for 24 years on the Town Council. In their time, both gentlemen have been Chairman of the Council and have put in an enormous amount of time and effort in their service to the community. Their advice, guidance and input will be greatly missed and I thank them on behalf of the Council and the town for their work.



**John Lewis**



**Alan Leggatt**



*Carpark extension completed*

## Car park extension

Since the last newsletter a few months back the work to complete an extension of the Henry Smith Playing Fields car park has been completed. Work was undertaken as part of the Market Town Regeneration project along with Central Bedfordshire Council. A survey conducted for this project highlighted the need for additional parking in town to support our key services and shops. Parking was seen as the largest single factor likely to deter people from using local shops and services. The Town Council therefore proposed the extension of the current car park given that space and land is at a premium in the centre of town. Hopefully this will alleviate parking issues and make it easier for people to access the shops and the local surgery.



*Refurbished gates*

## Refurbished gates

We also took the opportunity to remove and refurbish the gates to the Henry Smith Playing Fields. These gates have been relocated a short way away from the car park to provide access to the playing fields and to prevent any accidental damage to them in the future.

## Wine Press

Since the last newsletter, the Wine Press in the Market Square has also been refurbished.



*Wine press*



## Anti-social and criminal behaviour

The Town Council also held a further Anti-Social and Criminal Behaviour meeting in the town in March. With residents facing a considerable rise in the amount of Council Tax they pay for policing, it was important that they were given the opportunity to have their say on policing matters and the increase in crime levels that have been seen in and around the town of late. The police and representatives of Central Bedfordshire Council were in attendance to listen to the points and concerns

raised by local residents. The advice given by Bedfordshire Police was that in an emergency use the 999 number to contact them. In a non-emergency, use the 101 number or report any crime or concern online at **[www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime)**. I would also ask that if you are seeing or experiencing persistent issues that you also report these to the Town Council so that we can raise them with the appropriate authorities in tandem with you.



## Spring litter pick

Spring wouldn't be Spring without our biannual litter pick. It was once again fantastic to see so many volunteers coming forward and offering to help clean up our town. My thanks go, as always, to Councillor Alan Leggatt and his wife Carol for co-ordinating this activity and to all the hard-working volunteers who helped. Your work is appreciated and makes a huge difference! The Autumn litter pick will be on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am until 2pm. Please put the date in your diaries.



Children from the 1<sup>st</sup> Potton Scout Group took part in the litter pick as community service for their badge work.



Litter pick



Litter all bagged up



# Grass cutting

Finally, as the weather gets better and growing season kicks in, the Town Council will be considering a new grass cutting strategy. The strategy has more of an environmental feel to it and there will be areas in the town where we will be encouraging meadow grass, wild flowers and better habitats for our pollinators and insects. This in turn will provide food for our Potton swifts when they return each year. With the loss of green space around the town due to recent housing development we will be looking to see what we can do to redress the balance, as far as that is possible. There will be more on this as the strategy develops and is implemented. An article on Managing Potton's Grass Areas in on pages 8 and 9.

Best Wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald

*PS At the Annual meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the councillors of Potton Town Council re-elected me as Chairman.*



Common Swift



Meadow grass

# Dates for the Diary

## June

<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Dementia Friendly Community Workshop at Mill Lane Pavilion (see page 11)	7.30pm
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Four Seasons Market (see page 12 for information)	9 am – 1 pm

## July

<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Langenlonsheim Mosaic Workshops (see page 19)	10am – 4pm
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Living Churchyard Workshop at St Mary the Virgin Church, Potton (see page 24)	9.30am – 4.30pm
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Little POP! (see page 16)	From 1pm

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# Managing Potton's Grass Areas

Written by Cllrs John Day and Andy Gibb

**Following last year's newsletter article (July 2018), this is an update on how Potton Town Council is implementing our improved grass management plans.**

The Potton Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans have an aspiration to enhance the verges and greens within the town. Over the coming years there will be a slight and gradual transition in the management and appearance of the grass.

Mill Lane playing field and the sports area of Henry Smith playing field, will be maintained as now. We are also going to fertilise and improve the sports pitches which over the years have deteriorated. In other areas we will gradually start allowing some areas to grow longer to encourage wild flowers to bloom. This year, verges and greens will be not be cut quite as short as in the past. At a length of 5cm flowers are able to develop and the roots of the grass become stronger and more resilient to drought, remember last year's brown grass? The roots of nearby trees and their resistance to drought will also improve as a result.

In time, we will gradually enhance areas with wild flowers, such as requested by residents living near the junction of King Street and Gamlingay Road. A proportion of the green there was sown with a wildflower mix last October. Information leaflets about this were posted in nearby houses and signs erected on the green at the time. There will not be an immediate, noticeable change however - wildflower sowings must be mown throughout the first year. It will not be until 2020 when mowing will be relaxed to allow the flowers to bloom.

The majority of areas will be sown with flowers tolerant of regular mowing and while there will be no discernible change to length, a gradual increase of flowers will be seen in the grass. Each area sown will be publicised both here and in other media at the time.





## Why the change?

Longer grass has many environmental benefits, helping to:

- Slow run-off, reducing the amount of sediments washing into roads and drains
- Cool the atmosphere during hot weather
- Reduces drought stress to grass and tree roots
- Reduce soil compaction which enhances natural drainage
- Provide habitat and food for wildlife, in particular when enhanced with flowers it will provide nectar for wild pollinators.
- Wild pollinators (eg: bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies and moths) collectively contribute over 75% to the ecosystem services of pollinating our food resources, compared to less than 25% delivered by honeybees. Furthermore, domestic honeybees compete negatively for pollen and nectar with wild pollinators.



### The humble dandelion

The dandelion is great for wildlife, its flowers attractive to butterflies and bumblebees and the seeds are much loved by goldfinches. Over 100 different kinds of insect have been recorded using it, including 83 different kinds of moth.



Wild pollinators are vital to our food production and contribute about £430 million per year to the UK economy. Sadly they are in serious threat of extinction due to loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat, herbicides and insecticides. Many species such as the shrill carder now require direct conservation action and intervention, while species such as the short-haired bumblebee which became extinct have been the subject of a successful reintroduction programme.

So serious is the situation, the Government has a national pollinator strategy which is supported by local authorities and which itself also supports initiatives led by conservation organisations such as the Buglife BeeLines project and the PlantLife initiative for all verges to be better managed for plants and wildlife.

Further information can be found in the environment section of the Town Council website [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/local-environment](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/local-environment), the library and on social media.

# Potton Town Council Unaudited Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Current Assets	31 Mar '18	31 Mar '19
Debtors	1,542	0
Trade Debtors	0	1,407
VAT Control Account	5,006	24,989
Current Account	3,343	17,554
30 Day Account	122,869	81,555
Petty Cash	205	183
Petrol Petty Cash	27	20
Nationwide Instant Saver	190,000	190,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>322,992</b>	<b>315,709</b>

Current Liabilities	31 Mar '18	31 Mar '19
Community Orchard Fund	665	665
Accruals	2,003	4,339
Receipts in Advance	130	2,318
Party Deposits	150	600
Long Term Deposits	1,000	950
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,947</b>	<b>8,872</b>

<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>319,045</b>	<b>306,836</b>
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Represented By	31 Mar '18	31 Mar '19
General Reserves	70,487	155,456
EMR Community Centre	12,155	12,155
EMR Brook	6,654	6,654
EMR Cemetery	14,972	14,972
EMR Cemetery Extension	6,000	9,090
EMR Churchyard	2,113	2,113
EMR Christmas Lights	5,618	4,654
EMR Neighbourhood Plan	13,898	13,898
EMR Town Plan	2,084	2,084
EMR Green Wheel	0	3,500
EMR Youth Budget	6,902	2,329
EMR Grants	51,611	22,824
EMR Mill Lane Play Area	3,221	689
EMR Carpark	55,719	15,276
EMR Skatepark Replacement	30,394	8,040
EMR Public Conveniences	3,895	0
EMR Office Movement	15,000	15,000
EMR Legal Fees	5,823	5,823
EMR Elections	7,000	7,000
EMR Trees	3,000	2,780
EMR Rural Match Fund	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>319,045</b>	<b>306,836</b>

EMR = Ear Marked Reserves

# Making our town dementia-friendly

Potton Town Council invite you to an event to learn a little more about dementia and some of the small ways you can help those living with dementia to make a huge difference in your community.



Too many people affected by dementia feel society fails to understand the condition they live with, its impact or how to interact with them. That's why people with dementia sometimes feel they need to withdraw from their community as the condition progresses.

A dementia-friendly community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported.

Potton has all of the elements needed to become a dementia-friendly community – not least our community spirit!

Whether you are running a business or organisation in our town, someone with a personal connection to dementia, or just want to help our wonderful community spirit become even better, please do join us at the **Mill Lane Community Pavilion at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

A free Dementia Friends Information Session will be followed by a discussion to hear your thoughts on small actions that could make a difference in Potton and whether you feel we should work towards becoming a recognised dementia-friendly community – an official recognition by Alzheimer's Society that we could promote. We would especially welcome people living in Potton who are directly affected by dementia to share your experience in the discussion, or privately before or after the event.

The session will be led by Chantal Bradley and Fiona Wynde, both volunteer Dementia Friends Champions for the Alzheimer's Society. Fiona is also the Alzheimer's Society's Regional Officer for Dementia Friendly Communities in the East of England.

To book your place visit **[www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)** and click on Get involved/find a session/dementia awareness for all then put in your postcode for the nearest session.



# Music 4 Memory Group

Potton Music 4 Memory Group meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Community Centre in Brook End from 2.30pm to 4pm.



The group is for people with dementia and memory loss and their family members and carers using music therapy, which sounds a bit serious but in fact is great fun. It means that we sing lots of songs, mess about with different instruments and share poetry and conversation. There is always tea and biscuits and quite often cake. Occasionally we are joined by other groups of musicians such as the Milton Keynes Ukelele Band.

Music is a great way to enable everyone to access memories and to communicate with other people and singing is so enjoyable. The sessions are led by a Music Therapist, Alison Shaw. You don't need to be musical to enjoy the sessions!

The group is run by the Tibbs Dementia Foundation, [www.tibbsdementia.co.uk](http://www.tibbsdementia.co.uk) a charity which provides a range of services and activities for people with dementia and their families and carers in Bedfordshire.

If you would like more information about the group, because you or someone you

care for has dementia or memory loss, or you can offer support to the group as a volunteer or in other ways, please call Tibbs on **01234 210993** or just turn up!

## Four Seasons Market

 **POTTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL



**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**9am – 1pm**



For more information visit  
[pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market](http://pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market)



# Potton Library

## Working with the Community

We take part in community events such as Party on Potton, and are visited regularly by the local playgroups. We are keen to increase our involvement within the community - please get in touch if you have an idea, or to arrange a group visit.

A beginners walk starts & finishes at the library on Tuesdays at 10am, with tea and coffee available afterwards.



### This summer's Reading Challenge

is called 'Space Chase', and is available to join in during the summer holidays from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Opening Times:

Mon	Closed
Tues	9am-1pm
Wed	2pm-6pm
Thurs	9am-1pm
Fri	9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm
Sat	9am-4pm

Tel: 0300 300 8063

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)



## Children's Activities

Term time activities include:

### Storytime

on Tuesdays 9.25am-9.55am



### Lego club

is every Friday 3.45pm-5.00pm

### Building club of Knex & Lego

is Saturdays 1.45pm-3.30pm

Activities and crafts are available on many Saturday afternoons, and during school holidays.



# A very fond farewell

Written by Reverend Gill Smith

**After serving Potton as Parish Priest for almost 11 years, I am bidding you all farewell this summer as I will be retiring and Bob and I will be moving to Norfolk. We will both be very sad to leave.**

Potton is a very special place that has found a deep place in my heart, along with our sister parishes of Sutton and Cockayne Hatley. In my time here I have met countless wonderful people, I've conducted over 100 weddings, almost 300 funerals and just about 200 baptisms, well over 2,000 services of Holy Communion and many hundreds of sermons about the teachings of the Holy Bible, the ways of God and the life of Jesus Christ. I've walked with people in their journeys of life, holding precious hearts in prayer and being with those who are facing difficult times or nearing the ends of their lives, as well as the joy of celebrating new life too!

Of course there's the wonderful social and musical side to Potton! We have enjoyed excellent concerts, dinners, parties, dances, and Burns Nights! And the Party on Potton is an amazing feat of organization and what a wonderful way to bring a community together. And what about the stupendous Biggles FM radio station! Top quality content and entertaining presenters.





Pondering the characteristics of Potton, one of the things that make it such a fantastic place is the way the Town turns out to support events large and small – the very moving Remembrance Day Parades with literally hundreds of Pottonians of all ages making that walk up to the War Memorial, and the sight of children dipping flags and the young and the old placing poppy wreaths is one that will be imprinted on my memory for ever.

You have a pearl of great worth in your little Town, and as I leave it I will always give thanks that I came here to minister. Thank you for being who you are and what you are, and for making Bob and me so welcome. **My farewell service will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am. I'd love it if you could come.**





# The Return of Little POP

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Henry Smith Playing Fields



The Big Weekend's little sister returns for one day only! We're going back to basics: the POP marquee with our bar, barbeque and live music, with four bands already confirmed. So, save the date and keep your eye on the POP Facebook page for updates – we'll see you there from 1pm.

There's no Big Weekend this year but Party On Potton aren't sitting back and chilling out – quite the opposite! We have a jam-packed summer planned.

You may have seen our bright orange POP-up at the Seasonal Market in March (thanks to everyone who braved the windy weather to support us)

Our mobile bar and barbeque will be at Sandy Carnival on 8<sup>th</sup> June and at Sandye Place Academy on 14<sup>th</sup> July for their closing fête. We are also at the Firefighters' Ball on 10<sup>th</sup> August!



## Potton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2035



The six-week stakeholder consultation organised by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) was concluded on 29<sup>th</sup> March and an Independent Assessor has been appointed to conclude the scrutiny of the Potton Neighbourhood Plan (PNP). Following these two final phases, the PNP will be amended for the last time and a date for a referendum will be set by CBC.

We will be holding various public events to promote the PNP and to encourage you to vote in favour of adopting it in the referendum. Remember, once adopted the PNP will be a mandatory document that CBC must use as part of their planning process. Prospective developers will, therefore, refer to the PNP when preparing a planning application.



# We will remember them all. Even those who returned.

Written by Peter Langridge

**Every year in November the people throughout the United Kingdom come together to remember those who have died in the service and protection of our great country on Remembrance Sunday.**

I am always proud of the numbers of Potton residents that turn out on the day for the service in the market square, the march up to the cemetery for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and also those that cannot make the service for many reasons but line the roads up to the cemetery.

In an age when league tables and statistics seem to rule, Potton must be high up in all categories. In terms of actual numbers attending Potton has more attendees than many larger towns. On a percentage basis we must be in the top 10 percent.

Every year we remember those that fell in battle, but we forget those that returned to our town but may have died later, or suffered for the rest of their lives due to injuries or gas attacks for example.

During the 1914 to 1918 war many brave men suffered attacks that diminished the quality of their lives forever when they returned. At times it was called shellshock. In recent years it has been identified as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Some lost limbs or eyes or were left totally blind.

It has been suggested that these heroes should also be remembered in some form of publication made available to the general public. The long-term families can see their relatives are remembered and our newer residents can also see the contribution the previous generations of our town have made to our freedom and our own way of life.

To make this possible we need to know who these heroes were. We are looking for information your parents or grandparents may have passed on or stories about themselves back then. So, if you know of anyone who returned to Potton from the 1914 - 1918 and 1939 - 1945 wars injured and subsequently died as a result of their injuries please send details of who they were and how they suffered with dates of their death to the address below.

This may possibly also apply to other conflicts such as Korea, Cyprus, Malaya, Palestine and others where our people have been involved.

**[pottonheroes@gmail.com](mailto:pottonheroes@gmail.com)**

Please ensure you add your name and contact details.





# 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

We met with our architect and cost consultants recently to discuss how we can bring the cost of the building down or phase it, in order to be able to move forward with the project more quickly in 2019. We hope to have this revised information soon. We continue to work with Potton Town Council and Central Beds Council to identify ways to bring income and support to this project, but we can't do it without your help!



This is very much your project – and we need more people to help bring it to fruition. 2019 is a key year as we know that the S106 monies from Tall Trees site will soon become available and then the need to use that money within a strict time-frame starts.

## **How can you or any group you belong to, help?**

1. We need new trustees as one of our number is stepping down – if you are a resident of Potton you are eligible to stand. Our constitution allows for reps from interested user bodies. Could this be you?
2. Please share this update with any friends,

family or members of a potential user group that you belong to and invite them to our annual meeting.

3. Consider how you or your group could help fundraise or raise awareness – volunteer to be on the support group; organise an 'in aid of' event; support our high-class Jumble Sale on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
4. If you work for or own a business that could help sponsor this project – please get in touch.

We are so grateful to Jill White who has recently set up the Potton Recycling initiative in association with Potton Town Council, [www.facebook.com/pottonrecycling](https://www.facebook.com/pottonrecycling). The Hall is the financial beneficiary of this but of course it is far more than that. It has helped raise awareness of the Hall with several new likes on Facebook on the back of the launch, but most importantly it is good for the environment which fits nicely with our desire to build a low carbon building that is sustainable for years to come.

**Please help us provide this essential facility for our growing town.**

You can get in touch via our Secretary: [dandrtall@gmail.com](mailto:dandrtall@gmail.com), our Facebook page [@pottonhallforall](https://www.facebook.com/pottonhallforall) or our website: [www.pottonhallforall.org.uk](http://www.pottonhallforall.org.uk) – where you can also find trustee nomination forms in the document section.

Onwards and upwards!

# 1250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Potton's twin town - Langenlonsheim.

In celebration of Langenlonsheim's 1250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year we will be presenting the town with a tile mosaic for public display in Potton Platz, an area dedicated to Potton and which commemorates our twinning since 1986.



The mosaic is being designed by specialist mosaic artist Claire Costello and the community of Potton will have the opportunity to help with its production, with guidance and support from the designer.

The Langenlonsheim Mosaic Gift Workshops will be held at the **Community Centre in Brook End on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 10am until 4pm.**

**Further updates will appear on social media and the town council website.**



# Launch of Potton Recycling Scheme

**A new scheme to encourage people to recycle more whilst raising money for the Potton Hall for All was launched on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March with help from some enthusiastic scouts.**

The Potton Recycling Scheme collection bins officially opened at the Potton Four Seasons Market in March. The bins can accept all empty crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, baby food pouches, toothpaste tubes and tooth brushes. These items will be recycled by eco-firm Terracycle in exchange for cash, which will go towards the Potton Hall for All project.

Members of 1<sup>st</sup> Potton Scout Group were on hand to help distribute leaflets and put items in to the correct bins. They did a great job of stamping down the crisp packets inside one of the bins as it started to fill up.

Potton Hall For All Chairman, Geoff Emery said: "The trustees of Potton Hall for All



Phill Banks, Vice Chairman of Potton Hall For All, officially launching the new scheme, assisted by Jill White, scheme organiser.

are very pleased to be able to support this initiative as it is a great fit with our charity vision for a sustainable building and low carbon exemplar."

The scheme also has the backing of Central Bedfordshire Council which provided the bins. Its Waste Service team said: "People of Potton, we absolutely love this, please get involved!"

The bins will be kept outside Potton Town Council's offices in Brook End, so available at any time. Each bin has details of exactly what can be accepted. The items collected will be sent to Terracycle for recycling and will, in turn, collect points which can be converted into cash donations for the Hall for All.

**For more information see:**  
[facebook.com/pottonrecycling](https://facebook.com/pottonrecycling)  
[terracycle.co.uk/en-GB/brigades](https://terracycle.co.uk/en-GB/brigades)  
[pottonhallforall.org.uk](https://pottonhallforall.org.uk)  
[centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/bin.aspx](https://centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/bin.aspx)

**Contact via the Potton Recycling Facebook page or Potton Town Council.**



Potton Scouts using their initiative and handing out leaflets in an eye-catching way!



# 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](http://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**.

**NHS Carer's Grant** – if you are an unpaid family carer then you could be entitled to apply for a grant of up to £300 per year to pay for a service, item or activity which helps your health and wellbeing. Carers in Bedfordshire administer the grants and Andrea can assist you in applying.

**Foodbank vouchers** – if you are struggling to keep yourself fed due to a temporary change in income such as a benefits issue, then Andrea can refer you for a Foodbank parcel to tide you over. Contact her in confidence.



**Potton Friendship Group** – we meet every Thursday morning 10am-12pm at the Community Centre, Brook End. Chat over tea/coffee, quiche and homemade cake. Have a game of carpet bowls or play cards, crib or dominoes. A warm welcome awaits you. £2.50 entry. Day trips are often organised.

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 with support from the Town Council.



**Computer tablet workshop** – Andrea and John are more than happy to support anyone over 60 with their tablet or iPad. Pop down to our drop-in at the Community Centre on a Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits served.





Cllr Adam Zerny's report.

## CBC unwilling to take action against developer

**The development work currently ongoing in the fields to the west of Biggleswade Road, Potton has seen local wildlife destroyed but Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is adamant it will not punish those responsible.**

I recently spent a fairly sobering time with a family from Biggleswade Road. We stood in their back garden where the rolling rural idyll previously visible had been replaced by a churning eyesore. Where only a week earlier there had been green fields now sat a roughly-ploughed mess of earth movers and isolated trees. The family told me how they had often seen foxes, muntjac deer, owls and birds of prey in what had once been a beautiful bucolic scene. Sadly, it didn't look like any of this rare wildlife was going to be seen here for much longer.

Eighteen months ago I broke the sad tidings of the Gladman appeal result whereby the long battle I'd fought alongside local residents had come to an end with the Government's inspector ruling the development of 85 houses could be built on the southern edge of our town. We had argued that with more than 300 houses already approved, Potton did not require any more for now. We'd also highlighted the rural setting and had cited the lack of infrastructure. The inspector apparently disagreed.

In April, I became aware development would begin soon, as CBC told me it would be allowing temporary closure of the footpath through the fields. When I complained, our Council stated this was allowable because another bridleway/footpath can be used along the edge of the golf club whilst working is taking place.



Days later, residents were disturbed by the roar of heavy machinery and watched the green of the fields begin to turn to sandy brown and be carted off in huge vehicles.

People soon brought to my attention that apparently protected trees had seen their roots exposed and that topsoil had been removed underneath the canopy of protected trees. I also learnt that the company responsible had removed a whole hedge.

### **CBC came out to investigate and wrote to me to say:**

"It does look like a small section of hedge, approx. 25m, has been taken out which they should not have done. Looking at the remaining hedge it was a young hedge as the plastic protective shrouds are still in place so luckily I don't think it was of huge wildlife benefit. The developers are aware they must reinstate this section"

Yes, you read that right. The hedge was 'not of huge wildlife benefit' according to our nature-protecting Council!

### **I was also told CBC had**

"checked the trees around the area and could not find any evidence of nesting birds"

Not a great surprise to find no evidence of nesting birds given the hedge had just been removed.

I received further reports works were still ongoing around the trees and I told CBC they need to return to the site. I also asked:

- What fine will be charged to the contractor for removing the hedge?
- Can we also ensure they are not allowed to work in Central Beds again?

■ If, as I suspect the answer will be, you can do nothing to punish them, how can you expect developers not to just remove any troublesome wildlife or vegetation which it gets in their way?

### **CBC has since come back to me to say it has:**

"checked with our Tree and Landscape Officer and confirmed that no offence has been committed under the Hedgerow legislation as we have been advised the hedge was planted 22 years ago. The legislation protects hedgerows over 30 years old. The developers are placing heras fencing around the trees and hedgerow on site today. No damage was caused to the tree with a tree protection order and the other trees did not have TPOs. The developer will be replanting hedgerow and they have back filled the soil around one of the trees. No further action will be taken at this time with regards to the hedgerow and trees."

**So there you have it. Too little too late and nothing to punish the contractor. Bear that in mind next time the Council insists new developments will be fine because 'mitigating measures' will be in place to protect wildlife.**



# Living Churchyard Workshop Day

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July  
9:30am - 4:30pm

**St Mary the Virgin Church, Potton**



## Talks and workshops include:

- Lichens • Swifts • Tree care • Working with schools
- Building a nest box • Managing grassland

There is no charge for the day but booking is essential via  
[www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-churchyards-2](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-churchyards-2)