

Autumn Edition 2019

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



Potton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2035

We are almost there!

Next step is a referendum...

Having received the report from our Independent Examiner and amended the Potton Neighbourhood Plan as required, we have reached the final stage of the process - a referendum to ask if you want Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Potton to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

CBC is planning to hold this referendum in October (date to be confirmed).

In preparation for the referendum, we are also holding two drop-in Neighbourhood Plan Surgeries to answer any questions that you may have and hopefully to persuade you to vote YES in the referendum. The surgeries will be held in Potton's Community Centre on:

Thursday 12th September 7pm - 9pm

The Potton Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be downloaded from our website:

Saturday 14th September 10am - 12pm



Paper copies of the Potton Neighbourhood Plan are available to read in Potton Library.





Chairman's message

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

Following on from the recent Central Bedfordshire elections, I have had the privilege of once again being elected as Chairman of the Town Council.

This will be my fourth and final year as Chairman as I hand over the role to one of my colleagues next May. A change of Chair is a healthy thing and I feel that it is good to have a change of leadership on a regular basis. Where have I heard that before!

I reported back in May that work being carried out by the Town Council concerning the Market Town Regeneration programme had been completed as a result of the car park extension being delivered. Since that time, we have expressed our support to participate in a new scheme - the High Street Heritage Action Zone. This will be another opportunity for the Town Council to work with local businesses and bid for central government monies to improve our town square and the conservation area in the centre of town We have approached local businesses and look forward to working with some of them on a (hopefully) successful bid. Again, this could potentially give some of our businesses the opportunity to improve the look and feel of their premises as well bring in and retain trade in the market square. I hope to keep you posted with developments as they progress.

The Town Council recently facilitated a Living Churchyard workshop at St Mary's church in Potton in



association with the church and the Diocese of St Albans. This workshop aimed to highlight the recent changes made in the churchyard at St Mary's and how we have encouraged the growth of wild flowers and plants that promoted a healthy habitat for wildlife and pollinating insects. The workshop was a success and we received great feedback from the locals that attended as well as the Diocese. Our storyboards are now in place around the churchyard, explaining what we are trying to achieve and what to look out for. Have a look at them the next time you visit.



It's sad to say that we have still been experiencing too high a rate of crime in and around Potton over past few months. Shed, garage and vehicle crime seems to be particularly prevalent so please ensure all buildings and out houses are locked up, vehicles are secure and should you see or experience any crimes report these online at www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime or call 101. Recent figures distributed by our CBC councillor, Adam Zerny, also suggest

the majority of motorists are speeding in and around the town. I would urge you all to keep to the limits imposed and to be wary of



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

officers from Bedfordshire Police and our Potton Speedwatch group. The police



and Speedwatch will be out and about to ensure these limits are enforced and that the town is safe for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, children.

Our recent Langenlonsheim Mosaic workshops in the Community Centre have been hugely successful and residents of Potton have been instrumental in creating a new mosaic that will be permanently displayed in Potton Platz, Langenlonsheim (see page 7). The mosaic is our gift to mark the 1,250th anniversary of the town. It is my hope that it will remain on display for many years to come and act as a reminder of our twin-town links between Potton and Langenlonsheim. There will be more on this in the Winter edition of the newsletter



Langenlongsheim Mosaic Workshop

Finally, it's the end of an era in our local churches as the Reverend Gill Smith has stepped down as the Rector of St Mary's Church (Potton), St John the Baptist Church (Cockayne Hatley) and All Saints Church (Sutton). We wish her and her husband Bob well in their retirement and hope that they enjoy life in Norfolk and don't completely forget about Potton!

Best Wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald



Town Council Information

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

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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
Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Chris Temple	262535
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 27th August Tuesday 1st October

Councillor Surgeries

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

Saturday 21st September Cllr Andy Gibb and Cllr Ben Massey Saturday 19th October

Cllr Richard Harris and Cllr Les Ivall

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

The next edition is planned for delivery in October 2019. If you would like information to be included, please email:

pottoncouncil@btconnect.com by midday on Tuesday 3rd September. 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.



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What should I report to whom?



What do I report to the Town Council?

Potton Town Council is responsible for:

- Henry Smith Playing Fields
- Brook End Car Park
- Community Centre at Brook End
- Mill Lane Recreation Ground
- Mill Lane Pavilion
- Allotments on Everton Road
- Potton Cemetery on Sandy Road
- Public conveniences at Brook End
- Churchyard at St Mary's Church
- Some of the street lights
- Most grass verges around the town on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council

Town Council contact details are on page 4.



What do I report to Central Bedfordshire Council?

Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for:

- Social Services
- Education
- Roads and Highways safety signs
- Potholes
- Drain gulleys
- Waste collections and recycling
- Street cleaning and litter picking
- Bottle banks
- Dog Warden and Pest Control
- Street signs (road names)
- Planning applications

Any of these items above should be reported to: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 8000. For any additional information visit

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Dates for the Diary

September

Sat 7 th - Sun 8 th	8 th The Potton Flower and Vegetable Show	
Tue 10 th	Dementia Friendly Community Workshop	Page 11
Sun 15 th	Potton Civic Service	Page 10
Sat 21st	Four Seasons Market	Page 12
Sun 29 th	Potton Apple Day	Page 13

October

Sat 12 th	Autumn Litter Pick	Page 13
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Special Thanks

Special thanks go out to local artist Ian Russell for repainting the letters on the newly refurbished Henry Smith Playing Fields gates. We hope you agree the gates look splendid!

Anyone for Table Tennis?

In the Autumn 2018 edition of the Potton Town Council newsletter, we asked Potton residents to give their thoughts regarding the installation of an external table tennis table in the playground at Henry Smith Playing Fields and whether it would be popular and frequently used.





We are delighted to announce that the table tennis table was delivered on 22nd July in time for the Summer holidays. We hope that it will prove a popular and well-used addition to the play equipment!

Mosaic Workshops

On the 5th and 6th July workshops were held at the Community Centre, Brook End to populate sections of the mosaic which will be presented at the end of August to our twin town - Langenlonsheim. This is a gift from the people of Potton in celebration of Langenlonsheim's 1250th anniversary.

Over fifty Potton residents, young and old, participated in the workshops each being given a specific area of the mosaic to work on by Claire Costello, the designer, who was overseeing the activities. The atmosphere in the hall was very sociable and everybody enjoyed making their small piece of history. Excellent progress was made and Claire has now taken the sections back for final assembly of the complete item.

In addition, a presentation book has been produced which verbally and photographically records the events leading up to the unveiling of the mosaic in Langenlonsheim. One copy will be sent to Germany and a second will remain in Potton.



It is hoped that a public viewing of the mosaic can be arranged before it sets off on its journey to Langenlonsheim.

For further updates keep in touch with Potton Town Council's social media.















Tracey Wye

Central Bedfordshire Councillors' Reports

Climate Emergency motion passed

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) committed to tackle climate change at July's full council meeting.

I have been working with Executive Member for Transformation Cllr Steven Dixon to begin formulating new policy which will infuse all council decisions with the need to consider carbon. emissions as soon as possible.

The vote paves the way for CBC to lead by example, encourage a culture change among residents and make financial investment into green tech.

The ambition is to be carbon neutral by 2030, and possibly carbon positive.

I am truly delighted the council has joined the swell of local authorities, businesses and organisations which have embraced the need for change.

The next few months will see a lot of work in the background as policy is formulated and costed and we hope to have a solid plan by early next year.

Cllr Tracey Wye, Potton Ward tracevwve@icloud.com

Central Beds signals huge u-turn on local development at Local Plan inquiry

It has emerged that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is about to announce a major retreat on one of the key parts of its Local Plan strategy, that of the vast numbers of houses proposed east of Biggleswade and in between Tempsford and Everton.

The Local Plan shows where houses will be built in our area, in the next 15 years and originally involved huge numbers being constructed around Biggleswade and Sandy. It is now more than a year since the Plan was approved - despite opposition from many members of the public and Independent councillors - but before it can be formally adopted by the Council, the Plan must be approved by a Government inspector. The inspector's public inquiry has recently taken place and a number of the new Independent

councillors have attended to express their concerns about the Plan.

We have spoken at the inquiry alongside other Independent councillors, councillors representing parish and town councils and other residents. Also having their say have been a number of developers and their representatives. CBC have had as many as three QCs speaking on their behalf, but notable by their absence have been the Council officers responsible for producing the Local Plan and the councillors who

were most vocal in advocating it, a year ago. This is unsurprising as the Plan has taken much criticism.

We have drawn attention to the flawed process offered by CBC, citing the following:

- The Plan was allowed to advance despite public opposition of more than 99% in some areas
- Little justification of CBC's estimates of the number of houses required
- Lack of planning for infrastructure such as healthcare and education.

Adam has also pointed out how little explanation there was for why certain sites were selected and others were not, and described the Council's Local Plan process as "a shambles".

At which point the Inspector revealed something very interesting...

But first some background. As mentioned above, when the Local Plan was being debated at the Council, CBC was very keen to include 5.000 houses proposed east of Biggleswade (which stretched almost to Sutton and Dunton) and the 10,000 in between Tempsford and Everton, Both huge developments. At the time Adam pointed out that CBC had very little evidence these were appropriate locations and eventually the Council agreed to put them in an appendix of 'sites for future growth'. To many, banishing them to this Appendix 7 was not enough. The Plan still implied they were suitable for development even if it wasn't going to happen immediately.

The inspector explained that CBC had approached him to say it was

now prepared to consider removing the whole of this Appendix 7 thus taking the sites out of the plan completely.

On 18th July, Adam attended a special hearing where the Council formally proposed removing Appendix 7. Adam spoke in favour of this removal as did other local Independent councillor, Hayley Whitaker. Of course many developers turned-up to argue the appendix should not be removed! Again no officers or any of the councillors who had originally proposed the Local Plan found time to attend.

We await the Inspector's decision.

To find out more about this and other local issues, drop us an email to receive our monthly email newsletter,

Cllr Adam Zerny and Cllr Tracey Wye adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk and traceywye@icloud.com



Potton Civic Service

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Angus Macdonald, will be holding his Civic Service this year on Sunday 15th September at St Mary's Church, Potton.



It has been confirmed that Deputy Lieutenant Nick Keir BEM will be attending with his wife Rebecca, on behalf of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Helen Nellis.



Other dignitaries have been invited and Potton residents are welcome to attend. We hope that the attendance will surpass previous years.



Little POP - Picnic in the Park

What a day! The sun shone, the bands sang and we all had a great time at a Little Bit of POP in the Park, which was bigger and better than ever this year.

Our warm-up for the Big Weekend went with a swing thanks to Saxman Diggle,

who kicked the day off with some funky tunes, followed by the fabulous funk and soul sounds of Leanora Soul. Then Dan Arnold chilled us all out before the Cardinal Kings rocked the Henry Smith Playing Fields. Thanks to all our acts, our lovely volunteers and thanks to you, the wonderful Pottonians,

who never fail to put the Party into Party On Potton. Next stop – **next year's Big Weekend, 28th-31st August 2020** – save the date and we'll see you there!



Youth Delivery

Groundwork Luton and Bedfordshire who run Potton Youth Club advise attendance has been rising continuously for several weeks now and they are attracting nearly forty attendees, which is fantastic for the town. They run many activities every week ranging from cooking sessions, arts and crafts, sports and many more. The club has seen the youths develop their social skills as well as their communication skills. Young people feel more comfortable talking to the youth workers and have built a fantastic relationship with them, which has allowed the staff to be able to communicate across any issues with parents and school.





The town council met in July to discuss whether to continue funding the Youth Club from October 2019. At the meeting it was resolved to fund the youth club for a further six months until the end of March 2020. Central Bedfordshire Council's Youth Service have agreed to match fund the youth provision.

Potton Youth Club takes place on a Wednesday in the Community Centre, Brook End from 5.30pm - 7.30pm, for school years 7 - 11.

Making our town dementia-friendly

In June 2019, Potton Town Council hosted a Dementia Friends Information Session at Mill Lane Pavilion.

Following on from this, the Town Council invites local businesses and residents to a further workshop being held at the Community Centre, Brook End on **Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm** 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.

For more information, take a look at the previous article on page 11 of the Summer 2019 Newsletter on the Potton Town Council website www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/RC812_Potton-Town-Council-Summer-2019-Newsletter-V4.pdf.







The Potton Flower and Vegetable Show

The 46th Potton Flower and Vegetable Show will be held in the marquee on St Mary's Church Field and in St Mary's Church Hall on **Saturday 7th September 2019**, opening at 2pm.

Schedules will be available from Tysoes hardware, Potton Post Office and Potton Library or can be downloaded from **www.pottonshow.org.uk**.

To compete in the show, anyone can enter the various classes ranging from flowers, vegetables, fruit, cookery, art, handicrafts and photography.





There will be a barn dance with the Ivel Band and Caller on **Saturday 7**th **September** starting at 8pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance and includes a fish and chip supper.

On **Sunday 8th September** there is a **Craft Fair in the marquee from 12pm to 5pm.**



Christmas lights installation

The work to put up and take down Potton's Christmas lights is undertaken every year entirely by volunteers on behalf of the Town Council.

We will commence putting the lights up on **Sunday 3rd November**, so if you would like to provide your assistance and join the Christmas Lights Team, **feel free to come down to the Market Square at 10am to help!**

Contact Denis Ellison on 261925 for further information.

You are coredially invited to

Potton Apple Day

Sunday 29th September 2019

Put the date in your diary for this year's Potton Apple Day at St Mary's Church hall and field from 12pm to 4pm. If you have apples, bring them along to turn into juice. If not, come and help with the chopping and pressing. It's thirsty work so CAMRA are on hand with a range of delicious local ciders. Teas and apple treats are provided indoors by the Potton Hall For All team, with roast pork baps and Indian veggie snacks served in the field.

To have your apples identified, bring a representative handful, along with stalk and leaves. Choose from a wide variety of apples to taste and buy from the nearby family-run Cam Valley Orchard. Our own orchard is still very young, but there will be photos and an update on progress so far. It's a fun, free family day out with orchard related stalls, a potter's wheel and fruity live music!

Call Sally on 01767 262258 or checkout the Potton Apple Day Facebook page.

A fun, free, family day out









Registered Charity no. 1158751

The five-year clock is ticking!

An update from the Hall for All Committee regarding the critical point that the project has now reached and how we plan to work together with you all on the next phase.



pay money into community projects,

known as Section 106 money.

The biggest slice of this money which has been promised to Potton Hall for All comes from the Tall Trees development. The payment is triggered in phases when the developer sells a certain number of houses. CBC has invoiced the developer for the final part of the money, which is held by them until the hall is built. This is good news for us, but it sets a deadline - the money will be lost to us if building has not commenced within five years.

The countdown commenced on 24th May 2019, so it is very important that we move forward quickly and because of this, we are looking at different ways of creating an affordable building so that we have it sooner rather than later. One of the options to do this is to build in phases.

Noting that it is some time since we talked to people about their potential use of the hall, we really need to talk again to make sure the hall is really wanted and used, so we will be following this note up soon with some questions.

The Trustees are Phill Banks, Craig Gant, Kim Gutteridge and Liz Smith who is now Chairman of the Trustees. The previous Chairman, Geoff Emery, stepped down at our recent AGM after leading us to the point of obtaining full planning permission for the hall, which incorporates the features requested as well as providing sustainability through hi-tech green features. The Trustees are supported by a committee to spread the load who are always looking for additional volunteers. You can get in touch via dandrtall@gmail.com, our Facebook page @pottonhallforall.org.uk.

Onwards and upwards as we work together to create a great building for this and future generations of Pottonians!

Meanwhile, we will be participating at:

- The Potton Show 7th September
- Murder Mystery Nights 21st and 22nd September
- Potton Apple Day 29th September
- Christmas Lights Switch On
 29th November
- Seasonal Market 14th December

School Open Days

www.pottonfederation.co.uk

Potton Lower School Reception to Year 4





Open Morning

Friday 22nd November 2019 at 9am - 11am

Talks by the Executive Headteacher at **9am** and **10am**.

Tours of the school and refreshments throughout the morning.
Children welcome.

Potton Middle School Year 5 to Year 8





Open Evening and Morning

Tuesday 12th November from 7pm

Talk by the Executive Headteacher followed by pupil-led guided tours.

Wednesday 13th November at 9am - 11am

Come and see the school in action. Children welcome.

Story Starter

Well here we are well in to the build of the storytelling chair (#storytellingchair). I hope you can see from the photograph that it is taking the form of an apple with segments cut from it. There are two segments which are cut from the main part of the apple, this is going to be the story teller's seat and the two smaller seaments are going to be there for children to rest and listen to stories. I am currently working on stamping phrases, which are "Story Openers", for example "Once upon a time", and these will be on the part of the skin of the apple where the flesh and skin meet. The same concept will be replayed on the endocarp part of the apple, this is the husk which separates the seed from fruit.



The excitement is building in my workshop as the sculptures I am making for the Tall Trees development take shape. I will be calling the #storytellingchair "Story Starter". It is a simple fact that I want it to be a place to sit and tell a tale. If anyone wishes to take a peek at the project's progress, then by all means drop me a message - paul@paulpibworth.co.uk; you will be more than welcome.



