



Potton voted YES!

Thank you to those who voted in the referendum. **Central Bedfordshire Council must now consult Potton's Neighbourhood Plan when deciding planning applications in the parish.**



Potton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2035

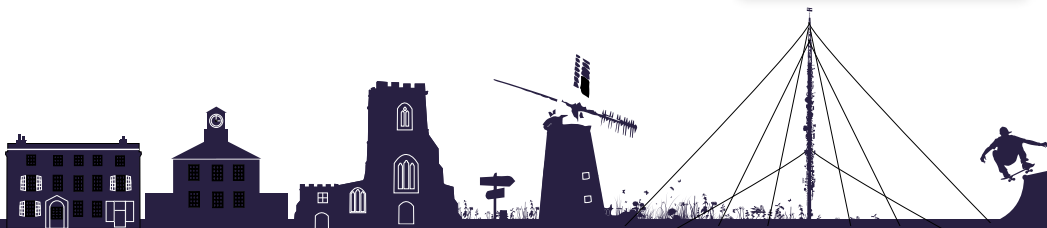
	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a YES	1245	95.92%
Number cast in favour of a NO	50	3.85%

Electorate: 4048, Ballot Papers Issued: 1298, Turnout: 32.06%

Next Steps

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will now finalise the Implementation and Monitoring processes and will be developing an action plan to make sure that the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are followed. Working groups will then be set up to help take the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

The Potton Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be downloaded from **www.pottonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk** and paper copies are available to read in Potton Library.





Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the Winter edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

The days are shortening, the harvest is in. The best of our gardens and the fruits of our labours have been displayed at the Potton Show and Potton Apple Day, which once again offered fresh apple juice and some fine, local cider. It's a time of year that local bridleways and verges seem to get cut, after being overgrown for most of the summer!

It's also a time of year that we hold our Civic Service to give thanks for all those that work and volunteer in our public services across the town and the county. This year we were joined by Deputy Lieutenant Nick Kier who recently received his British Empire Medal awarded to him in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Nick was representing the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, and was accompanied by his wife Rebecca.



**Deputy Lieutenant
Nick Kier BEM**

During the Civic Service, we took the opportunity to recognise three of our own volunteers for service to the community of Potton. John Lewis, Alan Leggatt and Peter Langridge have amassed over 75 years' service between them on Potton Town Council.



**Alan Leggatt, Peter Langridge
and John Lewis with their awards**



**Angus Macdonald, DL Nick Kier,
Rebecca Kier and Debbie Macdonald**



Peter Langridge, Angus Macdonald
and Alan Leggatt



Awarded Gift

When you add up the amount of time spent in attending Town Council meetings, carrying out work around the community, representing Potton Town Council at various Central Bedfordshire Council (previously Mid Bedfordshire District Council and Bedfordshire County Council) meetings, holding council surgeries and listening to feedback from residents whilst going about their daily lives, it does represent a significant personal investment for the benefit of Potton.

The Town Council decided to recognise this personal investment by awarding each of the three gentlemen a gift to mark this achievement; unfortunately, John Lewis, who was planning to be present, was unable to attend.

Four Seasons Market



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL



Sat 14th December
9am – 1pm



For more information visit
pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market

Just over a year ago now the town received an invitation from Langenlonsheim Ortsbürgermeister Bernhard Wolf, inviting everyone to visit our German twin town Langenlonsheim in 2019 to help the town celebrate its 1,250th anniversary. Events have been going on all year in Langenlonsheim and culminated in *Lalo feiert* at the end of August. *Lalo feiert*, to put it another way, was the equivalent of Party on Potton and marked the end of the anniversary celebrations.



Twenty-seven people from Potton made the journey and joined in the celebrations. All were made to feel very welcome indeed by our gracious hosts and at the end of the celebrations, Mayor Bernhard Wolf received the mosaic that had been created in Potton as a commemorative gift to Langenlonsheim for this special occasion. We hope to see some of our German friends making a similar journey next year when Potton once again celebrates Party on Potton.

Looking ahead towards the end of the year, **Remembrance Sunday is on 10th November** this year and our annual service will take place in the Market Square from 10:15am onwards. The service will be followed by the traditional parade to the War Memorial at Potton Cemetery in Sandy Road. There is always a huge turnout for this event, and I encourage all of you to spread the word about this and the other annual events we have with our new neighbours.



Potton-Platz, Langenlonsheim



Tommy at the War Memorial





We will be putting up our Christmas lights on **Sunday 3rd November** and getting ready for the festive season. Volunteers are always welcome and should you wish to assist, you can do so by contacting Denis Ellison via the Town Council. The date for your diaries this year is **Friday 29th November for the Big Switch On**. Entertainment starts at 6pm and the lights will be turned on at 7pm. Once again, spread the word. That way we avoid the regular "When do the lights go on?" questions on *We Love Potton* before, during and after the event!



Christmas lights

Thank you to everyone who voted yes to support our Neighbourhood Plan following the recent local referendum. Referendums tend to be contentious things these days, however the Neighbourhood Plan has been set up for the benefit of Potton and to ensure future development is sustainable and meets the needs of our community. I would personally like to thank the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their work over the last four years to get the plan adopted.



Finally, thank you to all who joined the Autumn Litterpick organised by Cllr Carol Leggatt and Alan Leggatt.

Enjoy the newsletter.

Best Wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald

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.

Tel: 01767 260086

E: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

W: www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

Town Councillors

John Day	07986 124440
Denis Ellison	261925
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

Town Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 5th November

Tuesday 3rd December

Tuesday 7th January

Councillor Surgeries

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

Saturday 16th November

Cllr Leggatt and Cllr Price Williams

Saturday 14th December

Cllr Day and Cllr Macdonald

Saturday 11th January

Cllr Ellison and Cllr Lean

Saturday 8th February

Cllr Price Williams and Cllr Temple

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

The next edition is planned for delivery in February 2020. If you would like information to be included, please email:

pottoncouncil@btconnect.com by midday on Monday 16th December. 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.

The future of our newsletter

If you are reading this item; excellent! It means that you are taking the time to read this newsletter and are keeping up to date with what the Town Council is doing on your behalf.

However, many do not read printed magazines and newsletters, preferring to access their information online.

This presents a dilemma for the Town Council of how to meet the preferences of the whole community going forward. Printing Potton Town Council News in this format and delivering it to all homes in Potton costs approximately £1,200 for a 16-page edition and councillors are keen to ensure this is considered value for money by the whole community.

So, over the next 12 months the Town Council is going to be doing some research to establish if there are other ways to meet everyone's needs and preferences.

One suggestion is to not deliver a copy to every household, but only to those that specifically request it. Copies could be made available around the town in public locations such as the doctors, dentist,



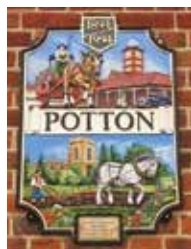
library, churches, post office, shops and pubs etc, and an online version accessible by all. The link could be sent to those who request it and it would be available on the council website and facebook page.

What are your views? If you had the option to read this online, would you prefer this or would you prefer a printed copy delivered directly to you?

Please do let us know so we can help the Social Media Sub-Committee work out the best way forward. Email pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com. We would appreciate receiving your responses by **Friday 29th November**.

Potton Town Council's 125th Anniversary

Potton Parish Council was first elected on 17th December 1894 after the introduction of the Parish Councils Act in the same year.



Following the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council became a Town Council. In 1994, the Town Council erected a crest on the Clock House to commemorate 100 years of the Town and Parish Council.



Members of the First Parish Council - Elected 1894

The Crest was refurbished earlier this year.

Speeding in Potton

Speeding is one of the top complaints received at the Town Council and is indeed something we continually seek to address with Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Police.



Many conversations go on to berate the 20 MPH zones. The complaints are that the 20 MPH limits are ignored, the police do not present a high enough profile to deter speeders, and when drivers adhere to the limits, they are often overtaken by others less caring.

The reality we see is that, in a 30 MPH zone drivers typically drive at speeds above this – this was certainly the case around Potton before we adopted the 20 MPH zones, now the results from speed watch, from automatic road traffic sensors and from the Police show that most drivers are travelling through the 20 MPH zones at speeds somewhat less than 30 MPH. That still means very many are breaking the law and speeding, but it's a positive result for road safety with the average speeds being reduced.

Unfortunately, we are always going to suffer from those who want to speed and see anyone driving slowly as a challenge to overtake. These people are always around and unfortunately will continue to be.

So, what can we do to improve the safety of our roads in Potton?

Driving through the town at around 20 MPH typically causes those behind to fall in line and in general we can all help to make our roads safer by being that 20 MPH rolling roadblock to faster traffic.



Reporting excessive speeding to the police via their website especially if it's local repeat offenders. Time, location, direction of travel, number plate, colour and make of car; it's a long list but it helps the police. The police can and will then target known serious repeat offenders.

Talk to the town councillors, our CBC ward councillors Adam and Tracey and our local police. Tell them what you see are problem areas.

Join our speedwatch team of volunteers; currently we are only out for two or three hours a month. Do you have an odd hour or two a month you could give to become one of the team or do you have computer and Excel spreadsheet skills to be able to complete the reports?

What none of us should do is make any attempt to stop, apprehend or even enter into conversation with speeding motorists. That's what the police are paid for. The first lesson on any Speedwatch training lesson is how not to react to speeding motorists.

Drive safely around our town and remember, even a small car weighs almost a tonne and at speeds of over 30 MPH will PROBABLY kill. At just 5 or 10 MPH slower the likelihood falls massively! That's why we have 20 MPH limits. They save lives!

Councillor Denis Ellison
Speedwatch Coordinator

Findings from the Town Benchmarking Report

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Business Confidence and Town Centre User Benchmarking surveys during June and July 2019. We received 129 surveys from Town Centre Users and 4 surveys from local businesses which means we now have comparison figures from the previous survey which took place in 2017. The findings below are just a summary of the full report which you can view on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the website www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk.

% Town Centre Users	Potton 2017 %	Potton 2019 %	National Small Towns %
General findings			
Recommending a visit to the town centre	91	94	72
Spending £10.01-£20.00 on a normal visit to Potton	35	36	32
Visiting for 'Convenience Shopping'	74	68	44
Visiting Potton at least once a week	94	91	81
Travelling to the town centre on foot	54	64	40
Travelling to the town centre by car	43	36	55
Positive general aspects of the town centre			
Physical appearance	80	93	45
Access to services	54	73	57
Ease of walking around the town centre	64	62	59
Convenience, eg near where you live	81	81	69
Negative general aspects of the town centre			
Transport links	39	37	19
Car parking	62	44	43
Retail offer	14	22	47
How long do you stay in the town centre			
Less than an hour	67	68	35
1-2 hours	24	25	44

% Business Confidence	Potton 2017 %	Potton 2019 %	National Small Towns %
Commercial unit vacancy rates	0	2	9
Positive general aspects of the town centre			
Physical appearance	53	25	50
Geographical location	60	25	47
Mix of retail offer	33	75	50
Car parking	33	75	27
Prosperity of the town	47	50	42
Potential local customers	67	50	74
Negative general aspects of the town centre			
Car parking	83	67	44
Transport links	25	33	15
Competition from other localities	25	33	29
Competition from the internet	8	33	44
Footfall	8	33	23

Where has all the water gone?

Just about everyone who has walked through the Henry Smith Playing Fields in recent years will have noted and indeed many have commented to the council – “Where has all the water gone?”

Not so many years ago the Horse Brook (as this small brook on the town side of the park is known) always maintained a good head of water even through the dry days of summer and indeed there were good stocks of small roach, rudd and even the odd pike seen through the usually crystal clear water. Now only the ducks and moorhens remain, and they have to wade through thick silt to cross instead of gliding across the water.

So, what has happened, where has our water gone and what do we need to do to get it back?

Potton Town Council has been making investigations together with the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards (IDB). The IDB are the official agency responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Potton Brook which runs along the opposite side of the playing fields.

Initial investigations have identified multiple causes all of which are having a combined effect on the water levels of the Horse Brook.



September 2017



September 2019

Where has all the water gone?

The brook rises on the outskirts of Gamlingay and, within its first mile of existence, passes through two farms which are permitted to extract water for their agriculture within the allowances of The Environment Agency who licence and control such things. Through the IDB, we are seeking to find if anything can be done to limit or control the amounts taken if this extraction results in the failure of the brook in Henry Smith Playing Fields.

The Environment Agency has advised that the ground water levels around the source are much lower over the past few years due to dry winters, therefore the levels of flow even without extraction would be down. For this we can only pray for rain throughout the year!

A storm protection cross over chamber, installed in the poplar woods behind Potton Manor, allows any storm surge of water travelling down Horse Brook to be diverted into Potton Brook. During the rare times there is a significant flow to this point, it is diverted away which means that the Horse Brook continues to miss any significant flood flow to wash through the build-up of silt deposits. This chamber is the responsibility of the IDB, and they are investigating its performance.

Before the Horse Brook enters Potton, it disappears below ground and runs through an underground culvert along Myers Road, across King Street and through Manor Way before rising above ground again just before the playing fields. The IDB, who are responsible for this culvert, have agreed to carry out a CCTV camera survey through the culvert to check for any obstructions.



Finally, the brook runs into the playing fields, but due to the limited water flow this section has now silted up. Once into the playing fields the brook then should flow across the old concrete spillway running in to Potton Brook.

However, the sheet piling edge where everyone feeds the ducks when there is sufficient water has been found to be leaking; what water does reach this far is lost without being able to hold a level and so this leak needs to be identified and repaired. The Town Council has been speaking to contractors for options and costs for repair and clearing the brook.

The Horse Brook is a significant feature of the Henry Smith Playing Fields and needs to be restored to its former glory. The Town Council is working towards this goal, unfortunately it is proving a muddy path, but we will get there.

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Get to know your Town Councillors

Councillor Lindsay Kitchener



I was born and bred in Potton – its history is in my DNA.

I worked as a nurse for over forty years in general and mental health within the NHS, Dudley and Cambridge Youth Offending teams and for the charities Brook and Terrence Higgins Trust. In 2018, I was ready for a change and, having trained in complementary therapies, I now work part time as a yoga teacher and reflexologist.

I have three grown up children who have now flown the nest. I play tennis for Potton Tennis Club (new members always welcome) and am currently the Social Secretary. I am one of a friendly group of volunteers helping with the early stages of creating and nurturing the Potton Community Orchard.

I want to help improve our communal spaces and sports facilities for everyone to enjoy and work towards a greener society for our own health and the environment. I am interested in promoting and increasing our recycling projects. I want to help with the Potton Hall for All development and encourage greater diversity within Potton Town Council.

Councillor Ben Massey



I have lived in Potton all my life, apart from a short time in Sandy to get on to the housing ladder. The longer I've lived here, the more I have grown to love my hometown, and I am fiercely proud to live here! I hope in my time as a councillor to help make Potton a safer and happier place to live and enjoy for all.

I work as an HGV (heavy goods vehicle) driver for a large roof truss manufacturer, which I really enjoy. I have a deep interest in military history, mainly all things Navy!

I am also an avid fan of MotoGP and like a bit of rugby, Exeter Chiefs being my team of choice, but that's another story...



Councillor Carol Leggatt



I moved to Potton with my husband in 1974 following our marriage, being the first residents in Aldgate Close. Prior to

that I had trained as a nursery nurse with the Church of England's Children Society. I was a nanny in Regents Park for five years for Caroline and Terence Conran's three children, often joined by his eldest two by a previous marriage. I continued to be a nanny for a local doctor and MP on moving to Potton.

When our two daughters arrived, I continued to be involved in childcare – St Mary's (now Potton) Pre-school, Brownies, help set up the Rainbows Group, childminding and a local school governor for 24 years. I was an organiser of Potton holiday playscheme. I have represented Pre-schools on Central Bedfordshire Schools forum and funding panel. I opened Woodentops in 1990 with a partner and worked there until my retirement in 2014.

I am a member of the Inner Wheel section of Rotary International and since June 2019 I have been President of the Sandy Branch.

Although this is my first time on town council, I have been involved on the side lines for a long time. I was involved in the steering group meetings between Potton and our twin town of Langenlonsheim. Following the signing of the Official Charter, I was Chairperson of the Twinning Association for several years. Alan and I organised ten-day trips for the young people of Potton to Langenlonsheim and reciprocal hosting here.

I am still involved with the Christmas Lights,

primarily the switch on event and I also organise the bi-annual litter picks. I would love to see us become a litter-free town! I am passionate about Potton and the special community it has, and I am looking forward to making a contribution as a Town Councillor.

What do Town Councillors do?

Town councillors have three main areas of work:

1. Decision-making: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time they have available.

How much time does it take?

Councillors spend on average about three hours a week on council work. Obviously, there are some town councillors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a town councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Do Potton Town Councillors get paid?

Working as a Town Councillor is a completely voluntary role.



Langenlonsheim Festival

29th August - 1st September 2019

Twenty-seven residents from Potton visited our twin town of Langenlonsheim at the end of August for the last of five festival weekends being held there in celebration of the 1250th anniversary of the town.

The guests were amazingly looked after by our hosts and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

On Friday we were taken out for lunch by the Bürgermeister, Bernhard Wolf and in the evening, we attended a pop concert in a large marquee with more than 1,200 people.

On Saturday a “Weinwanderung” was arranged, which was a guided tour through some of the local vineyards and woods with plenty of sampling of the produce en route and ending with a special lunch. In the afternoon, for those who wished, the aero club gave the visitors sightseeing flights from

Langenlonsheim out to the river Rhine to take in the magnificent scenery and places of interest from the air.

In the evening it was back to the festival park for an overview of the history of the town over the centuries and to celebrate the current day local talent and organisations who contribute so much to the vibrancy of Langenlonsheim.

Sunday commenced with an ecumenical church service followed by “frühschoppen” or early morning drinks and snacks with entertainment for children and adults in the festival area and marquee.

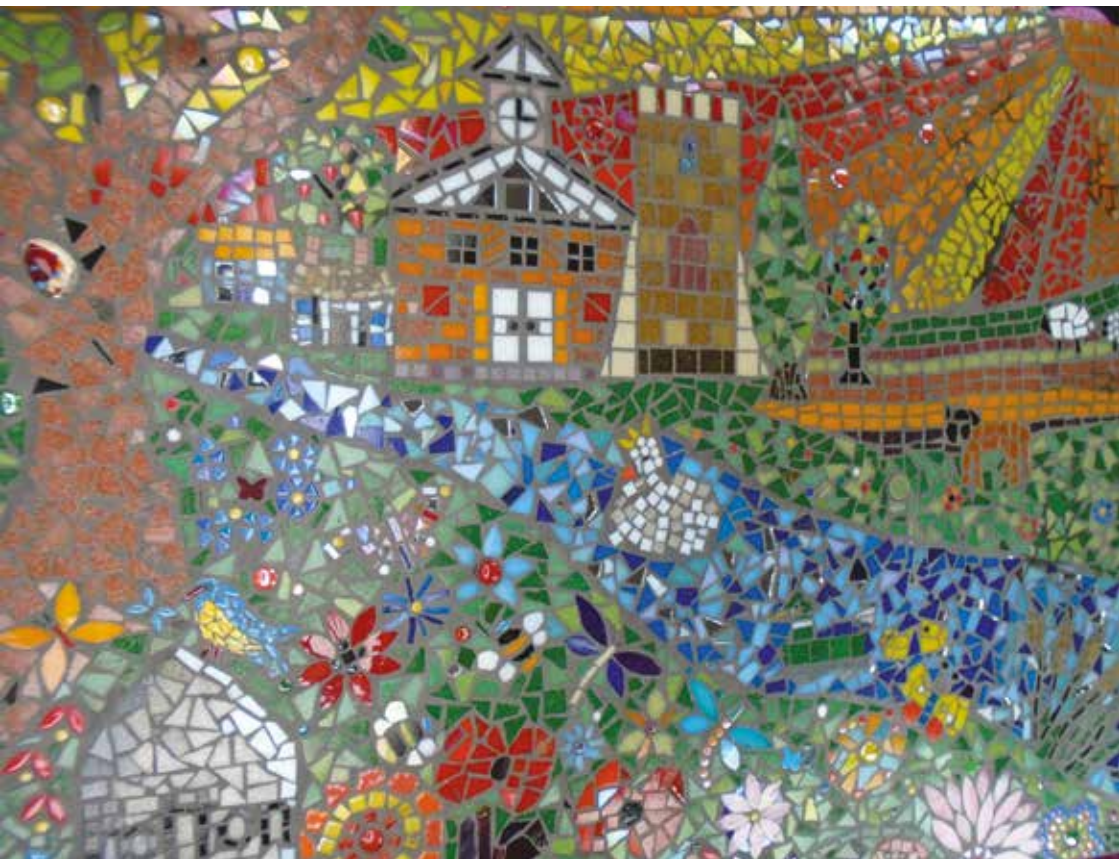
At lunchtime we presented the town with a mosaic which had been made by Potton residents and transported to Langenlonsheim for the occasion. Fifty-one people, young and old, contributed to its production at two workshops held in July. The Langenlonsheimers were really appreciative of the gift and have undertaken to get it professionally mounted in a suitable location.

Later in the afternoon we were taken on a historical tour of the town on a land train which revealed many interesting facts about life over the ages. The day finished with a closing event and an official tree planting.

On Monday it was time for the visitors to say farewell to their hosts for what was a truly a memorable trip.

Two handmade books will be produced in the coming weeks charting the history of the mosaic in words and pictures from its conception through to its ultimate installation. One will be sent to Langenlonsheim and the other to Potton History Society. We will post some pictures at a later date.

Alan & Carol Leggatt



Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Telephone: Andrea on **0300 555 5949** or Email: **andream@bedsrcc.org.uk**
Mobile: **07590 359 630** (working Weds, Thurs only)

- **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 of doing it yourself.
- **Warm Home Discount Scheme**
– the winter 2019/2020 scheme has now opened. If you have a gross household income of less than £16,000 and are over 65 then you may qualify for a £140 discount off your electricity bill. Most energy suppliers are part of the scheme. The criteria varies between suppliers so if you need help finding out if you qualify, then contact Andrea. Funds are limited and discounts are given on a first come first served basis.
- **Potton Friendship Group** – It's not just for ladies. Lots of men enjoy a chat and a game of crib or cards too. We meet every Thursday morning 10am to 12pm at the Community Centre, Brook End. Chat over tea/coffee and homemade cake and quiche. Carpet bowls is set up, or play cards, Scrabble or Triominoes. A warm and friendly welcome awaits you. £2.50 for a drink and cake.



- **Day trips** – Potton Friendship Group enjoyed trips to the Nene Valley Railway and a canal boat trip on the River Lee in Broxbourne this season. If you'd like to join us next time, then pop along to the Friendship Group.



- **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 Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12pm. Tea coffee and biscuits served.

If you have any issues you need advice or help with please contact Andrea in confidence. I am kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity with support from the Town Council.

The Potton Flower & Vegetable Show

Another successful show was held on Saturday 7th September and 154 competitors took part in the wide variety of show classes.

Congratulations to Mrs Gail Smith who was presented with the T E Housden cup for the most points in show.

The Show committee would like to thank everyone who supported us; those who entered produce, cakes, photographs, art etc. and those who simply came along to view the exhibits in the marquee, entered the fun dog show or who came to the barn dance or craft fair.

A very big thank you also to local friends and traders who donated prizes and vouchers, sold tickets, received entry forms, helped with posters, helped to run the auction, assemble stalls, transport equipment, helped to clear away, serve tea, man stalls and especially to Cyndy of Top Dog training school for suggesting and running the dog show.

There are a multitude of things that are needed to make this such a great community event - with only a small number of volunteer helpers and committee members, we could not run the show without your support. Thank you all!

If you feel that you could help next year, please contact any committee member or come along to our AGM which will be held on **18th November** in the Community Centre; you will be very welcome. You can find our details on our website www.pottonshow.org.uk

Next year's show will be on Saturday 12th September - please make a note in your diaries.



Potton Apple Day

Threat of rain didn't put off the visitors to Potton Apple Day this year.

Those that risked the 'unsettled' forecast, were rewarded with more sunshine than most years. The band played all day, dovetailing with storytelling sessions. Paul Pibworth brought his Tall Trees apple sculpture, thanks to local farmer John Ream). More appley cakes than we ever knew existed were baked by supporters of Hall For All, giving a big boost to their fundraising.

Judging the Best Cider in show is a serious and important job. We were fortunate to find some upstanding members of the community to take on the responsibility. The coveted Best Cider trophy was presented by Phill Banks on behalf of Potton Hall For All to the worthy winner, Apple Cottage Cider of Baldock. CAMRA cider stall organiser Tim Naisbitt received the trophy on their behalf.



The judges



Tim Naisbitt received the trophy

Thanks to everyone who let us scrump apples or brought them along this year, we had enough left to start next year's cider off and bottle some more lovely 'community blend' apple juice. **Look out for it on sale at the Christmas market.**





Remembrance Tommies

Remembrance Sunday is on 10th November; the service starts at 10.15am followed by the parade to the War Memorial from the Market Square at 10.30am and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial at Potton Cemetery in Sandy Road at 11am.

Potton's Remembrance Tommies will once again be on display around the town leading up to Remembrance Sunday this November.

Last year, prior to positioning the Tommies around the town, we completed a photo shoot of them along the platform of the old Potton Train Station with many thanks to George Howe and Chris Miles from the Potton History Society.

After the photos appeared on social media, many people went along to Potton's former station hoping to see

them, only to find they had already been removed.

This year in response to comments raised, and by kind permission of George Howe, we will once again position the Tommies on the platform from 1st to 4th November after which time they will be distributed around the town.

If you wish to view the Tommies at the station, please remember it is now a private house and there is no public access, so viewing is from the highway pavement only.



Congratulations to Paula!

Three and a half years after a heart transplant, Potton-born Paula Evetts competed in the British Transplant Games held in Newport, Wales in July 2019, as a team member for the Royal Papworth Hospital.

Paula won three medals during the games; a Gold for Ten Pin Bowling, a Silver in the 100m race and a Bronze in Badminton.

Congratulations Paula on your amazing achievement!



Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has made cuts to early morning bus services from Potton.

Back in 2016, CBC proposed removing half the bus services to and from Potton and at the time I raised a number of concerns about the Council's consultation and in the end CBC agreed to a public meeting in Potton. Many of you came to have your say at the time. Shortly afterwards, CBC confirmed people power had won over and agreed to go-back on the original proposal to remove half the buses.

Instead, CBC proposed to remove the earliest bus on each day, which ensured there would be at least one service to Biggleswade and Sandy departing from Potton before 8am, six days a week.

CBC has recently decided both the 7am and 7.35am service from Potton to Biggleswade will now be cut, leaving the earliest service an 8.28am departure that won't arrive in Biggleswade town centre until 8.56am, Monday to Saturday.

At time of writing, the Council has also axed four morning buses from Potton to Sandy, the 5.40am, 6.02am, 6.46am and 7.43am leaving just one, the 7.25am, still running. The earliest bus departing from Potton to Sandy on a Saturday will be the 8.43am.

These changes are due to take place at the end of September.

CBC has provided me with statistics which show the buses to Sandy, that are being removed, carry an average of 1.2 passengers per journey while those to Biggleswade carry an average of 1.7.

I have suggested to CBC that they should not assume low usage figures mean people do not want to use early morning buses and they should question whether the previous services were of use to residents who might want to travel to Sandy and Biggleswade before 8am. The old bus timetable did not tie-in with trains into London and did not offer a return journey after 6pm.

It is hard to convince a commuter to risk missing their train if a bus is late, and to forego the warmth and comfort of their own vehicle, on a January morning, if there isn't even going to be a bus to meet them in the evening!

CBC cited that part of the problem was that in order to make the bus services financially viable they would need as many stops as possible and they said commuters just didn't want to take a bus which would take 20 to 30 minutes to get to Biggleswade or Sandy station.



On behalf of local bus users, I have written to CBC reminding them of their pledge to protect early morning services, made back in 2017, but it would be useful to get as much feedback as possible from local residents.

I wish to argue a strong case for more services, but this will rely on knowing how many people travel to Biggleswade and Sandy and could use early morning buses to get to work.

Would you use early morning services if the times were more convenient? Would you use a commuter shuttle bus if there were buses running back in the evenings?



There is a brief survey we've created which will give us some helpful feedback: **www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6YCTBV3**

Or get in touch by email:

**adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk &
traceywy@icloud.com**

Or by phone: **01767 261319**

If it looks like there would be demand,
@traceywy and I can approach CBC.



Tracey Wye



Adam Zerny

Potton Library



Children's Activities

-Term time activities include Storytime on Tuesdays 9.25am to 9.55am. Lego club is every Friday 3.45pm to 5pm, & our Building club of Knex

& Lego is Saturdays 1.45pm to 3.30pm. Activities and crafts are available on many Saturdays, and during school holidays.



Space Chase Summer Challenge 2019

- a big thank you to all that took part in our summer holiday events- we had record attendances for our

activities and a larger number of children registered for the challenge too. Special thanks to our team of 11 young volunteers who helped throughout the summer.

Homework Club - On Wednesdays after school, the library is introducing a Homework club - free book requests, use of our PCs, and a free black and white print are available on each visit.

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

Central
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Libraries

I.T. - We have computers, facilities to print onto A4, & to Photocopy. Our WIFI is free to use - search for 'CBC_PUBLIC' within your settings. We offer IT help for beginners with a PC, laptop, or tablet - call in to book time with our volunteer, or staff.

Working with the Community - The library offers a book sale, and jigsaws to borrow or swap. We accept book and jigsaw donations (adult & children's), however, please speak to a member of staff beforehand.



Manage your account, search the catalogue, renew and reserve books.

Download the Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Libraries App!

Potton Youth Club

The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton

Wednesdays 5.30pm – 7.30pm

For School Years 7 -11

Free Fun Activities

The number of Youths attending the Youth Club keeps growing and has resulted in an additional member of staff now being employed by Groundwork Luton and Bedfordshire.

Potton Youth Club is mainly funded by Potton Town Council. As a result of the great attendance Central Bedfordshire Council's Youth Support Service has agreed to continue part funding towards the youth club until the end of March 2020.



Potton Town Council Hall Hire

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 260086, email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or pop in to see us. Check office opening times on page 6.



Christmas Lights



Volunteers Required!



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!

We will be taking the lights down on **Sunday 5th January** and will again be looking for volunteers to help with this. We will meet in the Market Square at 10am.

The Big Switch-On



Potton's Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on **Friday 29th November**. There will be many stalls and organisations participating, a funfair and shops opening late. Activities start at 6pm with Father Christmas switching on the lights at 7pm.

Make sure to put the date in your diary to come and join us together with the hundreds of people of Potton and beyond who look forward to these annual festivities!

