



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

Autumn Edition 2020

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

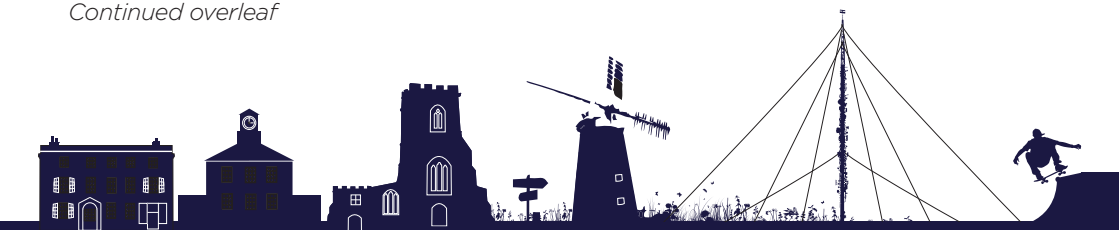


A new phase for Potton Hall for All project

Community Consultation coming soon

September sees an exciting development for the Potton Hall for All with the launch of a new campaign to kickstart the next phase of the project. In this dedicated feature, we share the very latest on the project – a recap on activity so far, and news about the important role Potton residents can play in the next stages to bring the Hall to life.

Continued overleaf



Introducing the team behind the scenes

The project is being delivered in partnership with Potton Town Council and is coordinated by Potton Hall for All. This registered charity is working to build and then run the purpose-built community hall in Potton, to offer a brand new, flexible and fully accessible space in which all kinds of activities can take place.

The story so far

A huge amount of work has been done to realise the vision for a Hall for All for the people of Potton, with full planning permission and substantial funding in place.

The Potton Hall for All charity trustees and its team of volunteers have:

- consulted with residents, businesses and potential hall users to find out what is wanted and needed by the whole community
- worked with architects and other building professionals to create a building design that meets these criteria
- developed strategies to source funding for the purpose-built community hall
- run multiple community events to raise funds and to highlight plans for the space
- secured the land and Section 106 (\$106) funding by working with Central Bedfordshire Council.

Many residents will be familiar with the project from our community publicity in recent years, as well as the Potton Hall for All being identified by residents as one of the priorities in the adopted Potton Neighbourhood Plan.

Find out more about the plans and FAQs for the Potton Hall for All project online:

www.pottonhallforall.org.uk

www.facebook.com/PottonHallForAll

Plans for the space

Potton Hall for All will be located beside the Tall Trees housing development, accessible from Hutchinson Rise (off Biggleswade Road), on serviced land owned by Potton Town Council granted as part of the Tall Trees S106 agreement.



A bird's eye view of the location for the Potton Hall for All, close to the Potton Town Cricket Club, and alongside the new Community Orchard [Google Earth]



The official launch of the Potton Hall for All community engagement campaign is coming soon!

The brand new, purpose-built facility will be located near the much-used facilities of the Hutchinson Hollow, including Potton Town Cricket Club, Potton United FC, The Barns Fitness and the Boundary Café. The setting is complemented by the green open spaces of Pegnut Wood, Community Orchard and new play areas.

Potton Hall for All isn't just a building, it's set to become the heart of the community - an adaptable space for all, with its **size and versatility** suiting a range of uses for every function, group and task. More detailed building layout and scheme drawings are available on the Potton Hall for All website.

Potential user groups have told us they anticipate being able to use the new, larger space **like no other in the town**. Other people have spoken of the **unique potential** the new space will offer for new groups and the growth of existing activities too.

The space has been designed with **flexibility** at its heart - to work for a multitude of uses from sports and wellbeing activities to wedding receptions, for business functions, as a performance space and to host touring events new to Potton.

The team behind the project are confident that residents throughout the town will be able to benefit from the new space when it is built; either by hiring it directly, or through participating in the many activities which will happen there.

The building and surroundings will offer facilities which are likely to attract hall users

from further afield, bringing more visitors to support the businesses in our town.

The building will become a unique local asset too - a concept developed by residents, for the benefit of all residents, and 100% owned by the whole community.

Your new hall, your unique space, in your town.



Illustrations showing a uniquely designed building, with a multitude of uses for all

The funding approach

The source of funds for the new facility have been carefully identified. A large proportion of the build cost will be provided by several local developers, under S106 agreements, which also gifted the 0.52ha serviced site to Potton Town Council. But there is a time limit on the allocation of this S106 money. If the project has not proved that full funding is in place by May 2022, then the funding will be lost to Potton and be allocated to other projects in Central Bedfordshire, a large proportion of which are outside of the town.

Local Charitable Trusts and Potton Town Council have shown their support for this project by pledging significant funding.

Support your Potton Hall for All.

Join the project team at the campaign launch at Potton Seasonal Market on **Saturday 19th September (9am - 1pm)** on Potton Market Square.

It is proposed that the remaining build costs will be covered by a £500,000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board, as well as other grant and community fundraising. The loan would be repaid by Potton Town Council through a small increase in the Council Tax contributions from households within the Potton Parish boundary. Potton residents will be asked to have their say on this funding

plan and their support for the project.

£500,000 borrowed over 15 years would cost a Band D council taxpayer an additional £1.54 per month. However additional fundraising could take place to pay back the loan more quickly and additional development in the town could mean that the cost to each household should reduce.

Have your say from 19th September – 23rd October 2020



In order to make this project a reality, we need your help. With the proposed plan for the final funding now agreed, a consultation is set to take place.

During the consultation there will be more information and details about the benefits this new asset will bring to the people of Potton. Residents will have the opportunity to demonstrate their support for the project

and show they agree with Potton Town Council's plans to enable the funding to be secured and for the building to start. Potton residents will be asked to have their say on the Potton Hall for All in a new campaign running this September and October.

Launching at the Seasonal Market on Saturday 19th September, the campaign will:

- Showcase the flexibility and scale of the building, its uses and location
- Introduce the team of local residents and councillors behind the project
- Answer your questions about the Hall, how it will be run and what we'll see in the future
- Ask Potton residents to support the Hall with agreement for the funding approach.

The Potton Hall for All team looks forward to your support for this project!



The official launch of the Potton Hall for All community engagement campaign is coming soon!

During the consultation period (launched on 19th September), Potton parish residents will be eligible to register their views and will be asked two questions with a yes or no answer.

You will be able to respond by an online survey or by returning a leaflet which we will deliver to every household in Potton once the campaign has launched. Responses will be limited to one per household (as per the Potton Neighbourhood Plan).

A consultation response in favour of the Hall for All proposal and funding plan will mean Potton Town Council and the Potton Hall for All charity moving to the next stage to design and build the Hall as soon as possible.

If you've any questions about the project you can submit them through:

- Potton Hall for All website at **www.pottonhallforall.org.uk**
email: **hall4allpotton@gmail.com** or
Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/pottonhallforall**
- Potton Town Council office at The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Beds SG19 2QS or online via **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**

We will add the questions you raise to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which will be regularly updated and accessed through the Potton Town Council and Potton Hall for All websites plus Facebook pages.

Some FAQs you've already asked:

What useable spaces will the Hall provide?

The 950m² building will provide a large hall, 2 linkable large community rooms, large foyer and terrace, bar/kitchen space, toilets and a car park. It looks out onto the already planted community orchard and Potton Town Council owned greenspace.

How can I help with the project?

We need people from all walks of life who are enthusiastic and want to help us build a better future for the current and next generations in Potton. There are lots of ways to help. If you have a few hours, you could help by promoting the project online via social media. If you have a bit more time, then you could join the support committee to help plan and carry out fundraising or awareness raising activities.

We want to build relationships with local businesses. Not just for funding purposes, but also to learn from your valuable experience. You could introduce us to like-minded peers or become one of our project champions. It could of course also include sponsorship, work undertaken without charge or in-kind contributions of goods and services.

We look forward to meeting you at the Seasonal Market on Saturday 19th September or via our online channels.

Potton Hall for All is a Registered Charity, number 1158751

Support your Potton Hall for All.

Join the project team at the campaign launch at Potton Seasonal Market on **Saturday 19th September (9am - 1pm)** on Potton Market Square.



Chairman's message

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

This is my first message to you, Potton residents, having taken over as Chairman of Potton Town Council in May this year. It is a great honour for me to be elected Chairman and I will do my best to carry out my duties with openness, fairness and diligence.

My first duty is to express the sincere thanks from myself and the rest of Potton Town Council to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Angus Macdonald, for having done such a magnificent job for the four years that he held the post. He has truly left big boots to fill!

A bit like Theresa May who did not want to inherit Brexit, I find myself in the position of inheriting the Coronavirus situation. We are living in challenging times indeed.

I am extremely impressed by the way that Potton has not only embraced (if that is the right word!) the new rules and guidelines regarding social distancing, but also rallied round to help those who are in need of additional or specific assistance at this time.



I would particularly like to mention the Potton Community Help Scheme. This group was set up by several concerned residents to help people who were experiencing problems because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was recognised that some people in our community would require this assistance, either because of additional financial constraints or because



*Thanks to the outgoing Chairman
Cllr Angus Macdonald*

of the need to self-isolate.

For more information about how the Group operated and the sorts of assistance they were able to offer, please see the report on pages 12 and 13.

As restrictions are now starting to ease, I would encourage everyone to continue to abide by the rules and guidance. We must do our bit to avoid the possibility of a 'second phase' of the pandemic.

Also, many of our local businesses have been affected by the shutdown, having to either curtail their activities or even shut completely. Now is the time to support them during the recovery phase by buying locally. Why shop online when you can see and touch the goods before buying in local shops? Why use the car to go elsewhere to shop when we have many excellent establishments in Potton?



Anti-social and criminal behaviour

On a more sombre note, there have been some instances of anti-social behaviour over the past few months. Please can I ask everyone who has either witnessed or been subjected to this unpleasant behaviour to report it to the police and Central Bedfordshire Council. It is not sufficient to complain about it on Facebook as it will not become a statistic unless it is correctly reported. If the police do not know about it, they will not do anything about it.

**Central
Bedfordshire**



Normally in this Newsletter there would be a large section regarding the Party on Potton celebrations, which were scheduled to take place over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end

of August. Sadly, this event has had to be postponed, so we all look forward to August 2022 with eager anticipation.

A succesful market

After some deliberation, the Town Council decided to go ahead with the Four Seasons market in June since open-air markets were then allowed. It proved to be one of our best attended markets by both the traders and Pottonians. There was a brisk trade in home-made face masks, many of them with striking designs. We can now look forward to the next market in September with renewed confidence.

Four Seasons Market



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL



Sat 19th September
9am – 1pm



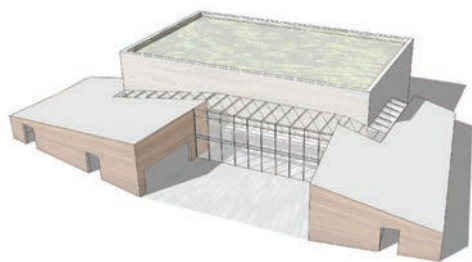
For more information visit
pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market

Onward to our New Hall

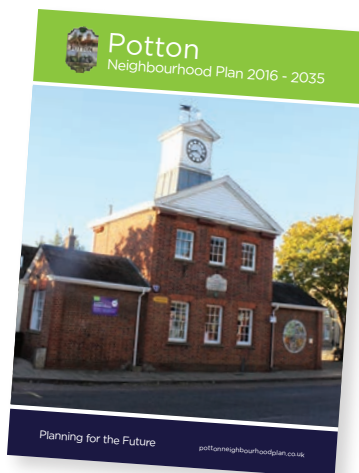


The Potton Hall for All (PH4A) group has worked hard over several years to bring this much-needed community facility from concept to reality. Major milestones like the

design and planning consent have been achieved. The project is now at an important stage with most of the funding required either promised or in place. As you will have read on pages 1 to 5 of this newsletter, in September, Potton Town Council and the PH4A will ask Potton's residents for your continued support so the final steps can be taken prior to beginning building. Please read the article about the PH4A proposals in this newsletter for more information.



Volunteers needed



The Potton Neighbourhood Plan has now been adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and it is therefore a statutory document which must be consulted by developers and CBC. However, a plan is only a plan on paper which now needs to be put into action. Potton Town Council committees have been re-structured with a focus on putting the town's plan into action. To achieve this, we will be looking for more volunteers with the necessary enthusiasm and skills to assist on these committees.

Finally, thank you to all who have given their support and encouragement. Please keep safe and well as we gradually return to normal.

Kind regards

Jonathan

Cllr Jonathan Lean

Keeping Potton Tidy

Join the Potton Autumn Litter Pick



Be part of the pick

Sat 17th October 2020 from 10am - 2pm

The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS

Following on from the successful litter pick in March, Potton's next tidy up will take place on Saturday 17th October 2020 between 10am and 2pm. As usual, volunteers will meet at the old telephone exchange next to the community centre where they will be provided with litter pickers, rubbish bags, hi-vis vests and a route to follow.

Please bring your own gloves.

The aim of the Potton litter pick is for community to come together, clean up the local environment and have fun, which of course means staying safe at all times.

Litter-picking can be carried out alone, in pairs or small groups of up to a maximum of six, including yourself, based on the current government guidance for meeting with people outside of your household. Please note: Government guidance on the lockdown may tighten or ease when the litter pick takes place.

You may have to queue slightly longer than normal when collecting and returning equipment to allow for social distancing.

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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

f @PottonTownCouncil t @pottoncouncil

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
Vaughan Watson	262800
Adam Zerny	261319

Town Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 6th October

Tuesday 3rd November

Councillor Surgeries

Please see our website for further information; <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/whats-on/>

Saturday 19th September

Cllrs Angus Macdonald, Ben Massey & Vaughan Watson

Saturday 10th October

Cllrs Jonathan Lean & Jonathan Price Williams

Saturday 7th November

Cllrs John Day & Carol Leggatt

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319



Please recycle this newsletter when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

If you would like information to be included in a future edition of the newsletter, please email: **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**. Please be aware that the Town Council reserves the right not to include articles and images.

Get to know your Town Councillors

Councillor Jonathan Price Williams



Having graduated with a Mining degree in 1983 I moved to the area to work for Kier Mining and rented a house in Potton with my fiancée. We never intended to stay for more than a few years,

but we're still here today having married, moved several times in the town and brought up a daughter. Coming from Camborne in Cornwall to Potton was a shock, it seemed so flat in Bedfordshire and no sea, but this town of ours stood out as a nice place to live. Having cycled around the area I know there may not be big hills, but there are definitely some "inclines"!

I have moved jobs, changed career and commuted to London for many years, but Potton has always felt like home. I would like to see the town stay that way and by serving on the council in the past and for the future I hope I can help to ensure the town can accommodate change but still continue to provide a pleasant, friendly and lively place to live and work for all generations without losing its essential character. I'm also pleased to be the Town Council's agreed trustee for the Potton Hall for All charity. I'm more than happy to chat about the town and issues when out and about so do say hello.

In my spare time I enjoy photography, walking, gardening, wood turning, exploring the UK by motorhome and tinkering with motorbikes or any other machines.

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.

Potton Community Support Group take on COVID-19

In early March, with the lockdown imminent, a group of Potton residents decided to prepare and setup the *Potton Community Help* Facebook page. Membership grew very quickly and there was soon a group of around 130 people ready to support those in Isolation due to the lockdown.



On 18th March 2020, a small group met in Number One King Street to plan how we could support vulnerable residents during lockdown and the *Potton Community Support Group* was formed. Our first task was to set up a support network for residents in isolation and so we delivered an information card to every household in the Potton parish, giving details of how we could support them and allocating volunteers from the *Potton Community Help* group do this. Thanks to C4B Media for funding the printing and production of 5,000 cards.

Thanks to the fantastic community spirit of the *Street Volunteers* we have supported Potton residents with shopping and prescriptions throughout the lockdown.

We were also aware that the wider community needed assistance in coping with the COVID-19 lockdown and so we worked closely with Potton Town Council to produce a special 'Potton COVID-19 Update' Newsletter that was delivered to every household in the Potton parish. This provided information on both local and national helplines together with how 'Potton could help Potton'.



Very quickly it was discovered that the doctors and chemist were struggling to cope with the demand for processing prescriptions during lockdown. The *Street Volunteers* and the *Good Neighbour Scheme* did their best to help those in need, but as the queues outside Lloyds Pharmacy grew, we felt that something had to be done. Liaising with Greensands Medical Practice and Lloyds Pharmacy we were able to help them solve the issues. To date we have collected and delivered over 400 prescriptions to those in Isolation.

Throughout the lockdown, the *Potton Good Neighbour Scheme* has continued to support those in need by ensuring that they can attend hospital appointments and visit their doctor when required. In a period of 'social distancing' this is not an easy task. Again, the *Good Neighbour Scheme* was able to help with food deliveries and prescription collection.

The *Potton Community Support Group* was also mindful of the fact that many residents were suffering financial hardship as the result of lockdown, so with the help of *Potton Town Council* and *Potton Consolidated Charity* we set up a COVID-19 Support Fund via JustGiving. Through your generous support, we have raised nearly £4,000 and have used this to provide food boxes and Tesco cards to 16 residents throughout lockdown. As the lockdown eases, we still fear that job losses will have a financial impact and so we will continue the endeavour to support Potton residents through this crisis.

Local shops and businesses also helped Potton to cope with the lockdown, providing either local delivery services or enabling residents to order provisions by telephone. Again, *Street Volunteers* were able to work closely with local shops to pick up orders for those in isolation. Also, as the lockdown eased, local pubs and restaurants were able to provide a much-welcomed takeaway service.

Who will ever forget the joyful sounds of Stevie Wonder singing 'Happy Birthday to you' throughout Potton! A great morale boost, so thank you Simon (Number One King Street).



Can Potton go pesticide free?

Author: Ali Plummer

The catastrophic declines facing our natural world have been well publicised in recent months. Many scientists believe that we are now in the Globe's 6th mass extinction event, caused by human activities.

A recent United Nations backed report published earlier this year suggests that 1 million species are facing extinction with declines in nature happening on an unprecedented and accelerating scale.

Declines in our natural world are also seen in the UK. The State of Nature report is published every three years, pooling data and expertise on the state of the UK's nature, from a range of nature conservation and research bodies. The most recent one, published in 2016, shows that over 50% of species are declining in the UK and 1 in 10 species studied are on the verge of extinction.

The loss of our pollinators

Invertebrates, including our pollinators are particularly affected. Global studies show declines of more than 40% of

insect species, with a third classified as endangered. And again, State of Nature shows similar alarming results in the UK, recording declines in nearly 60% of our invertebrate species.

These losses are particularly worrying. Our invertebrate species are the base of the food chain, supporting ecosystems and providing vital pollination for our crops.

The effects of pesticides

We too can all play our part in turning around the declines in our natural world - actions that we take, as a community, can help to support our wildlife.

Recently, as I've been walking around Potton, I've been dismayed to see the after-effects of





pesticide spraying, particularly along the edges of our footpaths, or under the hedges.

Many of the declines in our invertebrate populations have been put down to the use of pesticides, and there is growing concern about the effects to human health as well.

Whilst it can be difficult to determine a direct link between pesticide use and health condition, their use has been linked to a range of health problems including Parkinson's disease, asthma, depression and anxiety. There is also increasing concern that exposure to some pesticides may lead to an increased risk of cancer.

And for our natural world, the evidence is more compelling. The use of pesticides on our verges and path edges to tackle what some would consider weeds, reduces the number native plants around our towns and reduces the availability of food and habitat for our pollinators and other species. And whilst some may argue that it makes our footpaths and verges look tidier, I would disagree. We are often left with an orange streak of dying or dead plant matter, devoid of life. One that I would argue is less pleasant to look at and a stark reminder of the chemicals that have been spread.

The benefits of pesticide free

Stopping using pesticides to control the weeds could bring a range of benefits including a reduced health risk to workers, Potton residents and visitors, and our pets. And it will give more space to our plants - indeed if we stop spraying, who knows what interesting plants will appear! And this in turn will provide more habitat for our wildlife and more food sources for our pollinators. And for me personally, a healthy, green path edge and verge is so much nicer to look at than one that's been sprayed.

It may have financial benefits as well, due to a reduced need to apply chemicals, and where there is a real need to control the weeds, there are several pesticide-free approaches that can be taken.

We can often query whether our actions will make a difference. At a time where the crisis can seem so vast and so overwhelming, it can be tempting to assume that there is little that we can do. However, steps that we take as individuals and as communities, all add up to help change the world we are living in. Here in Potton, why not start by changing a small part of our world by stopping Central Bedfordshire Council's use of pesticides. It will make the world of difference to the insects around us.

The 10th Potton Apple Day

Author: Sally Wileman

The tenth Potton Apple Day is programmed, as always, to take place on the last Sunday in September. This year, we plan to hold it on Sunday 27th September from 12pm to 3pm in Henry Smith Playing Fields.



and music; displays of Bedfordshire apples and information about orchards, an apple identification service and fruit trees for sale. It looks like it's going to be a good harvest, so we intend to have unusual varieties of apples for sale.



At the present time, we do not know what activities we will be able to offer, that will comply with the guidelines on the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, in the autumn. But we do plan a celebration of apples and orchards in a very 2020 fashion. It will be an outdoor event with plenty of space for social distancing.

We are thinking hard about how to adapt the event so that it is still fun, informative and safe. Please do collect up your spare apples as these are the backbone of Potton Apple Juice (for sale in Number One King Street and Potton Brewery pop up shop). Bring them on the day to the Apple Amnesty area, or let us know and we'll collect them if we can.

We hope to have apple juice and cider for sale on the day, along with food

Inevitably, there will be less interaction due to the risk of cross-contamination, but we are confident that we can offer a 10th anniversary event that is different in many ways, but still a very 'Potton' style event. In these evolving circumstances, we don't intend to announce all the details until the start of September, so watch out for details locally and on social media. 'Like' Potton Apple Day Facebook page if you want to see event details, as they're confirmed.



Potton Recycling

Author: Jill White

Since launching in March 2019, the Potton Recycling scheme has collected an amazing 380kg of waste, which otherwise would have gone to landfill, and raised £767 for the Potton Hall for All. Following a pause during the coronavirus lockdown period, the bins are now back in place and ready to collect the following plastic waste, which otherwise would have to be sent to landfill:

- Any brand of crisp packets (including the outers from multipacks)
- Popcorn, nut and pretzel packets
- Pringles tubes (Pringles brand only)
- Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers
- Flexible plastic packaging from any brand of chocolate or sweets
- Any Kinder branded packaging (including eggs)
- Ferrero Rocher or Collection branded gold plastic trays, transparent plastic boxes and outer plastic packaging
- Oral care products including: plastic toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads (not tipi brushes); toothpaste tubes (but not pumps); plastic packaging from toothbrushes, toothbrush heads and dental floss
- Any brand of baby food pouches and caps, and baby snack packets
- Any brand of yogurt pouches and caps

The bins are located next to the town council office on Brook End and can be accessed 24 hours a day. We do ask you to wear gloves or cover the handle with a cloth when depositing waste in order to minimise possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus.



Once collected, all the waste is packaged up and sent off to Terracycle for recycling. All the schemes are sponsored by different manufacturers who make a payment to charity for all the waste we send them. So not only are we saving waste from landfill, we are also raising money for another important community project, the Potton Hall for All!

We have a dedicated band of packers who help to pack the waste, currently in their own homes, and if you are interested in helping out in this capacity, then please contact the town council office, and we will be in touch. Otherwise, please continue to give us your waste packaging and do spread the word!



Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Author: Andrea MacAdam



Tel: Andrea mobile: 07590 359 630
(working Weds & Thurs only)

Or email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk
(please note the 0300 number is no longer in use)

Wellbeing freebies – we have a number of free items to give to the over 60s to help improve wellbeing. Purse bells, credit card defenders and personal alarms to improve safety and protect your security. Walking stick clips, jar openers and button hole fasteners for those with mobility issues. Phone or email for more details.

Benefits help – if you need support completing forms such as Attendance Allowance, Blue Parking Badge, Pension Credit or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit, please get in touch. Andrea can advise you and help you complete these forms if you are unsure doing it yourself.

Are You Eligible for Pension Credit?

If your weekly income is below £167.25 (single person) or £255.25 (couple) then contact Andrea and she will help you to apply for Pension Credit. You may also be eligible for a rebate on your energy bill, help with NHS costs, and a free TV licence, so it is worth applying even if your income is only just below the threshold.

Support for family carers – if you care for a partner or member of your family and are not paid for it then you may be entitled to Carers Allowance. Andrea can also register you with Carers in Bedfordshire and help you apply for a grant of up to £300 to pay for an item, course of treatments or a short break, that gives you a rest from your caring role.

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.



**Friendship Group trip to
Wicksteed Park Christmas Show**

Sue Ryder St John's Hospice Online Bereavement Support



palliative,
neurological
and bereavement
support

Throughout the pandemic, Sue Ryder St John's Hospice has continued to be there when it matters for local families.

In addition to the services our hospice and community teams provide, Sue Ryder also offers an Online Bereavement Support, which has been vital to many at this difficult time.

The Sue Ryder Online Bereavement Support service offers peer to peer support and counselling sessions. You can access this support at **community.sueryder.org**

Throughout the pandemic, Sue Ryder St John's

During this period, we've seen our income slashed due to the closure of our charity shops and the cancellation of fundraising events. One way in which people are supporting us this summer is by taking part in the Sue Ryder Summer Series. For those missing the **#FinishLineFeeling** this summer, they can run, walk, jog or cycle and raise funds for the outstanding expert care provided by Sue Ryder St John's Hospice.

To sign up or get more information, visit **sueryder.org/summerseries** or contact the Ethan in the Fundraising Team at St John's Hospice by email at **ethan.hopkinson@suerydercare.org**

Tickets £1 or Book of five £5

First Prize: £400

Kindly donated by
The Brogan Group

Second Prize: Golf for 4

at the **John O'Gaunt Sutton**

Third Prize: Luxury Hamper

Plus lots of other amazing prizes!

Draw will take place
on Sat 19th September at the
Seasonal Market, Market Sq, Potton



All proceeds go to St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger

Mill Lane Recreation Ground



Before



Work in progress

The Town Council leases and maintains the playground, open space and pavilion at Mill Lane. The open space is used for many different recreational uses.

The Town Council has held discussions with Potton United Youth Football Club (PUYFC) about how to improve the grass following an initial Football Association Pitch Improvement Programme (FAPIR) report in May 2019.

The FAPIR report made various recommendations on how to improve the grass and the Town Council has arranged for the following to be undertaken:

- Selective weedkilling as weeds inhibit grass growth
- Three separate applications of fertiliser to improve health of the grass
- Grass seeding to fill in gaps in the grass
- Verti-draining on two occasions to relieve compaction and encourage grass root growth
- Removal of Leylandii hedge at the far end of recreation ground as the fast-growing conifer hedge prevented the grass from growing around the edge of recreation ground
- Grass cutting on a weekly basis during the growing season as regular cutting

encourages the grass to spread, which will help to fill gaps and block out weeds.

The Town Council has been in contact with contractors about obtaining quotations to continue to improve the grass as per the recommendations from the initial FAPIR report:

- Selective weedkilling
- Fertilising
- Verti-draining
- Removal of more Leylandii hedge

Where the Leylandii has been removed, the Town Council is investigating the planting of a native non-thorny hedge and a selection of trees to be in keeping with other hedges in the local area. PUYFC have been asked if they would like to help with planting the new hedge.

A further FAPIR report is expected shortly following an inspection which took place in August 2020.

PUYFC are looking to arrange for the installation of high-ball fencing behind the football goals.

Finally, Potton Tennis Club have been in discussions with Potton Consolidated Charity, the owner of the land, the Town Council and PUYFC about relocating to the Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

Meeting Lane

Authors: Cllrs Carol Leggatt and John Day



Before

As people who walk along Meeting Lane might have noticed, some soil retaining boards have been fitted on our behalf by Central Bedfordshire Council. The intent is to tidy and gradually improve the area and Councillor Leggatt has been talking to neighbouring residents, encouraging their involvement to make this a community led garden project. It is hoped people living nearby will plant and look after the area, using surplus flowers they have growing and to even plant edibles that passers buy can help themselves to if they wish. This will be a gradual change to the area and will take a while to get established, but we hope over time it will become a feature, making it a more enjoyable route to and from the town.

Some people have already begun to add their own plants and we hope to start with a vengeance in September and - following the latest social distancing rules - will welcome volunteers to help tidy and plant the banks. If you have plants you are separating, or which have multiplied to be more than you need, maybe we can give them a new home. A date for this work is set for 20th September; final plans are still in preparation and these along with an event reminder will be publicised via the Town Council website and through its Facebook page, where we will also give details for donating plants.



Work in progress



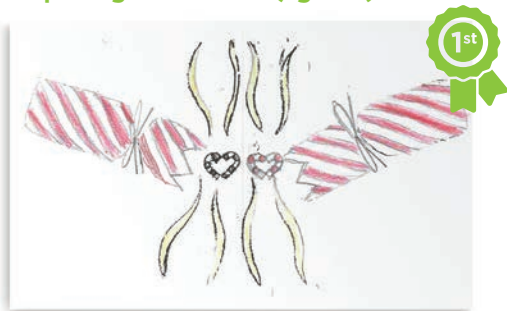
Christmas Light Decoration Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered this competition. We are pleased to announce our two winners for the Christmas Light Decoration Competition 2019:

Age Category - under 10s
1st place goes to Caspar (aged 7)



Age Category - 10-18 years
1st place goes to Grace (aged 11).



The two new lights will be switched on at the Big Switch-on, which this year is planned for Saturday 21st November.

Volunteers Needed!

The Christmas Lights in Potton are installed and taken down by Volunteers. More volunteers are always required and if you can help please contact the Town Council office.

The dates to install the Christmas Lights in 2020 are **Sunday 1st and 15th November** and they will be taken down on **Sunday 10th January 2021**.

Potton's Christmas Lights are funded by Potton Town Council and from fundraising.



Growing for health and wellbeing

Introducing the Potton Food Garden

Author: Tracey Wye

Calling all budding gardeners and growers - the new Potton Food Garden is looking for people who want to get involved with growing (and sharing) fruit and vegetables.

We are at the beginning of our growing adventure and having secured a plot of land are now planning how to turn it into an organic, no-dig, community allotment. The idea is to cultivate nutritious, local food to share among volunteers and with residents who are facing food poverty through the Veg Box Donation Scheme.

Why get involved? The Food Garden will provide a fantastic opportunity for people to learn about the no-dig system, enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of growing, and the pleasure of growing with, and for, others.

We also hope to encourage groups to come and grow together - new mums, retired residents, people living with dementia, visiting school classes, are just

some ideas. We also welcome anyone who is interested in learning to grow and does not know where to start, or those who like the idea of working on an allotment but do not have time to do it alone.

The idea for the Potton Food Garden formed as an extension to the fantastic work Potton residents did in caring for each other during the lockdown and the renewed sense of community which grew out of the crisis. It will be run as one large allotment, with the growing planned by our joint founder, Sharon Mey, whose vision is being realised.

Please contact Tracey Wye at traceywye@icloud.com if you are interested in joining the Potton Food Garden team.

Veg Box Donation Scheme

Author: Tracey Wye

If you already have an allotment, or are growing fruit and vegetables at home, or you are a veg farmer, you can help local families who face food poverty by donating any excess crop to the Veg Box Donation Scheme. Eggs and honey also welcome.

The scheme, started by Potton resident Sharon Mey, aims to gift your "extra" produce to those who are facing hardship, including those affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Sharon has organised a weekly collection of produce to

prepare boxes that are delivered to people referred to the scheme by local community agents.

If you would like to make a donation - either regularly or whenever you have a glut - **please contact Sharon at sharonmey@gmail.com**



Potton Youth Club

Now online



Central
Bedfordshire



Monday & Wednesday 5pm • Age 12 - 18 years
Call or Text Mo on 07702 532328

Delivered by Groundwork and funded by Potton Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit Bedfordshire (VERU)



Wanted!

Teenagers for newsletter delivery

Potton Town Council produces four Newsletters each year which are delivered to every household in Potton.

We are interested in hearing from 13-18 year olds who would like to deliver our newsletter. The rate of pay is **£20 for 300 delivered newsletters, pro-rata.**

A work permit is required from Central Bedfordshire Council; you can find out more information and download a Child Employment Application form by visiting https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/4/pupil_support/523/child_employment