

Potton Town Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman

At the town council meeting on Tuesday 4th May 2021, the councillors of Potton Town Council elected Councillor John Hobbs as Chairman and Councillor Jonathan Price Williams as Vice-Chairman.

Message from the new Chairman - Cllr John Hobbs

I would like to say how proud and honoured I am to have been elected as Chairman of Potton Town Council. I am looking forward to working with the town council to achieve the Vision and Objectives detailed in the Potton Neighbourhood Plan, starting with the creation of a Potton Green Wheel – details on **pages 16 and 17**.

As you will see in the Chairman's Message on **pages 3 – 5** there are many existing projects underway, and we are always looking for volunteers to get involved. If you have any ideas of how to improve our wonderful town, please contact either by email at pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or by phoning 01767 260086. Together we can make the Potton Neighbourhood Plan a reality.

I would like to conclude by thanking my predecessor Cllr Jonathan Lean for his hard work and dedication during his tenure as Chairman and look forward to working with him over the coming year.



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.

If you wish to contact a member of staff, please email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or call **01767 260086** and leave a message. You can find lots of information on the Town Council website www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk or [@PottonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PottonTownCouncil) or [@pottoncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/pottoncouncil)

Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047
John Day	07986 124440
Andrew Gibb	260067
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602
Richard Harris	262596
John Hobbs	260710
Lindsay Kitchener	260486
Jonathan Lean	262404
Carol Leggatt	260001
Angus Macdonald	262006
Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Mark Williams	07540 198205
Adam Zerny	261319

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319

Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS



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Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 1st June

Tuesday 6th July

Tuesday 7th September

Councillor Surgeries

Venue and times to be advised.

Saturday 19th June

Cllrs Charles Craig and John Hobbs

Saturday 17th July

Cllrs Vicki Gwilliam and Mark Williams

Saturday 14th August

Cllr Jonathan Lean

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

If you would like information to be included in our next newsletter, please email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

Please be aware that the Town Council reserves the right not to include articles and images.



Outgoing Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the June 2021 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

As we slowly and cautiously emerge from what seems to have been a very long and difficult Winter of Covid restrictions, it is particularly pleasing to see some tentative steps towards normality. It is tempting in this Chairman's message to bemoan all the things that we could not do during lockdown but instead I am going to celebrate the things that we could do and the brilliant community spirit that lives and thrives in our beautiful town.

The lockdown proved to be a challenge to many and I must again give a special mention to Potton Community Support Group. This band of volunteers has continued to give valuable assistance to many of our residents over the past year. **You can read more about what was done and how it was achieved on page 10 of this newsletter.**

Three other community projects have managed to thrive throughout the lockdown.

The Potton Food Garden on Myers Road has transformed a piece of rough ground into a tidy working allotment thanks to the hard work of volunteers and kind donations from local people and establishments. The allotment will be completely organic and will be available for use by a range of people throughout Potton including schools as well as organisations supporting disadvantaged or otherwise challenged residents. If you fancy 'having a go' or even if you are on the allotment waiting

list and want to keep your hand in, please contact Potton Town Council staff to find out how to get involved.

Potton Community Orchard is being developed under the careful and skilled guidance of Sally Wileman and her team of volunteers. This also is completely organic and contains a range of different fruit trees and shrubs. It is hoped that it will be ready to receive visitors within the next year.

Potton Community Garden on Meeting Lane has brightened up the pathway between Carters Lane and King Street. Thanks to Councillors Carol Leggatt, John Day and their team of volunteers for setting this up and tending the beautiful flowers and plants. **You can read more on Your Local Environment on pages 20 - 22.**



Potton Community Garden volunteers working hard on Meeting Lane

The Four Seasons Market scheduled for March was postponed until April to allow more stalls to participate with the gradual relaxing of restrictions. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny morning and it was a pleasure to be able to welcome many of our 'regulars' as well as some newcomers to the market. It continues to be a popular event with stallholders and residents. The next Four Seasons Market will be on Saturday 19th June.

Potton Hall for All is now tantalisingly close to breaking ground. Community support was obtained to allow Potton Town Council to apply for permission to seek borrowing approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a loan towards the cost of building this facility. **More details will be given in the Hall for All report on page 14.**

Potton Neighbourhood Plan, having been approved and adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), is now a live document and the next challenge is to ensure that aims and objectives of the plan are put into effect and not just remain a plan. This is a community plan, and the community needs to ensure that this happens under the guidance of Potton Town Council. Your help is needed!

Integral to the Neighbourhood Plan is the Potton Green Wheel. This ambitious project to provide a network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways around the town has got to the stage where we need to go out to public consultation before proceeding further. **More details about the Green Wheel on pages 16 and 17.**



Potton Tennis Club,

who are currently located at The Hollow, have now secured the necessary funding and planning permission to be able to construct new tennis courts at Mill Lane Recreational Ground. It is hoped that construction will start this Summer and will result in a much more attractive (and less fragrant!) venue for this popular sport. The courts will also be available for public hire outside of the times when the Tennis Club are using them.



Potton Town Council were initially planning to launch the **Potton Young People's Town Council (PYPTC)** in May 2020. This is an initiative to encourage more participation by the youth of our town to enable them to air their views and give suggestions about what their section of society would like to see developed in Potton.

This initial start date had to be postponed and we are now hoping to have a new start date of September this year. This is an ideal opportunity for community-minded youngsters to get involved and to have an influence. Parents – please encourage your children to get involved in this exciting project. **More information is available on the back page.**

Potton Town Council is engaging with CBC to formulate a **Community Safety Plan**. This plan will allow Potton Town Council to highlight areas of concern that it becomes aware of so that CBC can direct the appropriate officers to investigate and resolve the issues. These can be as minor as dog fouling, parking or noise nuisance through to more serious issues such as anti-social behaviour, trespass or speeding. This is part of a continuing drive to ensure that Potton remains an attractive and safe town for all residents. **Read more on page 9.**

I wish all Pottonians a wonderful Summer!



Cllr Jonathan Lean

Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Tel: Andrea mobile: **07590 359 630**
(working Weds & Thurs only) or
email: **andream@bedsrcc.org.uk**

Benefits help – if you need support completing forms such as Attendance Allowance, Blue Parking Badge, Carer's Allowance, Pension Credit or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit, please get in touch with Andrea.



Wednesday Tablet Workshops & Thursday Friendship Group - with the Government restrictions regarding social contact (hopefully) ending on 21st June, we anticipate that both groups will resume: Tablet Workshop on Wednesday 23rd June and the Thursday Friendship Group on Thursday 24th June. Both are held at the Community Centre, Brook End, 10am until 12 noon. We really look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces.

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.

Get to know your Town Councillors

Councillor Angus Macdonald



I left my home in 1997 seeking employment South of the border. As my career progressed and the desire to move back to Scotland began to diminish, I started to search for my first permanent home. I moved to Potton in 2000 after my soon-to-be wife convinced me that this was the place to be – unsurprising coming from a local girl!

I'm pleased to say though that over the years and given the many times she's insisted that she's right, she was absolutely spot on. Potton always feels welcoming and offers a character and spirit that is hard to find elsewhere. It feels like home to me now and has been the perfect environment to raise my family.

I work in the IT/Banking industry and mostly work in and around London. In my spare time I enjoy relaxing with the family, running, gardening and DIY. In the past I have been a governor at Burgoyne Middle School and the Potton Federation. I also represent the Town Council as a Trustee of Potton Consolidated Charity.

I joined Potton Town Council in 2009 and was struck by the enthusiasm that our Town Councillors had for the task entrusted to them, for their town and for the people who have made Potton their home. I have no political affiliation and have always been motivated to do what I think is best for Potton, now and in the years to come. I have previously served as Chairman of the Town Council from 2016 to 2020.

Councillor Adam Zerny



I have lived in Potton for 15 years and reside on Station Road with my wife and children and assorted pets.

I was elected onto the town council in 2009 and then onto Central Bedfordshire Council as ward councillor in 2011.

I work in the city and in my spare time I am a triathlete and author. My first book, *Resolution* was published in late 2020.

Vacancy for a Potton Town Councillor

An opportunity to be part of your community

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

1. a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the EU
2. are at least 18 years of age
3. meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - Are on the list of electors for the town or during the last twelve months you:
 - occupied land or property in Potton as owner or tenant.
 - had your principle place of work here.
 - lived in, or within three miles of Potton.



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

Any interested parties must make an application in writing to the Town Clerk, Mr Jonathan Whitehurst at Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS **by 9am on Tuesday 22nd June 2021** and include the following information:

1. reason for wishing to be a Councillor;
2. previous Community/Council work;
3. other skills you can bring to the Council.

For further information please refer to the town council's Co-option procedure in the 'Our Council', 'Policies' section of the website.

Please note it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and/or email will be public information.

If you require any additional information, please contact the Town Clerk either by email or phone.

Email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com
Phone: 01767 260086

Co-option will take place at the Town Council meeting on **Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 7pm.**

New Rector for St Mary's

Hello everyone. Alex Wheatley here, the new Rector for a team of churches which includes St. Mary's Church in Potton, All Saints Church in Sutton and St. John's in Cockayne Hatley. I was pleased to write a short piece for the last Town Council Newsletter and I've been invited back to offer a fuller introduction.

I was licensed to this new post at a service on 24th March 2021. This took place at St. John's, Cockayne Hatley, but the majority of the congregation joined us online via zoom. It was a good start to my ministry here and I really appreciated all the hard work that enabled it to happen.

Before being licensed here I was the Assistant Curate to Christ Church, Skipton and St. Mary's, Carleton in

Craven. (A Curate is a sort of 'apprentice vicar'). Christ Church is based south of the town centre and serves the southern part of the area. St. Mary's is based in the village of Carleton in Craven which is to the South of Skipton. Both churches have links to Church of England schools and it was great to regularly work with them.

It has been a busy few months what with Easter and figuring things out here. It has also been difficult to get to know the congregations and the area with COVID-19 restrictions still in place. However, I hope that it will soon be possible for me to get to know people a bit better. In any case, I'm pleased to be here and look forward to working with people across the town and district.

Rev. Alex Wheatley



The Rt. Revd. Dr Alan Gregory Smith, Bishop of St. Albans (left) and Rev. Alex Wheatley at St John's Church Cockayne Hatley

Community Safety

Since 2011, the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has been working with other groups (including police, fire and rescue, probation and social services) on improving community safety.



More information, including links to sites for reporting problems, is available on-line www.safercentral.org/about-central-bedfordshire-community-safety-partnership/

Potton Town Council (PTC) has been asked by CBC to help develop strategies to use engagement, prevention and, if necessary, enforcement to enhance local community safety. Potton Town Council is therefore looking for input from you (Potton residents, people working in Potton and business owners) so we can gain an up-to-date understanding of current long-term community safety issues (recurring anti-social behaviour, nuisance or criminality) affecting Potton. In addition to ensuring all anti-social behaviour, nuisance and criminality is reported to appropriate authorities, please let us know which long-term community issues you feel we should consider. You can contact us (PTC details below).

For on-going anti-social behaviour, nuisance and criminality, it is important to report these through the correct channels. Even reporting minor incidents can help to build a pattern of criminality that can be acted upon.

No report = No action

In an emergency phone 999!

If emergency response is not needed: Phone 101 (15p per call): Call goes through to local police; **Contact Crimestoppers 0800 555111 or on-line: www.crimestoppers-uk.org** (Fully anonymous, independent from police).

Additional contacts:

Central Bedfordshire's Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
www.safercentral.org/#reportaproblem;

Potton Town Council: e-mail pottoncouncil@btconnect.com; mail to The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS; speak with a town councillor. (PTC can provide advice and report to local agencies including police on behalf of complainant if appropriate.)

 **Facebook:** NOT an official route for reporting anti-social behaviour, nuisance or crime
= No action.

Potton Community Support Group

Thank you Potton

Well, what a year we have had!

The Potton Community Support Group was formed in March 2020 with a remit to support Potton residents throughout the pandemic. Our first meeting was in Number One King Street and we agreed our plan of action. Starting with donations from Potton Town Council and Potton Consolidated Charity we set about supporting those Potton residents who were suffering financially due to the lockdown or were vulnerable and thus in isolation. Potton came to the rescue:

- **130 people signed up to our Street Volunteer scheme**, shopping for those in isolation, collecting prescriptions and being on call to help when required. This was essential for our elderly and vulnerable residents in the first lockdown. This included liaison with local shops to collect and deliver shopping.
- The lockdown led to many residents being furloughed and, in some cases, financial difficulty. With financial support from Potton Town Council and Potton Consolidated Charity, we set about assessing and supporting those most in need. We set up a JustGiving page to raise fund and over the past year **we received an amazing £5,245 in donations from Potton residents**. Unbelievable support.
- In total we have spent **£6,931 to date, providing: 54 Food Boxes and 94 Vouchers to help over 20 residents affected financially by the lockdowns**.

We also want to thank other organisations who have supported our Potton residents in need:

- **The Need Project** – providing food parcels.
- **The Veg Box scheme** – providing boxes of fruit and veg donated by residents.
- **The Potton Good Neighbour Scheme** – providing support and transport to those in need.



HELLO,

If you are self-isolating,
Potton people can help.

What you need to know about the Covid-19 vaccination



The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS. The vaccine is being offered to more and more people in our area every week.

Vaccines can reduce or even eliminate some diseases, if enough people are vaccinated.

Since vaccines were introduced, diseases like smallpox and polio that used to kill or disable millions of people are gone from the UK.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases. It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and attempting to fight them.

Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?

No. You cannot catch Covid-19 from taking the vaccine but having the vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.

Should I be concerned about the speed the vaccine was made available?

The speed in which the vaccines have been developed does not mean that they are unsafe. The technology used to develop the vaccine is not new. It's been tried and tested for decades. It is with this technology and massive global investment to develop a Covid-19 vaccine that has allowed it to be available so quickly.

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through lots of clinical trials and safety checks, like all other licensed medicines, before it is approved. The Covid-19 vaccines used in the UK have been declared as effective by the UK's independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulator (MHRA) after extensive trials.

When will I be able to get vaccinated?

The NHS will announce when different age groups can book their vaccination, you can check who is eligible at any time and book your appointment online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. You can also book appointments by calling 119.

You may also receive an invitation to book your vaccination from your GP and you can book an appointment directly with them.

You can read more about the vaccination and common misconceptions at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations

Forthcoming Events

Sadly, because of the restrictions in place during 2020, various events were unable to take place. We are pleased to announce some of the planned events in Potton in 2021 and 2022.

Four Seasons Market

**POTTON**
TOWN COUNCIL





Sat 19th June 2021
9am – 1pm



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

Potton Apple Day

It is planned for Potton Apple Day to return on **Sunday 26th September 2021 from 12pm to 4pm** at St Mary's Church Hall and field, Hatley Road.



Watch out for more information and updates on the Potton Apple Day Facebook page
@PottonAppleDay

Autumn Litter Pick

Potton's Autumn Litter Pick will take place on:
Saturday 16th October 2021 between 10am and 2pm.

Keep an eye on our website and notice boards for more information.



Potton Show

The date for the 47th Annual Potton Show is scheduled for **Saturday 11th September 2021** at St Mary's Church field, Hatley Road.

Please look out for updates on the programme of events for this year's show on pottonshow.org.uk



Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is on 14th November this year, and the Town Council is planning to resume our annual service to take place in the Market Square from 10:15am onwards followed by the customary parade to the War Memorial at Pottton Cemetery in Sandy Road.

There has always been a huge turnout for this event, and providing we remain restriction-free after 21st June, we hope 2021's Remembrance Sunday service will be just as well attended.



Christmas Lights

Pottton Town Council's Christmas Lights Committee is currently planning Christmas events for 2021.



The Big Switch On will be at 5pm on **Saturday 27th November** in the Market Square and **Father Christmas** will be taking a tour of Pottton on **Sunday 28th November**.

The Light Up Pottton Christmas Display Competition will be held in December for Pottton residents and businesses to enter.

Make sure you put these dates in your diary and watch out for more details on our website pottontowncouncil.co.uk and social media pages:

[@PotttonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PotttonTownCouncil)
[@pottoncouncil](https://twitter.com/pottoncouncil)

Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Plans were recently announced to mark **Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022**. The Nation will come together over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate The Queen's **70 year reign** – the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone!



Pottton will celebrate The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch along with the rest of the UK, with a programme of events planned from **Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022**.

Further details will be announced over the coming months as the plans develop. Please keep an eye on our newsletters, website pottontowncouncil.co.uk and social media pages:

[@PotttonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PotttonTownCouncil)
[@pottoncouncil](https://twitter.com/pottoncouncil)

Party on Pottton – The Big Weekend

The Big Weekend is scheduled to return on **August Bank Holiday 2022 (26th to 29th August)**.

Look out for planned fundraising events in 2021 and Big Weekend updates on Party on Pottton's website partyonpottton.org.uk and Facebook page [@PartyOnPottton](https://www.facebook.com/PartyOnPottton)





Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

Project Update

Due to Covid-19, the decision-making process has taken longer than usual for the borrowing application submitted to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, but we expect a decision very soon.

In the meantime, we have been working to secure more funding to build the hall. This is not easy under the current circumstances as many funding bodies have also been affected by the pandemic, but we have a few grant and charitable trusts in our sights. We have also been working with Potton Town Council to examine ways to reduce the build costs, without compromising the facilities of the hall. Despite the challenges of the past year, we are still moving forwards and hope to be able to welcome you to a Potton Hall for All before too much longer!

We are so glad that we are emerging from the lockdowns and beginning to plan for activities to share with you all. Thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter Bunny Trail and April Seasonal Market Hamper raffle.

By the time you read this we will once again have had to hold our AGM virtually. Last year we gained two new Trustees and a number of new faces in our support group which has now been reformed as 'The Friends of Potton Hall for All'. They are busy organising lots of events for Potton in 2021 – see page 15 for more details! If you would like to help with the project please visit our website www.pottonhallforall.org.uk; like us on Facebook or get in touch by email hall4allpotton@gmail.com



**Justin Thomas, a new trustee and
Chair of Potton Hall for All Friends
Group at the Seasonal Market**

Midsummer Bash

Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted you will see a lot more of the Potton Hall for All team in the coming months. Our Easter Bunny Trail around Potton, organised by the Hall's Friends, was a huge success and there will be more fun activities in the coming months. We will be at the Seasonal Markets; Potton Apple Day, The Potton Show and the Christmas Lights switch on.

We are especially pleased to announce our Midsummer Bash, a family festival, in St Mary's Field and Hall on Sunday 27th June. Mark the date and join us for an afternoon of good music and Potton style fun. Headlining will be local band Drunk and Disorderly and guests. In sketches commissioned specially for the event, we'll also have Potton Playhouse, whilst Theatre of Widdershins, Potton's own puppet theatre, are guaranteed to entertain all ages, as are the Phoenix Chorus.

There will be a variety of refreshment stalls including barbeque, dumplings, and home-made cakes. Tea, coffee, Potton beer and gin will also be on offer, along with good value children's refreshments. Further details on social media. Whatever the Government Covid guidelines are at the time, we will make sure this is a safe and fun event.

Meanwhile, you may also like to know that the excellent Potton Recycling Scheme has re-opened and their bins are back in place next to the town council offices, ready to receive a variety of recyclable packages. Recycling helps them to help us, but most importantly helps the environment.

The Friends meet informally every 6 weeks or so to support the Trustees with community engagement and awareness and fundraising. Like most organisations, we rely on volunteers, so if you would like to help as a Friend of Potton Hall for All, please call David Tall (01767 261713).

Face Painting

POTTON HALL FOR ALL

"BEST FESTIVAL" FANCY DRESS

MIDSUMMER BASH !

27TH JUNE 2021

LOTS OF FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES

**St Mary's Church Field
Potton
2pm - 7pm**

Tickets : £5 in advance from Tysoe's or Cameron's
OR
£7 on the door.
Under 16's FREE

FOOD STALLS - CAKES - BAR AVAILABLE
(PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN FOOD OR DRINK)

**Music by
Drunk and Disorderly
Plus Guests**

**PLAYHOUSE
POTTON**

**Theatre of
Widdershins**

PHOENIX

Potton Hall For All Registered Charity No 1158751

Potton Green Wheel Public Consultation



Central Bedfordshire Council is asking the local community to have their say on proposals for a 'green corridor' around Potton.

The Potton Green Wheel Development Group consisting of representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BedsRCC), Potton Town Council and Sutton Parish Council have worked together to create plans for a Potton 'Green Wheel' which will circuit the town, providing a green corridor for Potton and Sutton residents to enjoy.

The draft plans show that the Green Wheel could provide an important landscape and biodiversity resource for the town to enjoy and encourage walking and cycling both around and in and out of the town.

The Council would now like to hear the community's views on the proposals.

The public consultation began on Monday 24th May and runs until Monday 5th July 2021.

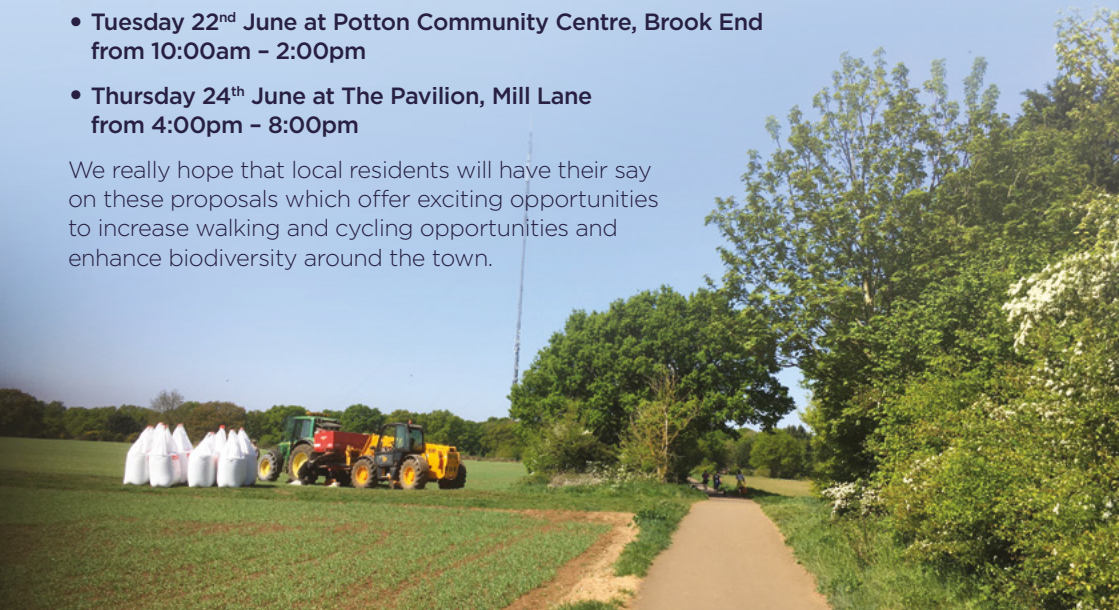
Full details about the proposals and a questionnaire for residents and stakeholders can be viewed online at **www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations**

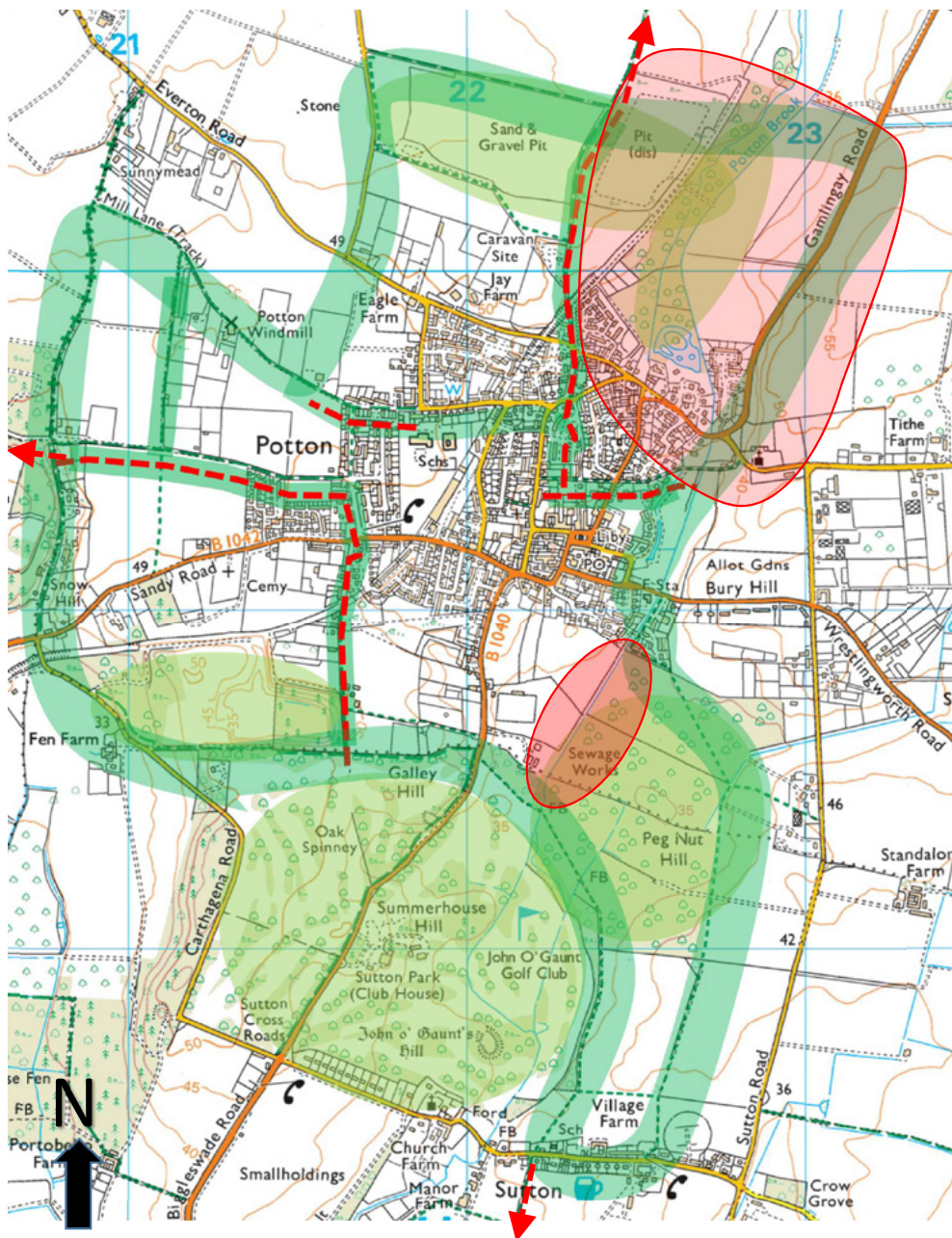
The consultation questionnaire and summary Green Wheel document are also available during the consultation at the Potton Town Council Office and Potton Library.

Representatives from the Council, BedsRCC and the Potton Green Wheel Development Group will be available to talk to on:

- **Saturday 19th June at Potton Seasonal Market, Market Square from 9:00am – 1:00pm**
- **Tuesday 22nd June at Potton Community Centre, Brook End from 10:00am – 2:00pm**
- **Thursday 24th June at The Pavilion, Mill Lane from 4:00pm – 8:00pm**

We really hope that local residents will have their say on these proposals which offer exciting opportunities to increase walking and cycling opportunities and enhance biodiversity around the town.





	Indicative route of long term Green Wheel rim
	Short term Green Wheel rim options
	Green Wheel spokes and links to neighbouring areas
	Major green spaces/ landscape assets
	Area of search

Not to Scale ©Crown Copyright and Database right, 2020. Ordnance Survey 100049029. Central Bedfordshire Council



Update from Ward Councillor Tracey Wye

Application process for funding is now... OPEN!

Bids for this year's Ward Councillor Grant scheme can now be submitted by groups and charities based in Potton Ward and the good news we can allocate half of our £2,000 to projects without the need to match fund.

This is great news for smaller community groups, especially those which are just starting out.

Between us, Cllr Adam Zerny and I have £4,000 to support groups across the ward, and half of that is available for groups without match funding.

Please contact me at tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk if you would like to apply for a grant. For more information go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/grants

Don't be a litterbug: You are probably closer to a bin than you think

As more people take advantage of the fabulous countryside walks around Potton, and are making more journeys by foot, there has been an increase in litter and dog poo bags in hedges and dog poo on pavements.

But the nearest bin may be closer than you think, as you can see on this Google map where I have plotted the location of all of Potton's litter and dog bins! With photos! www.tinyurl.com/pottonbinmap

While it might be argued I have too much time on my hands, I hope people will take a minute to remind themselves where the

bins are, and will be encouraged to walk a few extra metres to use them.

The map has highlighted areas where we could do with some new bins, and I am speaking to Central Bedfordshire Council to establish if it is possible to install them. Please get in touch with any suggestions on where to locate a new dog, or litter, bin.

The CBC website say dog waste can "be bagged and put into litter bins or taken home and put into your black wheelie bin" so there is no excuse not to pick up, and certainly no reason to leave dog poo bags hanging in bushes.



Have your say: Electric vehicle charge point consultation

CBC is asking for your views about on-street Electric Vehicle (EV) charge point locations across Central Bedfordshire as part of a campaign to increase the uptake of EVs.

I am keen to see more EV points across Potton Ward and hope to see a workable solution for residents who do not have a drive or garage.

You can now have your say on EV charge points via an online survey, which includes preferences on the type of EV charging facility, preferred method

of payment, and the use of 'charging hub' car parks that feature multiple EV parking bays.

Over the coming months CBC will use the information to increase the geographical spread and availability of charge points across our patch, focusing on public car parks and facilities such as leisure centres.

Please complete the survey via www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/55/transport_roads_and_parking/580/electric_vehicles





Your Local Environment

Author: Cllr John Day

Hello and welcome to the first of a regular newsletter feature about improving the environment around the town.

As Chair of the Town Council's Environment Committee, I'm mindful that many residents may not be aware of the number of initiatives being run by volunteers with the active support of your town councillors. Here is a brief summary, but look out for more details on the town council website, Facebook page and future newsletters.



Photo credit Jill White

Potton Recycling Scheme

(co-ordinated by Jill White)

This was established in 2019 to recycle items not currently accepted in household recycling bins. Everything we collect is recycled by Terracycle and raises funds for the Potton Hall for All. The recycling bins are next to the Town Council Offices in Brook End. See the Facebook page and labels on the bins for what we accept.

Potton Food Garden

(co-ordinated by CBC Cllr Tracey Wye and Sharon Mey)

The aim of the garden is to promote health and well-being, by growing healthy food, a proportion of which will be donated to Potton residents facing food poverty. As we begin to come out of lockdown, the garden is once again able to welcome volunteers.



Photo credit John Day

Potton Footpaths Garden

(co-ordinated by Cllrs Carol Leggatt and John Day)

Meeting Lane is a popular route into town and we have been working with residents to improve its appearance, planting a variety of shrubs and herbaceous plants along the borders. As Covid restrictions lift, we plan to arrange more group sessions.

Potton Community Orchard

(co-ordinated by Sally Wileman)

The Community Orchard continues to grow as a haven for wildlife and people. In the spring diggers altered the shape of the bank of the brook as a gentler slope is better for wildlife. At the end of last year, volunteers sowed the meadow with wildflowers. Hopefully they will put on a great show this summer.



Open Space off Hutchinson Rise

There's still work to do in order to make this a safe and attractive area, which is why residents are unable to access the open space yet. The developer, Keir, is aiming to complete this work as soon as possible. The Town Council is liaising closely with them to make sure this happens.

Grass Cutting

(co-ordinated by Cllr John Day)

The contractors are mowing the parks and verges in the town again, with detailed maps telling them how to cut each patch to allow plants to flower. Below trees in Henry Smith Playing Fields will be left long, but cut every 6 to 8 weeks. The triangle at the end of King Street will be uncut for 8 to 10 weeks from around the end of May to allow flowers to grow.



Nature in Potton

Carthagea County Wildlife Site

Last year the Town Council published a leaflet guide for the butterfly walk along Carthagea Bridleway. To get the most of it for butterflies its best to visit from late June to mid-July. You can download the leaflet from the Town Council website. Getting this route declared a County Wildlife Site was one of the aspirations of the Potton Neighbourhood Plan.



Your Local Environment (continued)

Author: Cllr John Day

Swifts

They'll be back in and around the town now. You can record them on Swift Mapper - (www.swiftmapper.org.uk), where you see them flying at roof top level and entering a nest.

They are hard to see entering nests, this is why - short of standing in the Market Square 24/7, we've yet to confirm breeding in the boxes beneath the clock tower. We know sparrows are using one box but if you see swifts entering any boxes, please email the Town Council who will pass the information on.

Swift mapper is available on both desktop and mobile phone, so you can easily record what you see while in the town. The best times to see them entering nests is just before dusk.



Photo credit John Day

In the past year swift and bat boxes have been fitted into the new Foundry Place development off Willow Road and the Copsewood development off Mill Lane. Swift boxes have also been fitted into the new petrol station development currently under construction on Biggleswade Road.

If you are interested in helping with any of the initiatives or have your own ideas for projects you'd like to suggest, please get in touch via the town council email address [**pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com)



Potton Federation bids farewell to Executive Head Teacher, Cathy Smart

When did you join Potton Lower School?

I joined Potton Lower School on the 1st September 2012.

What made you want to be a Headteacher?

I really wanted to improve the outcomes for children. As someone who didn't love school myself I wanted children to feel that they were excited about coming to school and that it was a safe place.

What have you enjoyed the most?

Building relationships with the children, parents, staff and the wider community. Although, some families have experienced difficult times, it is very rewarding being able to support them.

What do you think you have achieved?

The academic outcomes for pupils have increased year on year through my Headship and having high expectations for every pupil has resulted in a real impact on their progress. I have built a fantastic team of teachers and support staff who share a common desire to make life better for our pupils. I have also developed Teaching Assistants into becoming Teachers and seen them achieve this which is lovely. I am very confident that I am leaving the school in a very secure position for the future.

What are your hopes for the school in the future?

The school is being left in the very capable hands of Miss Coppenhall as Acting Headteacher and the new Senior Leadership Team. They have been part of the schools' journey for many years, and I know they will build on what we have already achieved together.

How are you going to be enjoying your retirement?

I'll be spending more time with my family including supporting my elderly parents. I hope to travel and have lots of trips already planned all around the world if they can go ahead. I enjoy gardening and am looking forward to having lots of time to read.

**Cathy Smart, former
Executive Head Teacher
at Potton Federation**



Potton Young People's Town Council

(PYPTC) Author: Cllr Carol Leggatt

I was asked by my granddaughter, Imogen 'What is a Town Council and what does it do? Are children involved? Why not?'

After this, I provided a written motion to request that the Town Council consider having a Council for Children. At the meeting it was resolved that a... *Working Group investigate a PYPTC and then provide a proposal.*

The Town Council members met to talk about how we might spark the interest of our young community to have their say in what they would like in the town. We are looking for about **12 children to form a 'council', ranging in age from school Year 5 through to Year 13. Membership will be open to children resident and/or attending a school and/or organisation in Potton.**

Being an active member will give individuals the opportunity to develop key skills including communication, leadership, teamwork, professionalism and fundraising. Many of these skills, as well as making a positive contribution to the community, are both rewarding and recognised as crucial skills by employers.

Members of the PYPTC will also enjoy a range of activities and make useful contacts in the community. They will learn about future opportunities to become an elected Councillor or to develop a career within politics, local government and the voluntary and community sector.

In June 2021, Cllr Day and I are hoping to visit Potton Middle School and other organisations talking to children, teachers, leaders and parents and to gauge their interest. We hope to get things up and running by September 2021.

Following DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, adult councillors will act as facilitators to allow the young councillors their own space to discuss and make decisions. Meetings will take place once every three months for about an hour.

Imogen said, *'It would be good to be able to help in our town.'*

If you are interested in becoming a Potton Young People's Town Councillor, please contact us providing the below information by emailing: **pottoncouncilbookings@btconnect.com** or return the slip below to the town council office.



Child name:
Date of birth: School:
Address:
..... Postcode:
Email address:
Parent or Guardian name: