



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

August 2021 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



Your newly co-opted Potton Town Councillor

Following a meeting of the Town Council on 6th July 2021, members co-opted one new councillor. The new councillor is Andrew Inkersole. Read more on page 7.



Cllr Andrew Inkersole

Vacancy for a Potton Town Councillor

There are currently two Potton Town Councillor vacancies. For an opportunity to be a part of your community, see page 6 for details on how to apply or visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies



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
John Hobbs	260710
Andrew Inkersole	261966
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 7th September

Tuesday 5th October

Tuesday 2nd November

Councillor Surgeries

Venue and times to be advised.

Saturday 18th September

Cllr Kitchener and Cllr Price Williams

Saturday 16th October

Cllr Gwilliam and Cllr Hobbs

Saturday 6th November

Cllr Lean and Cllr Macdonald

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.



Chairman's message

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

Step 4 – welcome, but with caution!

At the time of writing, we are just entering Step 4 of our road out of COVID restrictions. It has been an exceedingly difficult 16 months and we all welcome this final step towards our 'new normal'. However, we must take this step with caution to avoid a resurgence of the pandemic and an unwelcome return to lockdown measures. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the local businesses for their fantastic work during the lengthy lockdown, providing a great service to Potton. I would also like to express the town's gratitude to the Potton Community Support Group who provided essential support to those most adversely affected by the enforced isolation and restrictions during the lockdown, including financial support to those in most need.

Grass cutting



I would also like to assure you that the Council are fully aware that grass cutting has not been

done in accordance with the contract that we have with the contractors. Attempts to contact them are made daily and we will take whatever actions are required to resolve the problem. Read more on page 13.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime



I am aware of the numerous issues of ASB and crime that we have had to tolerate in Potton. Cllr

Adam Zerny is in regular contact with the police authority to raise our concerns. As we mentioned in our last newsletter NO REPORT = NO ACTION. It is essential that all cases of ASB and crime are reported, either using 101 or in serious cases, 999. Posting on Facebook does NOT report ASB or a crime to the police and is therefore ineffective.

You can also report all cases of ASB to Bedfordshire Police online; go to [**www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report**](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report) and follow the links.

Cold calling

There has been a spate of cold calling in the town recently. Although they look genuine and carry ID cards, we recommend that you do not buy any goods or services on the doorstep. Although cold calling is not a criminal offence, it should be treated with caution. You can report cases of cold calling using the following email address: [**TradingStandards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:TradingStandards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) Read more on both issues in the Community Safety article on page 15.

Planning application decision

My thanks go to Cllrs Lean, Wye and Zerny for their representation of the views of both Potton Town Council (PTC) and residents at the recent CBC Development Management Committee meeting. It was refreshing that the objections of 759 residents and PTC were listened to, leading to the rejection of the planning application for development of land south of The Ridgeway. Read more on pages 20 and 21.

Potton Young People's Town Council

As you know, PTC are in the process of setting up a Potton Young People's Town Council. We are currently looking for around 12 children to form a 'council' and if you would like to be a part of this exciting adventure, please see <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/potton-young-peoples-town-council/> for more information. The deadline to return your application is **15th September 2021**. Read more on the back page.

Community Tablet Workshop

The Potton Consolidated Charity (PCC) funded tablet drop-in returns to the Community Centre in Brook End on **Wednesday 8th September** from **10am to 12pm**. Anyone who has a tablet issued by PCC is welcome to attend.

Thursday Friendship Group

After many months of restrictions, the Thursday Friendship Group will be opening its doors again. Returning to the Community Centre on **Thursday 9th September** from **10am to 12pm**, a warm welcome, games, laughter and refreshments awaits you.

Autumn Litter pick

The Autumn Litter pick is scheduled to take place on **Saturday 16th October** between **10am and 2pm**. Find out more on page 11.

Four Seasons Market

The Summer Four Seasons Market was another resounding success and well attended despite the COVID restrictions. The stalls were restricted to food and drink together with the promotion of local organisations, but the Autumn market will see the return of a full range of produce and products on sale – again, a hopeful return to normal. The Autumn Four Seasons Market is taking place on **Saturday 18th September 2021**.

A poster for the Four Seasons Market. At the top, the title "Four Seasons Market" is in large white letters on a dark blue background. Below the title are the Potton Town Council logo (a house icon with "POTTON TOWN COUNCIL" text) and a circular seal for the "FOUR SEASONS MARKET" with "POTTON" in the center. A red and white striped awning is depicted. The date and time "Sat 18th Sept 2021 9am - 1pm" are prominently displayed. Below this is an illustration of a market stall with various produce: purple eggplants, green leafy vegetables, yellow pumpkins, green beans, and red tomatoes. At the bottom, text reads "For more information visit pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market".

Four Seasons Market

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL

Sat 18th Sept 2021
9am - 1pm

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

Potton Show

Following the disappointment of the cancellation in 2020, I am delighted to see that the 47th Annual Potton Show is scheduled for **Saturday 11th September 2021**. The show will open at **2pm**, followed by entertainment from Letchworth Morris Men and a Fun Dog Show. At last Potton is returning to normal. See page 16 for more information.



Potton Apple Day

Potton Apple Day returns on **Sunday 26th September** from **12pm to 3pm** at St Mary's Church Field. More information on this year's event can be found on page 17.



Potton Christmas Lights



Potton Christmas Lights switch on will be on **Saturday 27th November 2021**, a change to the format of previous years (see page 8). It will be great to return to celebrating the start of the

Christmas festivities in true Potton style. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the installation of the lights, so please contact the Council office if you can help on **Sunday 31st October 2021**.

Pastures new

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Harris and Les Ivall for their service as councillors of PTC for eight and six years respectively. We now have two Town Councillor vacancies, so please see page 6 for details of how to apply.

New Councillor

Lastly, I would like to welcome Andrew Inkersole to PTC. He was co-opted onto the Council in July, and he brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge. Andrew was a valuable member of the team that produced the Potton Neighbourhood Plan.

I wish all Pottonians a wonderful Summer!

John

Cllr John Hobbs

Vacancy for two Potton Town Councillors

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 Monday 30th August 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 7th September 2021 at 7pm.**

Get to know your Town Councillors

Cllr Andrew Inkersole

I have lived in Potton with my wife Karen since 1987.

Our three daughters grew up in the town and all attended Potton schools.

I retired in 2016 after a 40-year career in the engineering industry.

Over the years I have been involved in many community activities in the town including as treasurer for the Twinning Association and a six year stint on the Party on Potton committee covering the events in 2004, 2006 and 2008. I am also a volunteer driver and committee member for the Ivel Sprinter community bus.

Many people in the town will know my wife Karen since she works at the Potton Federation and also runs a Potton Guide unit.

Although I helped out in producing Potton's Neighbourhood Plan, I have not before been formally involved with the Town Council, so this is my chance to try to make some changes that improve the lives of all of us that are proud to have Potton as their home.



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.

Shop Local

Potton Town Council encourages you to shop local and support your local traders. All your traders depend on you, and these include the shops, restaurants, and pubs. Supporting local businesses means they will still be there. Not only does shopping local support the local economy, it maintains and creates jobs.

Everyone has a part to play in building a stronger, healthier Potton and helping local business to rebuild after the coronavirus pandemic. Play your part and shop local.



Christmas Lights 2021

Author: Cllr Carol Leggatt

As we were unable to have our normal switch on last year, as compensation we thought we would make it a different switch on this year.

As we have lots of new residents in the town, we thought we would need extra space so everyone can join in. Therefore, we have applied for a road closure of the whole Market Square. The event will run from the middle of the afternoon into the evening on **Saturday 27th November**. Yes, you read it correctly - it is going to be on a Saturday!

On **Sunday 28th November**, Father Christmas will again do a tour of Potton with his Elves. The tour will end in St Mary's Church Field for Carols by Torchlight. The hall will be open for comfort stops.

Further details about both events will be in our next newsletter.



Potton Town Council Hall Hire

With the relaxation of restrictions following the move to Step 4 on 19th July 2021, the halls at the Community Centre, Brook End and the Pavilion, Mill Lane can now be hired by private individuals, community groups and commercial hirers.

You can email us at pottoncouncilbookings@btconnect.com to check availability and make a booking.

For up to date guidance, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>



The Pavilion, Mill Lane



Caretaker Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and reliable Caretaker to carry out caretaking and cleaning activities.

The position is initially for 15 hours per week and overtime for additional hours (times to be confirmed - NJC Scale Point 4 currently £9.84 per hour) and is an ideal opportunity for a responsible person, who has pride in their work, a conscientious attitude towards work duties, is able to maintain a high standard of work and would like to work for the local community.

You can contact the town council for an application pack or download it from the links on www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

Closing Date: Applications will be considered on receipt and interviews conducted accordingly. The vacancy will close on appointment of a suitable candidate.



Your Local Environment

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

In this edition, pages 10 to 14 feature a Scavenger Hunt for children, an update from Potton Recycling, Potton's Autumn Litter Pick, Potton Community Flower Gardens, Grass cutting and Potton Food Garden.

Something for the Summer holidays

Looking for something the younger children can do? Try the **nature trail scavenger hunt**. It's really easy to take part and will get them looking for what's in their surroundings in the garden or on a walk in and around Potton.

All you have to do is print off the sheet from the Potton Town Council website and away you go!

<https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/something-for-the-summer-holidays/>



Potton Recycling

Author: Jill White

In our first two years of operation, we have raised over £1,000 for the Potton Hall for All and collected upwards of 700Kg of waste, which would not otherwise have been recycled – a fantastic achievement, and down to the help of all our volunteers, especially since the bins were closed for much of 2020 due to the pandemic.

The bins are all now open again by the town council office on Brook End and we run packing sessions weekly on a Friday morning and monthly on a Tuesday evening at the Community Centre. We could always use more packers so please see our Facebook page @pottonrecycling, our new web page

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/recycling/

or call the council office on 01767 260086 for details if you can join us.

We also recently joined a new Terracycle scheme – Taylors of Harrogate, which takes flexible plastic packaging from Taylors branded coffee. This is different to our other schemes as we do not collect in our bins, but at Potton Food Stores. Please take your empty Taylors packaging to them between 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 9am to 1pm on Sundays.



Keeping Potton Tidy

A huge thanks goes out once again to all those who took part in the Spring Litter Pick on Saturday 22nd May. We collected around 20 bags along with carpets, car bumpers and a dog bed!

The Autumn Litter Pick is scheduled to take place on **Saturday 16th October** from **10am to 2pm**. Volunteers will meet as usual at the old telephone exchange next to the Community Centre and litter pickers, rubbish bags and hi-vis vests will be provided. Please bring your own gloves.

The aim of the Potton litter pick is for the community to come together to clean up the local environment and have fun. However, we do encourage anyone who is going out for a walk to take a bag and collect some litter along the way to help keep Potton looking clean and tidy between litter picks.

We look forward to seeing you!



Join the Potton Autumn Litter Pick



Be part of the pick

Sat 16th October 2021 from 10am - 2pm

The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS



Potton Community Flower Gardens

Author: Cllr John Day

The recently established Busy Bee Community Garden Group in Sutton Mill Road now brings the number of community flower gardens in Potton to two, the other being the Potton Footpaths Garden established last year around Meeting Lane.



Meeting Lane

As you can see from the pictures, both gardens are now starting to come into their own. Where and when time allows the groups plant and nurture the beds in order to get the gardens established and looking nice. Both receive favourable comments from passers by.

There hasn't been so much activity this year on the Meeting Lane garden, but we are looking to soon organise another community session. We also welcome a new volunteer who has kindly offered to help weed and donate plants too when he has a moment spare. Please keep an

eye on the town council website for any announcements of the next session in Meeting Lane. We will also advertise it in the town and nearby houses.

We're hoping the interest, like the plants will grow elsewhere. Residents who would like to set up their own community garden are welcome to talk to the leaders of the current gardens for advice. One of the garden coordinators recently visited the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show, where there was a strong emphasis and presence of community street gardens - so the idea is growing in popularity.

To talk to the organisers about getting involved with either or both the existing gardens or setting up your own, email the town council with your contact details to express your interest and we will get back to you.



Sutton Mill Road



Grass Cutting Contract

Author: Cllr John Day

It has not gone unnoticed by the town council, and we know you as a community, that the mowing contractor CGM has woefully let the whole town down with their poor performance. It has not been through lack of trying on the part of town council staff to have been constantly contacting the contractor since the end of May. On occasion email and phone communication has been several times a week in an effort for them to come and fulfil the contract to specification.

We appreciate your frustration and can assure you we too are equally annoyed and frustrated, particularly when this is only year two of a three year contract - which we can confirm will not be renewed. The town council is already actively prospecting for a new contractor to take on the work and provide a quote. By starting to look now gives us longer to find what we hope will be the right people with the right equipment and pride in the job to deliver what we want.

The contract specification clearly states the height and frequency of cuts. It also asks for all street furniture and trees to be strimmed around and that all arisings are swept from paths - all of which they are failing on. We are also aware as failure to cut to specification excess grass clippings are a problem. They have been asked to collect them but unfortunately this is yet to happen. We would please ask rather than vent your frustration on staff and councillors, you accept our apologies for this and understand we continue to do everything possible to engage the company in fulfilling their contract.



Your Local Environment

Potton Food Garden

Author: Tracey Wye

Feeling happy, or sad? Feeling positive, or low? Feeling fit, or need some more exercise? Want new friends? Community gardening is for YOU!

The Potton Food Garden is open to all visitors and volunteers - everyone is welcome to take a look and get involved.

Residents of all ages can come and meet new friends, improve mental and physical health, learn about growing veg, or just come to sit and chill out.

We are also here for groups to enjoy a visit for non-gardening activities such as art sessions, singing, meditation, etc. Please get in touch for more information or to discuss how you might wish to visit and use the garden.

Volunteering can be as often or as infrequent as suits you. If you know someone who would benefit from social gardening, please pass this information on.

Our aims are:

- To encourage people to garden for their physical and mental health
- To grow healthy food, a portion of which will support Potton residents who are facing food poverty
- To promote the no-dig gardening method
- Provide a space to garden



T: 07754515640 E: pottonfoodgarden@gmail.com
Find us: Myers Road, Potton, Opposite Garden Fields



/pottonfoodgarden

Community Safety

Author: Cllr Charles Craig

Thanks to Potton Residents

In our last newsletter we asked residents to ensure reporting of suspicious behaviour, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and down-right criminality to the correct sources:

In an emergency phone 999! If an emergency response is not needed, **contact the Local Police on 101** (15p per call), or report through Bedfordshire Police web site **<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report>**

You can also contact:

Crimestoppers (fully anonymous) on **0800 555111** or online via **<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>**

Central Bedfordshire's Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
<https://safercentral.org/#reportaproblem>

Email **Potton Town Council** **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**

Speak with a town councillor – find contact details on page 2.

Many of you have persevered with reporting these incidents despite often not having any clear or obvious sign of action from the authorities. It is also apparent that many people have tolerated anti-social behaviour to the point of exasperation before reporting (please don't!). The council encourages you to keep up with the reporting as each individual report adds to the information that can be used to build a picture of how best to address particular issues and action will (ultimately) follow.

Cold-Calling in Potton

Unfortunately, we have noted (through your reports) that, despite Potton being part of the 'No cold-calling zone', there have been several visits of cold-callers looking to sell goods door-to-door across much of the town. This cold-calling is not necessarily criminal, but callers should be treated with caution. To trading standards, cold-calling is a serious problem; however, **councils have absolutely no powers to stop cold callers. The PTC discourages people from buying ANY goods or services on the doorstep.**

Door stickers that say things like 'No Cold Callers' can be provided to householders by Trading Standards (or can be purchased on line). The purpose of these is to empower the householder to simply point at the sticker and say 'no' to the cold caller. They do not have any legal standing and a cold caller is not breaking

any laws by ignoring the sticker. Trading Standards may get involved if there is mis-selling, fraudulent selling or there is some sort of aggressive practice (i.e. the same business keeps coming back after they have been told to go away). Unfortunately this does not apply to politicians! (according to the Trading standards web site). The email address to which cold-calling should be reported is: **TradingStandards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**. More information is available: **<http://tradingstandardsblog.co.uk/doorstep-cold-calling-the-law>**. We suggest any cold-calling should be reported so that frequency and timing of such activity can be monitored, but certainly any mis-selling or aggressive selling should be reported. Again, the message is please: **report, report, report** – using the correct channels. This information builds intelligence that can be acted upon.

The Potton Show

A true tradition of the town

The 47th Potton Flower and Vegetable show will be held on **Saturday 11th September 2021**. The show was first held in 1973 and continues to attract competitors from far and wide. The show is held at St. Mary's Church Field on Hatley Road and the many exhibits can be viewed in the marquee from 2pm to 5pm.



Flower show entries

Schedules listing the range of classes, that are open to all, are now available from Tysoe's Hardware, Potton Post Office and the Library or can be viewed at www.pottonshow.org.uk. We look forward to receiving entry forms in the lead up to the show. It costs just 30p per class to enter and there really are classes for all! Ranging from home-grown fruit, vegetables and flowers, to wines, photography, art, cooking, hobbies and handicrafts, for adults as

well as children. This is your opportunity to showcase your talents and maybe become a prize-winner! Cash prizes are awarded, as well as certificates, cups and trophies. Please support your local show.

During "Show afternoon" there will be a Fun Dog Show, Morris Dancers, Raptor Display and lots of side-stalls and refreshments. Prizes will be awarded at 4pm and from 4.30pm our ever-popular Auction which gives everyone the chance to buy prize-winning produce kindly donated by competitors.



Previous winner

On **Sunday 12th September**, the marquee plays host to our annual Craft Fair featuring a great variety of stalls from 12pm to 5pm - your chance to purchase those early Christmas Gifts!

We look forward to meeting friends "old and new" and always welcome offers of help to set up and run the show. **For any show enquiries please call Jan May, Show Chairman on 01767 260413 and for Craft Fair bookings and enquiries Jane Leonard 01767 260293.**

Potton Apple Day

Author: Sally Wileman

The tenth Potton Apple Day is planned, as always, to take place on the last Sunday in September. This year, it will be on **Sunday 26th September from 12pm to 3pm** at St Mary's Church Field. As it is a largely outdoor event with plenty of space for social distancing, we are ever optimistic that we can offer traditional activities this Autumn.

Our annual celebration of apples and orchards is a fun, informative, family day out. Please do collect up your spare apples as these are the backbone of Potton Apple Juice (for sale in Number 1 King Street and Potton Four Seasons Markets). Bring them on the day to the Apple Amnesty area, or let us know and

we'll collect them if we can.

We plan to have apple juice and cider for sale on the day, along with food and live music; displays of Bedfordshire apples and advice about orchards, an apple identification service and fruit trees for sale. It looks like it's going to be a good harvest, so we will have unusual varieties of apples for sale.

Watch out for details locally and on social media. 'Like' Potton Apple Day Facebook page for event details, as they're confirmed.



Potton Green Wheel Consultation

Author: Cllr John Hobbs

My thanks to everyone who either attended one of the Potton Green Wheel Consultation events or completed the online questionnaire. We had a good response and a large majority were supportive of the Potton Green Wheel Masterplan. The consultation data is currently being analysed and we will receive a report in September together with the suggested amendments to the Masterplan.



2019 saw the 1250th anniversary of our twin town – Langenlonsheim

Author: Alan Leggatt

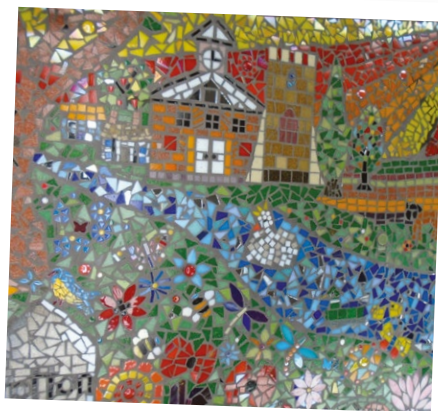
To mark this momentous occasion the town put on five festival weekends throughout the year charting different aspects of life as it developed in today's Langenlonsheim (Lalo).

The climax of this was a four day celebration "party" to which the people of Potton were cordially invited. 27 residents duly attended and were thoroughly entertained. This has been reported in earlier issues of your newsletter.

After the event a book was produced by the organisers describing how the programme for the year was hatched and subsequently evolved. A complimentary copy of the book was given to Potton by the Bürgermeister, Bernhard Wolf, which is currently held in the library for anyone to view. It is of course written in German but mostly it contains high quality colour photographs of the five festival weekends and the lead up to them.

There is good coverage of Potton describing how the twinning

arrangement came about and plenty of pictures of the Potton guests attending the final weekend. It includes the presentation of our gift to the Bürgermeister and the town - the Community made mosaic which is now proudly displayed in Potton Platz (Potton Square).



Mosaic gifted to Lalo

The book is titled LANGENLONSHEIM 1250 JAHRE. Do take a look.





Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

Project Update

In June, the Trustees applied to the Levelling Up Fund, which if successful would secure the remaining cost of project. We were delighted to get a lot of help and full support from Central Bedfordshire Council (who had to submit the application on our behalf) and Richard Fuller MP. We hope to hear further news on this during the Autumn.



The Joint Steering Group consisting of the Town Council and Trustees have also been working with specialists to revisit the costings for this project, in order to confirm affordability, as we move into our final fundraising phases.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has at long last replied to Potton Town Council's

application to take out a Public Works Loan towards the project costs. Before MHCLG give permission, PTC must show the project is fully funded. At the moment, with the Section 106 monies, the PWB loan and other promised grant funding we need to raise just over £200,000 to close the funding gap.

We are working hard at securing funds from other Charitable Trusts. We are also looking for funds from any other local benefactors, groups or companies that might be willing to donate or sponsor the project. Please do get in touch with us if you'd like more details about how you can help.

We were very disappointed to have to postpone the Midsummer Bash, but decided that, given that Government COVID measures were still in place, there was no alternative. We hope to bring this to you in June 2022, so make a note in your diary!

We are currently firming up our events schedule. We hope to bring you the following:

- Potton Show marquee event – evening of **Saturday 11th September** – details to follow
- September Seasonal Market Stall – **Saturday 18th September**, Potton Market Square
- Tea and cake at Potton Apple Day on **Sunday 26th September**, at St Mary's Hall & Field
- Potton Playhouse Mystery Night with bar and food - November
- Potton May Day Fete 2022 in partnership with Potton Town Cricket Club - TBC



Follow us on Facebook to keep up with news and further details of forthcoming events!



Update from Ward Councillor Adam Zerny

Dig for victory! Community action makes a difference as Potton fights off 100 house development

- **100 house estate REFUSED by councillors at CBC Planning committee**
- **Vote went 10-0 against the development.**
- **Major concerns raised about access and loss of amenity.**

In June the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Planning committee sided with Potton residents and rejected a planning application for 100 houses south of The Paddocks and The Ridgeway. It's a big victory but we should expect the developer to appeal it.

On the day, Tracey Wye and I joined Potton town councillors and residents in travelling to CBC's HQ at Chicksands to argue against a hugely unpopular planning application proposed for south of the town.

After two and a half hours of debate and despite desperate last ditch attempts by Council officers to encourage councillors to agree with them, common sense prevailed and in the end the committee was adamant the development was not right for the town. Raising major concerns about access and loss of amenity given the environmental value of the land, the Planning committee voted by 10 votes to 0 (with 2 abstentions) to reject the application.

Strong criticism of the development came from many quarters but in particular from Independent councillors Rebecca Hares, Hayley Whitaker and Mary Walsh.

It's a fantastic result and really shows what can happen when a community comes together.

Nevertheless, we should be wary, the developer will probably appeal the result although we must take confidence in how strong the opposition is to this development.

There were some remarkable moments in the meeting but two in particular encapsulated the farcical nature of some of these planning applications. Both Tracey and I made much of how the site included rare acid grassland and lizards that needed





to be protected. At one stage there was laughter from across the room as a Council officer struggled to describe how rare reptiles would be protected by moving them to another part of the site while building works took place around them. Minutes later there was similar bemusement from committee members at the applicant's insistence the rare acid grassland could be protected by moving it to one side of the development and putting a sign out asking people to stay off the grass!

Community action fighting this development and creating the Sutton Mill Road gardens has shown this town will not be pushed over. Well done to all who played a part in this result.

Potton Tennis Club Relocation

Author: Ian Mundy

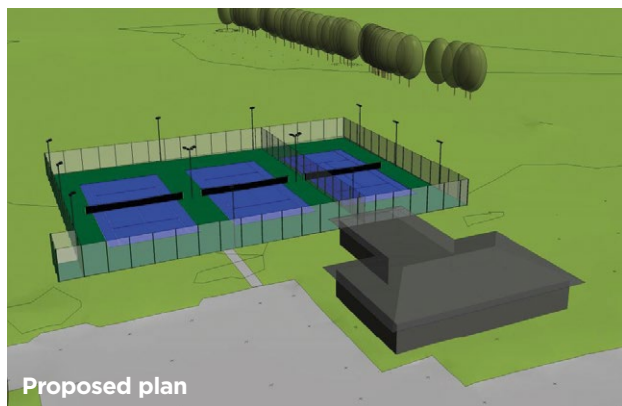
Potton Tennis Club is delighted to announce that brand new courts will soon be built adjacent to the pavilion at Mill Lane Recreation Ground. The club is currently located at the Hollow and the courts which were laid in 1999 are showing their age with more bad bounces than good ones!



Thanks to generosity of the landowner, Potton Consolidated Charity, support and advice from Potton Town Council, and an effective fundraising campaign, what had originally seemed a daunting prospect, evolved into a deliverable project.

The planning application submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for the new floodlit courts received overwhelming support and consent was received earlier this year.

If all goes to plan, construction will begin this Autumn and they will take about six weeks to build.



These new tennis facilities fit very well into the Potton Neighbourhood Plan to provide good leisure facilities to meet the needs of the whole of the town and relocating will also have the benefit of allowing the old site of the courts and adjacent former Multi Use Games Area to be redeveloped into a new 3G football pitch.

Potton Tennis Club looks forward to welcoming new

members of all ages and abilities to the facilities, which will also be suitable for disabled players, who will be warmly welcomed.

The courts will also be available for non-members to use on a pay-per-play basis. The club have secured funding from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for a state-of-the-art access system, which will allow players to book a court via the LTA's online system and even get the floodlights to turn on and off automatically if required.

Coaching is available now and the club coach will be providing coaching on the new courts for all ages from minis to juniors to adults both as group sessions and on a 1-to-1 basis.



For more information about the club please visit our Facebook page @pottontennisclub.

Luton Airport Flight Path Consultation

Author: Cllr Mark Williams

Luton Airport has concluded its consultation on its new descent path which clears the way for it to expand from 18 to 38 million passengers a year. Over 90 per cent of public respondents, all local MPs, several county councils and most parish, town and district councils in the region including PTC have rejected the changes as they offered no real choice. The airport said this “is not a popularity contest” and will press on regardless. From February 2022, up to 21 aircraft an hour will now overfly Potton and surrounding villages during “busy periods” loosely defined as 7am to 10am, 4pm to 7pm and late evening plus other times as necessary. Aircraft will be at five to six thousand feet - about one mile - up.



Vacancy for School Governors

Make a positive contribution to the community

Being a Governor is a rewarding way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people. The Potton Federation (comprising Potton Lower and Potton Middle Schools) is looking for new Governors to join our team.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- An interest in the performance of the schools
- An open and enquiring mind and the ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- Some time to spare (4 full meetings per year plus committee meetings)

We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with:

- An understanding of SEND and disability awareness
- Knowledge/experience of building/facilities/site management
- HR experience – particularly in an educational environment

Being a Governor is enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding and you do not have to be the parent of a child at either school. All Governors must complete safeguarding checks.

If you are interested, please contact:

Rebecca Silliker, Clerk to the Governors

clerk@pottonfederation.co.uk



Potton Young People's Town Council

(PYPTC) Update

On 8th July 2021, Cllrs Carol Leggatt and Lindsay Kitchener visited the Middle School of Potton Federation to speak with the children about PYPTC. Letters have since gone home from school to parents and guardians of children who showed an interest in becoming a PYPTC Councillor.

Potton Town Council believe that young people are the future of our communities, and we feel it is important that we as a town council invest in them. We are looking for around 12 children to form a 'council' and if you would like to be a part of this exciting adventure, you must fulfil the following criteria:

- Potton resident and / or attend a school and / or organisation in Potton.
- School Years 5-13.
- Have consent from a parent or guardian.
- Commit to attending meetings (meetings will take place once every three months for about an hour).

If you are interested in becoming a PYPTC Councillor, you can find out how to apply by visiting www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/potton-young-peoples-town-council or return the slip below to the town council office. The deadline for application is **15th September 2021** and the councillors of PYPTC will be elected at the first meeting of PYPTC.

Please note: Town councillors will act as facilitators for PYPTC and will be DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked.



Child name:

Date of birth: School:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email address:

Parent or Guardian name: