



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

February 2022 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



The Platinum Jubilee

See pages 12 and 13 to see how Potton plans to celebrate

Highlights of this edition

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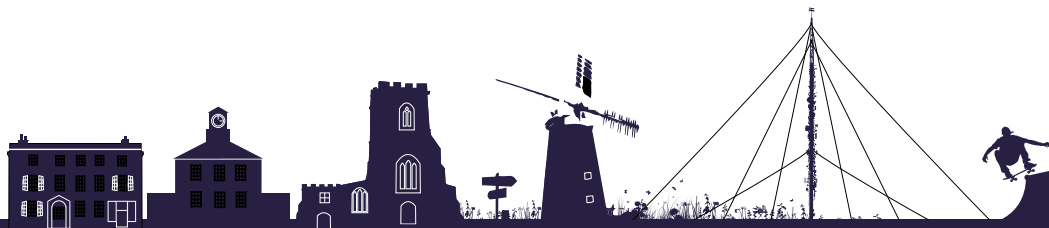
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Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the February 2022 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

As this is our first newsletter of 2022, I'd like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. I'd also like to reflect on the positive events in Potton in the past year.

In 2021 we welcomed six new Town Councillors: Charles Craig, Vicki Gwilliam, Mark Williams, Dan Norman, Leane Fox and Andrew Inkersole, all of whom have already made an important contribution to the council. In October we also saw the inauguration of the Potton Youth Council, supported by Councillors John Day, Vicki Gwilliam, Lindsay Kitchener and Carol Leggatt.

The Potton Community Support Group continued to support Potton residents through the continuing lockdown, providing both financial and practical assistance until we finally unlocked in July.

During 2021, Potton began to return to 'near normal' with the return of the Potton Flower and Vegetable Show and Potton Apple Day in September. Both were well attended, with the people of Potton turning out in large numbers to celebrate the events.

Finally, a belated welcome to our two new town centre retail businesses; Lucy Jane's Bakery and the Highland Group's Nisa Local Food Store and refurbished Petrol Station. It is good to see that Potton can still thrive despite the problems caused by the lockdowns of the past two years.

More recently, the following successful events have taken place:

- **Potton Civic Service** was held in October. A well-attended and successful celebration of all that is good about the Potton community.



Potton Civic Service

Judi and I met with distinguished guests Major Simon Sadler TD DL and Brian Saunders, chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council.



- **Fireworks at St Mary's Church field** – Potton turned out in force to attend a spectacular firework display organised by St

Mary's Church. We were also well catered for by the Events Committee, with a roaring bonfire, BBQ, Gluwein

(with a rum shot option), home-made soup and a selection of wonderful home-made cakes. What an evening!!! My thanks go to everyone involved in helping us to make a giant leap towards normality following the lockdown. It was so good to see so many families enjoying this truly spectacular community event.

- **Remembrance Day commemorations** made a welcome return to our town for 2021. Hundreds of residents turned out to pay their respects to our Potton heroes who sacrificed their lives in the Great War and WWII. I was truly honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of Potton Town Council.



- **Rosemary Kimber was awarded her well-deserved MBE** for services to the community in Potton in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021. The Queen's representative Helen Nellis, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire,

presented the MBE to Rosemary in St Mary's Church Hall in the presence of close friends. Not quite Buckingham Palace but hopefully the occasion will be celebrated at a garden party some time in 2022.



Potton Playhouse performing at St Mary's Hall murder mystery evening

- **Live theatre** finally returned to Potton with the production of The Great British Bump Off performed by Potton Playhouse. St Mary's Church Hall was transformed into the Potton Show marquee, and we had to deduce 'who dun it?' A great evening that raised funds for the church and the Hall for All project.

New tennis courts are under construction at the Mill Lane Recreation Ground and should be completed in early 2022. This will provide an excellent facility for both the Potton Tennis Club and residents.



Credit: Carlos Santino, Sandy Photography Club

Christmas festivities

Our run into Christmas always begins with the switching on of our Christmas lights. This year more than made up for the postponement last year, with a spectacular afternoon and evening of festive fun culminating in Father Christmas turning on the lights. What a spectacular sight they were – the display seems to get bigger and better each year. Santa arrived in a Mercedes convertible and spent the afternoon meeting and chatting to the many children who turned up to see him. The fairground was bigger than ever, and despite the cold weather, everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Potton Federation School Choir, Phoenix Ladies Barbershop and Potton Baptist Church Choir for adding a musical dimension to the day.

On behalf of the Potton residents, I'd like to thank the organisers of the event, ably led by Cllr Carol Leggatt, and the many helpers who not only helped to set up the event but who also spent many weekends in November putting up the lights. They are all unpaid volunteers, and we are so lucky to have such a great bunch of residents – Potton is really such a special place.

Then, having had such a joyous day in Potton on Saturday, Santa decided to tour the town on Sunday afternoon, supported by his friendly elves. He had a great reception wherever he went, and he wants to thank everyone who donated to the Christmas Lights Fund. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he went along King Street at least three times.

Both Santa and I would like to thank his chauffeur Simon Auckland and Rusty Artisan who designed and constructed his sleigh.

Father Christmas had so much fun that he decided to return in December to meet more children in his grotto based in King Street. Whilst there he helped raise more than £1,000 for Keech Children's Hospice. What a great achievement!

Following Santa's successful visits to Potton, our very own festive Gingerbread Man decided that he too should join in with the festive spirit. He popped up outside many familiar shops in the Market Square before responding to the plea for more helpers on the Potton Speedwatch Team. Hopefully, motorists slowed down to give him a wave.

If you have time to join the Potton Speedwatch team, please see the Speedwatch article on page 19.

Other events

- A very successful Christmas-themed **Four Seasons Market** was held in the Market Square on 4th December. It was well attended and had a great atmosphere. My thanks to those traders present and to the organisers who once again produced a great event. The next Seasonal Market will be on **19th March**.



- MP Richard Fuller paid a visit to the Potton-based **Music for Memory Group** that operates at the Mill Lane Pavilion. This group provides an essential support network for both those suffering from dementia and their carers, using familiar music and songs to revive important memories.

If you know anyone who would benefit from attending Music for Memory, the sessions are run every Wednesday afternoon between 2.15pm and 3.45pm in the Mill Lane Pavilion.

Tel **01234 210993** or email **contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk**

Four Seasons Market



Sat 19th Mar 2022

9am – 1pm



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

- Many thanks to the **Veg Box Donation Scheme** for all that they have done in 2021, distributing free veg boxes to those suffering financial hardship in Potton. They are continuing in 2022 so please donate at the Potton Allotments in Everton Road any Saturday from 9am to 12pm.



One of the many Potton Neighbourhood Plan projects is to create the **Potton Green Wheel**, a circular walking/cycling 'Green Wheel' route around Potton, with various 'spokes' from the town centre. For a number of years the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group together with a number of Potton residents have been working with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to make this project a reality, and I'm pleased to announce that our Potton Green Wheel Masterplan has been adopted by CBC and both Potton Town Council and Sutton Parish Council. The Masterplan can be found on the Potton Town Council website (under Our Town).



Now the real work begins, seeking to iron out the various snags along the preferred route. We will start with a walking 'Green Wheel', producing a map together with signposts and waymarker signs and information boards en-route. If you are interested in joining this working group, please contact the Town Clerk at pottoncouncil@btconnect.com. We would welcome additional support and ideas.

Happy New Year!

Cllr John Hobbs



Help clean up our streets

Join the Great British Spring Clean

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2022

The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS

FROM 10AM -2PM

#GBSpringClean

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://twitter.com/pottoncouncil)

Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/ for more information.

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Tuesday 5th April 2022

Tuesday 3rd May 2022 - Annual Meeting of the Town Council

Councillor Surgeries

Venue and times to be advised.

Saturday 19th March

Cllrs Leane Fox and Carol Leggatt

Saturday 23rd April

Cllrs John Hobbs and Andrew Inkersole

Saturday 21st May

Cllrs Charles Craig and Andy Gibb

Dates for the Diary

March

Saturday 19 th	Spring Four Seasons Market (see page 5)	9am to 1pm
Saturday 19 th	Spring Litter Pick (see page 6)	10am to 2pm

June

2 nd to 5 th June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (see pages 12 and 13)
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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. Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS



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Your newly co-opted Town Councillor

Cllr Leane Fox



I moved to Potton with my (now) husband in 2008. We were looking for somewhere we could find a family home together. Having grown up in Letchworth and my husband being Bedfordshire born and bred, Potton provided the ideal location to be near to both our families and for us to live in a delightful and friendly small town. After settling in, we were fortunate enough to be married in St Mary's Church in 2009.

A few years later, our daughter arrived and Potton continues to be a lovely place for her to grow up in. She currently attends Potton Lower School which I can't fault on the care, support and encouragement they provide for her as well as other pupils.

I myself have been a qualified primary school teacher for 17 years - having spent most of that time teaching in Luton. I thrive upon seeing children develop, not only academically but also socially and emotionally, especially when they enthused by learning.

In our free time, as a family, we enjoy trips to the sea side, cycling and walking. My husband has an allotment which our daughter and I sometimes 'help' with - although, apparently trampling on seedlings and digging holes isn't really helping!

Having lived in Potton for some time now, I wanted to contribute more to the community. Hence, I decided to put myself forward to be a town councillor. I am really looking forward to being able to work with the other councillors and residents to maintain the incredible town we live in and the community we are all a part of.

Get to know your Town Councillors

Cllr John Hobbs - Chairman of the Town Council



I moved to Potton in 1979 to pursue a teaching career teaching Mathematics at a local Further Education College. I assumed many management roles during my teaching career, eventually becoming a Director at Bedford College, with responsibility for their Sixth Form, Teacher Education, Access Course and English as a Foreign Language provision.

Both of my children were educated in Potton and have benefited from being part of a very special community. I have been actively involved in many local groups and organisations, including Potton Playhouse and playing football for Potton Wanderers. I am also a former governor of Sutton School and have served as a committee member of Hall for All.

I retired in 2015 and am very actively involved within the community. I am currently chairman of the Potton Town Cricket Club Social Committee where I have coordinated many fund-raising events, including the May Day Fete. I also work as a volunteer for the Potton Consolidated Charity funded Samsung Tablet training for retired members of Potton. I also enjoy cycling and walking the local footpaths.

I served as a member of Potton Town Council for eight years in the 1990's, during which time I was chairman of the Playing Fields Committee and was instrumental in providing a dog-free play area in Henry Smith's Playing Fields and worked with Potton Timber to provide new play equipment. I was also instrumental in developing the Christmas lights in the Market Square, liaising with the local traders to raise funds to buy lights and eventually have official turning on ceremonies. We have certainly grown from strength to strength since then!

In my second spell as a Town Councillor, since 2015, I have led the development of our Potton Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in a referendum in October 2018. I am still involved with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, working to achieve the Vision outlined in the Plan.

Budget 2022-2023

This is always a very important time of year for the Council as it is traditionally the period in which the Council agrees its annual budget and precept. The precept is the council tax element, raised by the town council to undertake its functions across the town. The law requires Town/Parish councils to set a precept that is a 'balancing figure' known in legislation as the 'council tax requirement'. The precept should be set to the amount of money required to balance the accounts after deducting 'other estimated income'.

For the financial year 2022-2023 Potton Town Council's 'Precept' will be £367,664. If you live in a Potton Band D property, you will pay an annual charge of £159.30 to Potton Town Council. This is an increase on last year of £3.27 per



band D household (2.1%). The town council is committed to providing services and developing facilities that will benefit all members of our community whilst ensuring we achieve best value from our budget.

Finally, all town Councillors are volunteers and give of their time free to support Town life and make Potton a great place to live. We are fortunate to have a strong community spirit in Potton and we look forward to working together with residents to help to build on this further.

Caretaker/Groundkeeper/Maintenance Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and reliable General Assistant to carry out caretaking, maintenance and groundkeeping activities. This is an ideal opportunity for a responsible person, who takes 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. Initially for 15 hours per week, with a possibility of additional hours.

For further details about this position visit:
www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies

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

Tel: 01767 260086



News from the Benefice



The local Benefice is the Parish Churches of St Mary's Potton, St John's Cockayne Hatley and All Saints Sutton. Many Pottonians already know about what the churches provide for the community, but Potton grows and new people are always moving here so we take this opportunity to inform them about us.

Our Rector, who joined us in March 2020 to take up his first ministry after an 18 month vacancy in the Benefice, is the Reverend Alex Wheatley. You will need no reminding this was at the height of the pandemic which brought challenges, but the churches still provided a weekly online service, and when needed, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Thankfully certain relaxations, (still Covid secure), have meant we are slowly returning to many of our activities and services, as witnessed at Christmas with Christingle, Crib and Christmas Eve Midnight Mass services taking place in at least one of the churches, together with outdoor carols.

Socially, our active Church Hall Team and Events Committee are up and running again and provide a mixture of support and entertainment, often with local organisations.

We can also be seen at Remembrance Sunday commemorations, hosting the Annual Civic Service, at the Spring and Winter Seasonal Markets, hosting the fireworks display, and at the Christmas Lights switch on.

Spiritually we want to support any one in need, whether a church goer or not. If you need any such support please contact **alex.wheatley.rector@gmail.com** **01767 764062**.

We try to keep you up to date through our website **www.pottonparishchurch.org.uk**, **[Twitter@StMarysPotton](https://twitter.com/StMarysPotton)** and our Benefice-wide weekly newsletter The Link, which is free. You can be added to our list of readers by contacting **sundaylink@blunham.com**.

Whichever church you visit or attend, you are assured of a warm welcome, particularly children, to our monthly Friends and Family Service at Potton, on the first Sunday of the month.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

The nation will be holding a celebration weekend for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June this year.

Potton Town Council are looking to coordinate this celebration in the town with a whole host of events for all ages to enjoy. Some events will be part of nationally coordinated programmes such as a beacon lighting, calling from the Town Crier, Church Bell peals, and a sit down Sunday Lunch; the Queen would like as many coordinated Sunday Lunch events to take place across the country sitting down at the same time to eat together.



A marquee has been booked and will be situated in St Mary's Church field across the whole four day period and a mixed programme is being prepared to showcase Potton, our talented community, active clubs and societies, our sporting groups as well as giving everyone a chance to find out more or even have a go.

There will be many notices of events going forward - we are encouraging as many groups, clubs, associations, companies and indeed individuals to become involved. Watch out on social media, the town council website, newsletters and notice boards.

We are looking to decorate the Market Square and Library with bunting. Is this something your street would want to do? It would be fantastic to have the whole town decorated.



PA Credit: Press Association
Danny Lawson

If you or indeed your group, club or street would like to organise an event or would like to be involved in any way, please contact the town council.

Talents we are currently reaching out to find include:-

- Piper(s) to play the bagpipes within one of the programmed events.
- Semi-professional skateboarder/BMX riders of a standard to give a demonstration event on the skatepark and enthusiastic skateboarders willing to become involved in organising an event on the skatepark.
- General helping hands willing to give their time over the weekend to help organise, coordinate or generally help fetch and carry.

This event is not Party on Potton - that's to come later in the year! One year, two fantastic community events!

Contact Potton Town Council

Call **01767 260086**

Email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**

Or search for Potton Town Council on **Facebook**.



Welcome Back Fund



Credit: Sandy Photography Club



Central Bedfordshire Council allocated the town council £6,000 of Welcome Back Funding. The town council spent the majority of this funding on Christmas Lights display to support the festive season and this included the Christmas Switch-on. It is important for everyone to continue shopping locally and safely to get the best out of what our Town Centre offers residents. It isn't only a place to shop, it's a place to gather, meet with friends and family and enjoy leisure opportunities like eating out.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help with the installation of the Christmas Lights display, the Christmas Lights Switch-on and the taking down of the Christmas Lights. Special thanks to Deepdale Trees who supply machinery for the installation and taking down of the Christmas Lights, they also supply and install the living Christmas Tree.



Credit: Sandy Photography Club



Credit: Sandy Photography Club

Light-Up Potton Competition



**Best
dressed
home
winner**



**Best
dressed
shop, pub,
business
winner**



**Best
dressed
window
winner**

We asked the people of Potton to light up the town for Christmas again and you didn't disappoint!

We appealed to you to help us celebrate by lighting up the whole town. And my goodness, you rose to the occasion. There were light-up reindeer, full-size inflatable snowmen, cheeky Christmas elves and even entire streets getting in on the act. Our wonderful Potton people pulled together with community spirit and lifted all our spirits after another dark and difficult year.

We had many entries in the Light Up Potton Competition, but there could only be three winners. Party On Potton Chair Carlton Avison spent evenings walking the length and breadth of the town, looking at all the contenders before deciding on the winning entries.

Best Dressed Home went to a brilliantly decorated house on Baker Avenue, Best Dressed Window went to a resident on Horslow Street and Best Dressed Shop, Pub or Business went to Tysoe's.

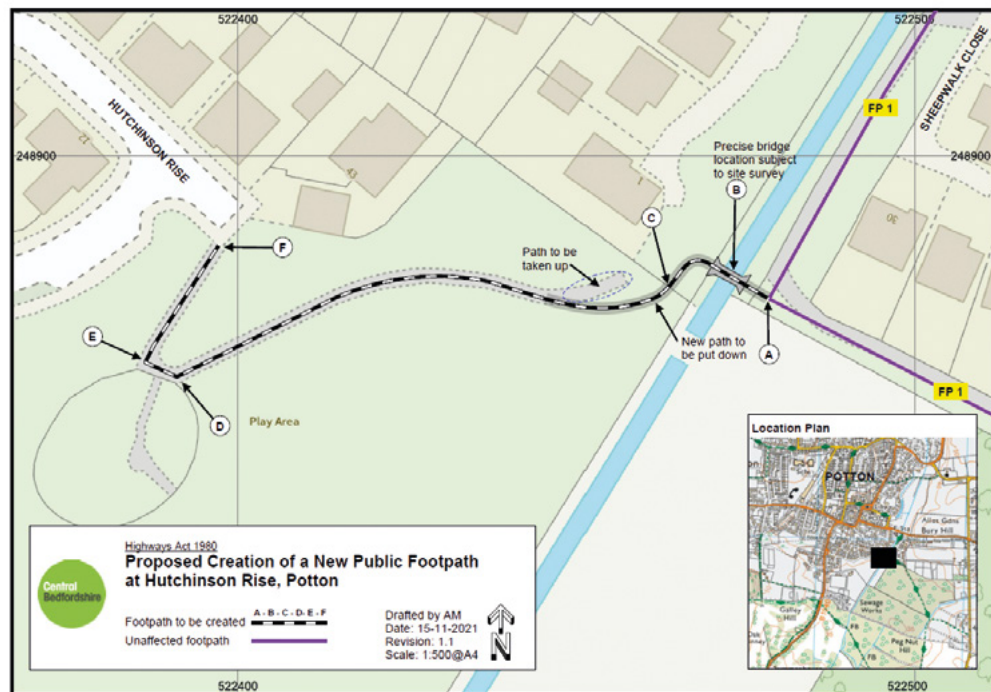
Councillor Carol Leggatt has presented the winners with their prize hampers. Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to everyone who took part in cheering up our town. Here's to a better 2022.



Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Adam Zerny

New footpath to connect Tall Trees with Potton town centre

I am working with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to try and create a new connection for the Tall Trees development with the centre of Potton, via a footpath across the brook.



When planning permission was agreed for the development some ten years ago, the developer - Kier as was - agreed to a footpath which would connect the edge of the estate nearest Potton brook, with the town centre and the Henry Smith Playing Fields.

Once the houses were built I asked CBC to ensure the developer paid for the new connecting path.

The process was delayed as there were ransom strips (where a developer keeps a small section of land and then seeks to charge for its use at a later date) alongside Yew Tree Close, so CBC had to get involved in negotiations with them.



Once these were concluded, CBC was able to put together the route attached which shows a new path which will connect with Yew Tree Close/ Sheepwalk Close and involve a new bridge over the brook. I have also included an image of the type of bridge likely to be used.

The cost will be met entirely by the developer, Kier, through the Section 106 it is obliged to pay CBC.

Although we'd hoped it would be completed in time for August's Party on Potton, CBC is expecting the legal process to take about 8-9 months so work is unlikely to begin prior to autumn 2022.

I have suggested to the Council that it might want to adopt a slightly more direct route between the start of the path (point F on the map) and the bridge as pedestrians will likely take the shortest possible route regardless of where the official path leads!

There will be a public consultation at some point in the coming months. I'll publicise this via my monthly email newsletter so if you'd like to receive it, please drop me an email adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk.

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319



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

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.



Central Bedfordshire

As spring approaches and there is a prospect of the pandemic receding to allow a 'new normal' society, there is every hope of us all getting out and about.

Little things we can all do will help; dog owners ensuring that they picking up after their dogs and people using the litter bins provided or taking it home to dispose of. In instances of more severe littering, it may be necessary to call out the Central Bedfordshire Council Environmental Health Services (0300 300 8302) or waste and recycling (https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/2/waste_and_recycling/607/street_cleansing_litter_and_road_sweeping).

Finally, as in every town, there may be instances of criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, abuse or suspicious activity. If this is witnessed, it is best to stay safe, report and, if contacting the police, get a CAD (a police reference number), which can facilitate later communication on the matter. If the authorities are not informed, the issue won't be registered or addressed.

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.)

In case of aggressive or repetitive cold-calling, report by email to:

Trading.Standards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



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

Speedwatch



Speeding in Potton is one of the topics we receive the most complaints about at Potton Town Council. Community Speedwatch is a volunteering scheme which allows you to get involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through your neighbourhood.

Volunteers are trained in the use of speed indicator devices (SIDs) which display a vehicle's speed. Volunteers including the Gingerbread Man were out with SID in December.

Community Speedwatch is not an enforcement tool, it is about educating motorists about speeding and monitoring speeding trends in a neighbourhood.

The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter from the Bedfordshire Police, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. Repeated speeding results in a letter hand delivered by a police officer. Speeding can be a factor in collisions.

To remind drivers about the speed limit, banners with Kill your Speed - Not A Child will be positioned around the town and regularly repositioned for maximum impact. If you have a suitable road fronting property and are willing to have a banner fastened to your fence wall or hedge for a few weeks at a time, please contact us on **01767 260086** or email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**.

And if you find yourself complaining about speeding traffic and would be willing to be a Speedwatch volunteer in the town, please contact the town council on **01767 260086** or email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**.



Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton



Tel: Andrea mobile: 07590 359630
(working Weds & Thurs only)

Or email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk

Lee Valley canal boat trip – a coach full of Potton residents enjoyed a two hour boat trip on the River Lee, complete with a delicious hot pie lunch and dessert.

Wicksteed Park Show – a fantastic show and Christmas lunch was provided by Wicksteed Park Pavilion in December for members of the Friendship Group.

Benefit forms assistance – if you need support completing long and complicated 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. Home visits available.



Thursday Friendship Group – is held at the Community Centre, Brook End, 10am until 12 noon. The Friendship Group welcomes all for a coffee, cake, a game of cards or dominoes and a chat every Thursday morning. We really look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces. £3 for unlimited coffee and cake. Outings and events scheduled throughout the year.



Prevent scam bank phone calls – if you are concerned about a call alleging to be from your bank and new phone service is available to put you straight through to your bank. Call 159 and listen to the list of participating banks. Most major banks are taking part in the scheme. Remember, never give your account details to anyone you don't know or are not expecting to call you, it's probably a scam.

Tablet training group – if you would like to learn how to use a Samsung tablet and can commit to attending drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings then please get in touch for further details

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



Henry Smith Playing Fields



Henry Smith Playing Fields has two fields, with the larger field to the north of the Sluice and a smaller field to the south. The Sluice allows water to pass from Horse Brook, which is on the western edge, to Potton Brook, which is on the eastern edge. The town council is hoping to carry out works to the Sluice, Potton Brook and Horse Brook.

Sluice

The proposed work to the Sluice is in two parts, firstly installation of a vehicular crossing (ford) to allow vehicles to cross from the southern field to the northern field and secondly the installation of check dams to retain water in the low area of the Sluice nearest Potton Brook. Currently it is only possible to cross the Sluice with a vehicle via the small bridge and the ford will allow vehicles to cross to carry out maintenance and for events. A check dam is a small, sometimes temporary, dam constructed across a waterway to counteract erosion by reducing water flow velocity.

Potton Brook

With regards to Potton Brook, it is planned to carry out reprofiling of parts of the banks where trees are not located. The reprofiling will reduce the steepness of the slope and allow waterway flora to grow and attract wildlife including water voles.



Horse Brook Essential Maintenance

The Horse Brook is a significant feature of the Henry Smith Playing Fields and needs to be restored to its former glory. The Town Council is working towards this goal.

The brook in recent years is regularly empty of water for a number of reasons and this includes silting which reduces the amount of water the brook will hold. Maintenance of the brook is the responsibility of the town council and some of the residents in Brookfields.

The town council is hoping that a local contractor will start this Spring to remove the accumulated silt/sediment/leaves from the brook by way of dredging/desilting. Whilst work is being undertaken it will be necessary that the contractor will need to close off entrances to the playing fields, parts of the Millennium path and the bridge over the sluice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst this essential maintenance is carried out.

The silt/sediment once removed from the brook will be placed in heaps in the playing fields and then left for a few months to allow it time to dry out before it is taken away.



Your Potton Town Councillors



Charles Craig
260047



John Day
07986 124440



Leane Fox
07806 593650



Andrew Gibb
260067



Vicki Gwilliam
07958 981602



John Hobbs
Chairman
07972 906040



Andrew Inkersole
261966



Lindsay Kitchener
260486



Jonathan Lean
262404



Carol Leggatt
260001



Angus Macdonald
262006



Dan Norman
260643



Jonathan Price Williams
Vice-Chairman
07981 350359



Mark Williams
07540 198205



Adam Zerny
261319

For more details on each of the fifteen councillors, please visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are