

**Central  
Bedfordshire**

# Potton Town Council



**Community Safety Plan Summary Document**

## The Community Safety Plan

The intention of the Community Safety Plan is for it to be a co-produced plan between the Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council with a view of tackling or reducing the long-term, prevalent, and seasonal Community Safety issues that are present within the Town. The plan will be a unique and tailored plan for the Town Council's specific issues.

Long-term issues that are being discussed are those that have been within the Town for two years or longer. The thought process behind this is that we will create a Multi-agency and Collaborative approach to improve or resolve these issues.

The aim is to identify a Single Point of Contact "SPOC" between Central Bedfordshire Council and the Town Council, this will create a more streamlined approach in terms of Community Safety and allow improved fluidity and greater sharing capability between the two organisations and partners.



### Potton Town Council

Potton Town Council is committed to ensuring residents, workers and businesses within the town receive the best possible community safety service using multiple agency resources.

With the Central Bedfordshire Council Community Safety Team, Potton Town Council has initiated this multi-agency approach to ensure the needs of the town are being met in the best way possible. For success, the Council needs to work closely with all residents, workers and businesses to identify our local Community Safety issues and to ensure other relevant agencies, including Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council, the Grand Union Housing group and other relevant local groups and organisations are made aware and encouraged to work to resolve these issues.

The Community Safety Plan plays a key part in identifying and focusing on community priorities within Potton. All agencies involved in the plan are committed to working together to support the Council in this initiative, to identify any local areas of concern and to produce a solution. The initial plan is aligned with those listed for the Central Bedfordshire Council below, but the plan is a 'living' document that will be reviewed and updated regularly so it can be updated through input from the public as well as the various agencies.

*"In working closely with the Central Bedfordshire Council Community Safety team to develop this plan, Potton Town Council is pleased to take local ownership and looks forward to further developing its relationships with the various agencies and serving the needs of Potton residents, workers and businesses. Further information can be obtained from [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com) (see also contact details below)."*



---

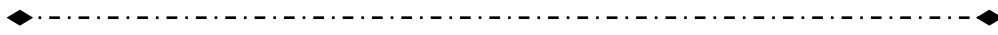
### **Central Bedfordshire Council Community Safety Team**

Central Bedfordshire Council has a clear vision that it will continue to be a great place to live and work. It will be a place to prosper, a place to be proud of and a place to call home.

To be able to achieve the Central Bedfordshire Council's vision the Community Safety team aims to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other behaviour affecting the local community as well as reducing the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, reducing the fear of crime and increasing public confidence.

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities. It is consistently a high public priority and one that can affect the quality of life for individuals and entire communities.

Partnership approaches to tackling crime and disorder are largely built on the principle that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety and crime problems. This is why we work in collaboration with partners to provide a response that tackles issues together, for sustainable improvements and better outcomes for the community.



### **Bedfordshire Police – Community Policing Team**

Bedfordshire is one of the smallest yet most diverse counties in England and faces complex crime challenges. Amongst all the English police forces, Bedfordshire receives one of the lowest Government grants per head of population.

However, despite this there has recently been a push by the force to reintroduce a community policing model to engage with residents and prevent crime

by early intervention and problem-solving before issues escalate. Bedfordshire Police are dedicated to protecting people and fighting crime together.

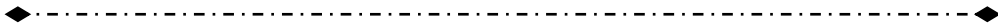


**Bedfordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service

### **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Safe and Well visits help protect communities by providing safety advice to those most at risk. Each Safe and Well visit includes fire safety advice and additional guidance on health, wellbeing, and crime prevention.

If hazards or risks are identified during the Safe and Well visit, these can be addressed, and the Service can make a referral to appropriate partner agencies for further help and support if required. Safety equipment such as smoke and Carbon monoxide alarms can be provided and fitted free of charge by our home safety advisors or Firefighters.

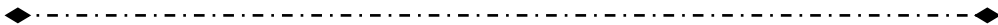


### **Grand Union Housing Group**



#### **Working with young people**

We believe in a society where every young person can have the opportunity to make a difference in their community, to speak out on what matters to them and to help others in need of support and development.



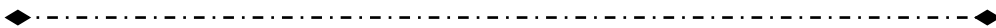
### **Bedfordshire Victim Care Service**



Bedfordshire Victim Care Services supports those affected by crime in Bedfordshire, putting victims at the heart of everything we do. BVCS offers free and confidential support to anyone affected by crime, whether it has been reported to the police or not. This includes victims themselves, bereaved relatives and parents/guardians of victims under 18. Whether

you have recently been affected by a crime or are experiencing delayed impact from a past crime, we are able to help you understand what has happened and how to cope and recover from what can be a traumatic experience.

Our experienced staff and volunteers know what emotions and challenges you may be going through. They are specially trained to listen to you and give you help and advice. Often just talking to someone, especially one who is independent from your family and friends, can help you make sense of what has happened and find a way for you to cope and recover. We offer emotional and practical support, and work closely with a range of specialist organisations, partners and community support groups to gain you the support that you need.

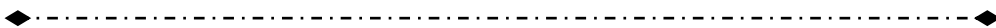


### **The Bobby Scheme**



The Bobby Scheme is a local registered charity launched in 1999 with the help of a grant from the National Lottery and has been endorsed as a key crime prevention initiative. It provides a free service to the elderly (over 65) and vulnerable to help improve their home security helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Our team members are trained crime prevention advisers and lock fitters. We can fit a range of security devices to help people feel safer in their own homes. We also provide security advice and reassurance.



### **Community Watch Groups**

Community Watch Groups have been created to support residents within the area they live. These groups are created by Bedfordshire Police and are often run by residents for residents and in turn allow people to have a positive impact and improve the area they live.

Some Bedfordshire Police initiatives could benefit the Potton Area. There is some information provided below with contact details if you are interested in joining.

#### ***What is Street Watch?***

Street Watch is a community led initiative run by local residents who observe and report local issues to Bedfordshire Police.



***How does it help your Community?***

Street Watch offers the community a reassuring presence and the opportunity to engage in the community safely.

***How can it benefit you?***

An opportunity to make new relationships build a stronger sense of community cohesion. It will keep you active through local patrols and get to know your local area.

***Dog Watch*** operates the same as our street watch schemes but allows individuals to patrol in pairs with their dog in areas which are frequented by dog walkers.



***What is Speed Watch?***

Speed watch is a community led initiative aimed at encouraging drivers to reduce speed, observe the speed limit and raise awareness of the impact of speeding.

***How does it help your community?***

Speed watch can help make your community a safer place for residents, pedestrians and other drivers. There is a local Speed Watch group in Potton and volunteers are always welcome (enquire through the Town Council).

***How can it benefit you?***

Ensuring the roads in your community are safe. The opportunity to build new relationships in the community.

If you are interested in joining or supporting any of the groups mentioned above, then please contact Bedfordshire police on the following email address to find out some more information. [Watcheschemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Watcheschemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Community Safety Plan Priorities**

The Potton Town Council Community Safety Working Group together with the Central Bedfordshire Councils Community Safety Team have considered some areas of importance and frequent, long-term issues that are brought to their attention by residents. They have worked together to develop the priorities to focus the community safety plan and the responses to the issues from all the agencies involved. The plan has been adopted by the Potton Town Council.

**Priority – Ensure parks and open spaces are welcoming for residents and are reduced in litter, dog fouling and inconsiderate or disorderly behaviour.**

This focus will be on:

- Responsible dog control
- Multi-Agency approach
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reduce drug and alcohol usage in public spaces

**Priority – To encourage residents to report all criminal & anti-social behaviour incidents**

The focus will be on:

- Resident Engagement
- Partnership Working
- Community Events
- Focus on Reporting

**Priority – Raise awareness around Community safety.**

The focus will be on:

- Resident Engagement
- Partnership Working
- Promote on the internet

The plan of action is to work closely with partner agencies together with Pottton Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to maintain an Action Plan aimed at improving these factors illustrated above, there will be frequent meetings to update on progress and to include any new issues that might arise.

## Questions and Contacts

If you have any questions about the Community Safety Plan, please feel free to contact Potton Town Council.

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

Main Reception: 01767 260086  
Email: [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com)

As we are working closely with the Community Safety Team at Central Bedfordshire Council, if you would like some more information about their response to Community Safety, please visit the following website.

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety)

Alternatively, if you would like to participate in an anonymous survey about Community Safety in your area, you will find this at [www.safercentral.org](http://www.safercentral.org) or you can scan the QR code on your smart device and complete the survey here. This website will also give you more information about the Community Safety Partnership.

