



**POTTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**News**

October 2023 Edition

[www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk)



## Highlights of this edition:

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## Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the October 2023 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

### Farewell to summer!

So, Summer has come to an end with many events taking place since the July newsletter. Before we look at the events of the past three months, I have to highlight my and others disappointment at the number of instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB) that have occurred. Potton is a lovely place to live and I'm sure all the residents would like it to stay that way, however the crime rate is low compared to other towns in the area. To keep it that way it falls to all residents to report any instances of ASB they see to the non-emergency number (101), we can and should act as extra "eyes and ears" for the authorities as it is to our advantage.

The way the systems works is that the more independent reports (don't reuse crime/report numbers) that are accumulated the more the area comes to notice as somewhere action is required regarding such things as specific ASB and petty crime. Please also raise these to the town council Community Safety Working Group who have planned meetings with our local police officer and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Community Support Officer where these issues are discussed. If you see either of them around do speak to them and raise any concerns you have; the more aware

they are of the local community's feelings and concerns the better.

On a more upbeat theme it's good to see that all the efforts of those volunteers involved with the Potton Green Wheel have come to fruition. I had the privilege along with Cllr John Hobbs of cutting the ribbon to "open" the wheel at the golf course/pegnut wood bridge. Over 50 people came along and then continued on the two guided Wheel walks which finished at the reopened Boundary Café, to whom we wish success!

We have also had Potton Apple day, an annual event enjoyed and attended by many, complete with tea and cakes from the Potton Hall for All group, and cider and apple juice from the Community Orchard. Well done and thanks to all involved (see page 9 for more information).

The next event in Potton's calendar is the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade on 12th November which I anticipate will be well attended as usual. Many thanks in advance to the Events Committee for all their hard work to ensure it goes well. For more details visit <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/remembrance-sunday-service-parade-2/>



*Potton Green Wheel Launch - Cllr John Hobbs with Chairman Cllr Jonathan Price Williams*

### Countdown to Christmas

Christmas is coming, and Cllr Carol Leggatt and the Events Committee have arranged a programme of events. Installation of the Christmas lights will take place on **Sunday 5th November**. Unlike many other towns in the area, we rely on a keen band of volunteers to do this, and it results in us having a

good display at a reasonable cost to the town. Many visitors remark on how good our display is considering the size of the town. **Again, please do look at the piece on pages 22 and 23.**

Also do remember the **Winter Four Seasons Market** will be held on **Saturday 9th December**, so please do come along, and support the vendors there.

## Sustainable Community Energy

Part of Potton's Neighbourhood Plan vision is to promote renewable energy and carbon reduction for the benefit of all. From past conversations with residents, we know there is a desire for a more "green" environment as evidenced by the support for initiatives such as the green wheel and sustainable transport, admittedly a challenge in our rural area. As a result of work undertaken by the Town Council Community Energy Working Group, we are very excited to have won the opportunity for residents to participate in the CBC collaboration with Community Energy South.

If residents are interested, the collaborative project will strive towards bringing the community to Net Zero. This is a clear win for everyone - whether you're in need of sustainable energy generation or retrofitting insulation to reduce energy need; or wishing to benefit from help with fuel poverty or to invest in community energy projects. However, this chance is lost if residents don't come forward as ultimately this needs to be a volunteer and non-council led initiative. For more information see the Working Group's piece on **pages 16 and 17** and let us know if you're interested in joining us on the journey.

## Potton Hall for All



The Hall for All project is moving along. The contractor selected has provided a price that's within our agreed cost envelope and the final funding should all be in place in the near future. A Quantity Surveyor has been appointed to make sure that the contractor delivers what has been agreed.

We have received a favourable response from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that allows us to apply for the loan, a key piece of the jigsaw. I can assure you the town council will ensure any loan will be minimised through careful financial management and forward budgeting. **Find out more on pages 20 and 21.**

We would hope to commence work late Autumn and finish in Spring next year.

## And finally ...

Last but not least, as a result of a request by residents, Royal Mail were asked if further post boxes could be provided in areas where the facility for posting a letter didn't exist for those who found it difficult to access those situated in town. Thankfully Royal Mail came up trumps and agreed to supply two more of these; one situated on Biggleswade Road between Hutchinson Rise and Blane Place, and the other on Everton Road opposite Goodship Lane. My first official duty was to open these for use. So please do use them to send your Christmas cards and letters. From my experience many of the older generation appreciate a handwritten letter as it's felt to be a more personal form of communication, which it would be a shame to lose.



## Four Seasons Market

**POTTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL



**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
9am - 1pm



For more information visit  
[pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market](http://pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market)

*So, in conclusion I wish you all a good Autumn and, a little in advance, a Merry Christmas when we get there and see you in the Market Square.*

*Jonathan*

**Cllr Jonathan Price Williams**

### Left

Royal Mail's Peter Steed with Cllr Jonathan Price Williams next to one of the new post boxes.

# 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, or if you wish to contact a member of staff please email [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto: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](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk) or [f @PottonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PottonTownCouncil) or [@pottoncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/pottoncouncil)

## Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/) for more information.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## Councillor Surgeries

**Held outside the Library or inside the Library if bad weather.**

**Saturday 9th December 2023**

Cllrs Vicki Gwilliam and Carol Leggatt (10am-12pm)

## Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047	Carol Leggatt	260001
John Day	07986 124440	Angus Macdonald	262006
Leane Fox	07806 593650	Dan Norman	260643
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602	Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
John Hobbs	07972 906040	Adam Zerny	261319
Andrew Inkersole	261966		

For more details on each of the councillors, please visit [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are)

## Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye	261319	Adam Zerny	261319
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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](mailto: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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# 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](mailto:andream@bedsrcc.org.uk)

### Are you new to the community?

If you are looking for groups and activities to get involved in but not sure what's available then contact Andrea who can help you find something suitable.

### Tablet Training Group

If you would like to learn how to use email and the internet and can commit to attending drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings at the Community Centre, Brook End (10am to midday), then we can provide you with a Samsung tablet and teach you how to do it. Please get in touch for further details.

### Thursday Friendship Group

Held at the Community Centre from 10am until midday. The Friendship Group welcomes all for tea/coffee/soup, cake, a game of cards or dominoes and a chat every Thursday morning. Entry is £3.

Also, the Baptist Church in Horslow Street runs a Community Lunch for all ages once a month on a Tuesday at midday. They are up the drive next to no. 9. Suggested donation of £5. Forthcoming dates are 17th October, 21st November and 19th December. **If anyone would like to go along, phone or text Marion on 07855 378930 to book a place.**



**Friendship Group  
volunteer, Barbara**

### Benefits advice

If your circumstances have changed either through bereavement or ill-health, Andrea can help you identify any support you may be entitled to. Millions of pounds of benefits go unclaimed every year according to the government.

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



# Your Local Environment

Author: Cllr John Day

This summer readers will have noticed some floral colour in Henry Smith Playing Fields, Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Sandy Road Cemetery, as reported in previous editions of the newsletter. We will seek opportunities to enhance other areas in due course.



Since May, the Town Council's Environment Committee comprises Chairman Cllr Gibb, Vice-Chairman Cllr Day and also Cllrs Craig and Fox. Additionally, Cllr Wye and three members of the community, Rebecca Beattie, Jill White and Sally Wileman, have been co-opted to the committee.

At the community orchard, volunteers have been busy managing the trees and wildflower meadow, and this year have been able to harvest its first fruits. The open space has yet to be handed over to the town council and, until such time, management is not the responsibility of the town council, but that of the developer Tilia Homes. The town council has been pursuing the developer to resolve the matter and to date this has proven inconclusive.

Until this happens, the town council is unable to manage the site and provide additional facilities such as litter and dog waste bins. Until then, we request you please clear up after your dog and place the waste in your bins.

With Swifts continuing to decline - the latest figure being -62% since 1995 - it was pleasing this year to see at least four pairs now using nest boxes beneath the clock tower in the Market Square. Away from the town, a small colony is also establishing itself around Newtown.

# Potton Apple Day

Author: Sally Wileman



Always on the last Sunday in September, and marking the start of autumn, Apple Day goes from strength to strength!

More visitors, volunteers and stall-holders than ever enjoyed another beautiful sunny day. Although there wasn't as big a crop as usual, the juice made on the day was a delicious mix of locally scrumped and donated apples. Families mucked in to help chop and crush the fruit. Potton's own Town Crier kept everyone in order

and presided over the cider judging competition. The band kept everyone entertained and Hall for All volunteers served delicious apple cakes and pies. It was a pleasure to welcome familiar faces and new residents to the joys of living in Potton. Pop it on your calendar - next year the event will take place on Sunday 29th September.



## Cider Judging Panel

(Left to right) Konni Deppe, Luton Orchards; Cromwell Cider (last year's winner); Cllr Adam Zerny; Rosie Wayman, East England Apples and Orchards Project; Rev Alex Wheatley, St Mary's Church.

# Life at Potton Food Garden

Author: Tracey Wye

It's been a bonanza summer at Potton Food Garden, with vegetables vying with each other for the accolade of the biggest harvest.



The stars this year have been newcomers – round yellow courgettes and gem squashes. These are picked when they just about fit your palm – any larger and they shed their mystery.

Before you crinkle your forehead at the thought of eating these, just give them a chance. Roasted with skin, seeds et al, in good quality olive oil with a dash of pepper and salt, and you have divine vegetables that not only add colour to the dinner table, but provide a talking point.

Still, it is not all pretty flowers and plump veggies at the garden. In late June an invasion of black flies almost demolished our runner beans. As organic gardeners there was not much we could do apart from pressure wash them. Then, a couple of weeks later, lo and behold, an army of ladybirds descended upon these critters and decimated them before you could say runner beans! The beans transformed into healthy, gleaming plants and provided a glorious harvest.

Our spring and summer flowers on the banks have kept us cheerful, adding much colour to the greenery around. The onions, lazing in the summer heat, are waiting to fill the veggie boxes, and our resident frog has tanned healthily and is filling out nicely.

One of the highlights of the last few months has been the visit by the local Brownies who, eager to gain their gardening badges, were much inspired in the wooded arena of the food garden. They came up with creative garden designs, sowed seeds and topped it all by building a bug hotel. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and we look forward to future visits from schools and youth groups.

**As a community garden, we welcome visitors on Tuesday mornings. Much of our produce goes to the veggie box scheme which helps those who need them. Come over and mooch around, bring your flask of coffee and sit musing on the wonders of life with us!**

# Vacancies for Potton Youth Councillors

We 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. Potton Town Council supports Potton Youth Council in achieving the following objectives:

- To develop a culture of participation in the democratic process and to develop an awareness of citizenship.
- Be empowered to take decisions and actions to improve the community they live in.
- Form partnerships with local and national organisations.
- Promote respect for each other and the community.
- Encourage all young people to have a voice and believe their views are valued.

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 Year 5-13.
- Have consent from a parent or guardian.
- Commit to attending meetings.



If you can satisfy all of the criteria and are interested, please complete the application form along with the parent/guardian consent form, which you can download from: <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies/>

Please send the completed form to:

**Mrs Claire Massey, Clerical Assistant, Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire SG19 2QS**

or email to:

[pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!



## 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](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/4/pupil_support/523/child_employment)

# Potton Green Wheel officially opens

Author: Cllr John Hobbs

More than 50 residents attended the launch of the Potton Green Wheel and joined the walk of the route.



## The Green Wheel walking route

is the result of a working group consisting of residents, Potton Town Council (PTC), Sutton Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The Green Wheel is clearly signposted together with QR codes providing points of interest via our PTC website.

A leaflet containing the map and information on the route are available from the Council office in the Community Centre, the Post Office, Tysoe's, Cameron's, Potton Vets and Potton Library.



You can also download the leaflet and map from the Potton Green Wheel page on the town council website <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/potton-green-wheel/>

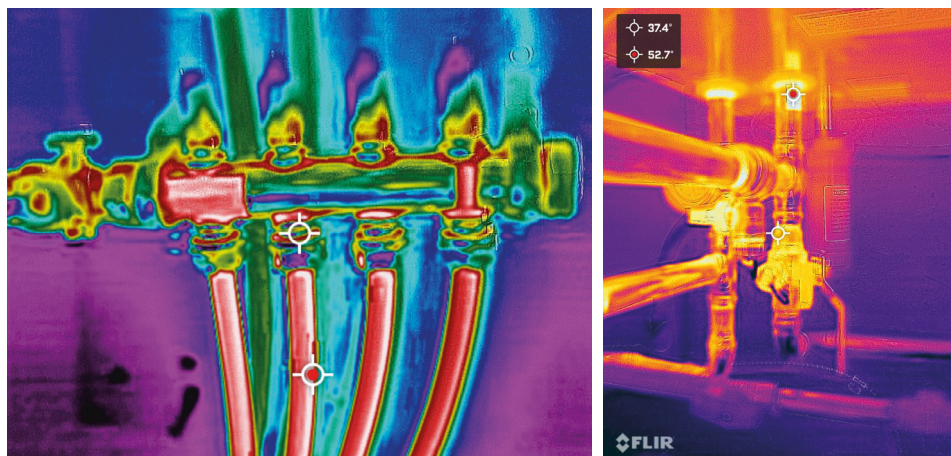
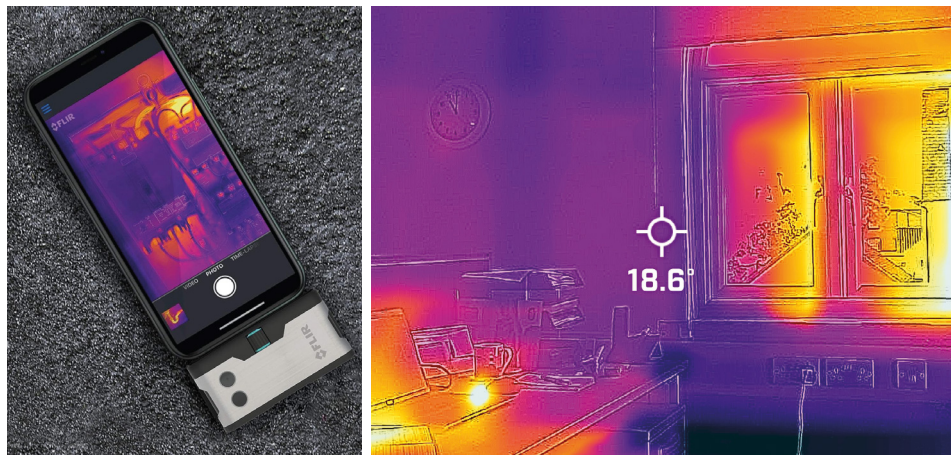
Hopefully, you will enjoy walking the Wheel as much as those who walked the route at the launch.

This walking route is the first phase of the project, with the long-term intention of creating a fully off-road Wheel for both walkers and cyclists. So, the working group will continue to meet, ably led by BRCC. We would welcome new members to join our working group, so if you would like to join us, please contact Potton Town Council.



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# Thermal Image Cameras



## With Winter approaching, do you want to find out where your home is leaking heat?

Potton Town Council has two thermal image cameras (one iOS and one Android with lightning adaptors) which can plug into your smartphone for loan to Potton residents. There is no charge to borrow a camera; you just need to pay a £200 deposit, which is refundable after the camera has been returned, and you might consider making a donation to allow for maintenance of the cameras and/or additional cameras to be purchased. Suggested donation of £5.

You can find out more information and download the loan agreement from the town council website <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/thermal-image-cameras/>.

Funding kindly received by the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme.



## Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

This summer has been a busy time getting to grips with my new role on the executive at Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), as well as keeping up with issues closer to home in Potton and the surrounding villages.

I have been blessed with an amazing opportunity to take the lead on Sustainability and Climate Resilience at this critical moment in human history, to be part of the change we need to tackle the causes of climate change, adapt to the challenges it brings, and help nature recover. I want to ensure the council can empower you to make a difference and get involved in taking action too.

One of the first events I attended as an executive member was an award ceremony where CBC was recognised for the Carbon Literacy training programme it carried out for staff and councillors.

This course helped us understand the importance of reducing carbon emissions and encouraged us to commit to action. During my training session in February, I pledged to start a bus users forum to see how to boost public transport for this area. Little did I know at the time I would soon be in a position to try and improve transport for the whole county, not just the buses but our walking and cycling routes as well.

The award night was a timely reminder that all the small actions we can take, such as walking or cycling short journeys, installing solar panels, or planting a tree, add up to significant change for the planet.



And it was inspiring to learn more about how other councils, organisations and companies from around the world are training their people and taking action as they joined the ceremony online.

Please get in touch if you want to discuss any ideas you might have for positive local climate or nature action, and, of course, any local issues you have with the council.

**tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**  
**0300 300 8528**

**[www.facebook.com/traceywye](https://www.facebook.com/traceywye)**  
**Instagram @cillrtraceywye**

# Community Energy in and around Potton

Author: Cllr Charles Craig



**Residents of Potton and the surrounding area are in a great position to benefit from the government's push towards 'Net Zero' (i.e. the balancing of local energy requirement with local 'sustainable energy' production such that there is a net zero need for fossil-fuel mediated energy production).**

Communities have been identified as best placed to match together local expertise and resource with local needs and thereby to drive reduced local emissions of harmful gases. Communities are also great vehicles for education. In fact, an independent statutory body, the Climate Change Committee, has suggested that community actions will be essential to meet energy targets. More than half of the emissions cuts needed by the UK, rely on people and local businesses making low-carbon-positive decisions at a local and individual level.

The challenge for a local area seems daunting at the start. An independent think tank, the Green Alliance, has estimated that local government funding is good for only 25-35% of their 'Net Zero' pledges. However, looking across England, there are examples

of villages that have independently met net zero some years ago and are enjoying the fruits of fossil-fuel free energy and heat. So Net Zero is very achievable by communities, with dividends for everyone – both the possibility of cheaper energy and of being paid for electricity generation (yes, reasonable tariffs are said to be coming back, but it might be possible to 'charge at source' in some instances). In addition, there is now a government strategy (for strategy read 'money') committing it to enable local areas to deliver net zero.

As part of the national effort, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has set up a collaboration with Community Energy South (CES). The collaboration is called the Community Energy Pathways Programme and it is supporting five communities in the CBC area.

Community Energy South is a group of highly motivated people that set up 10 years ago, so there is a wealth of experience available on what works so rapid progress should be possible. They specialise in encouraging the growth of community-led projects and development of project pipelines, including community-owned and grant-funded projects. They also support networking of community energy groups through mentoring and training as well as providing tools and resources.

Potton has won one of the five places and we have been working with Potton

residents and are now engaging with Potton ward parishes, Biggleswade, Sandy and Moggerhanger residents (others may apply!) to extend the reach of the Potton group and identify residents with the enthusiasm and needs to make our programme more likely to succeed.



## Pathways to Net Zero with Community Energy

There are two aspects to achieving net zero – 'powering up' and 'powering down'. Powering up includes community-owned renewable energy generation, community heat networks, retrofitting generation potential and electric vehicle charging.

Powering down includes retrofitting insulation and other energy efficiency measures, increasing energy awareness and advising on how greater efficiency can be achieved and supporting people through fuel poverty. As a side effect, it is hoped this will help build social cohesiveness, responsibility and enable community and individual resilience.

The Potton Town Council Community Energy working group is not the body that will provide this service – the 'service' is more of a 'community self-service' and will be provided by you the resident reading this, and you will determine whether you will benefit from the initiative. The eventual community energy group will be established as a resident-led group.

If you are interested in helping the group, or in contributing to our technical, business, legal or accounting needs, please contact Potton Town Council, who champion these early activities.

*(Residents from Potton ward parishes, Biggleswade, Sandy or Moggerhanger can also use this route).*

# Community Safety

Author: Cllr Charles Craig

**Our SpeedWatch volunteers continue to help educate drivers on roads in Potton keep to the local speed limit of 20 mph throughout the town.**



There are, of course, places for additional volunteers to help out – the more we have the greater our coverage (just contact a councillor, the council offices or go online to [www.beds.police.uk/watchschemes](http://www.beds.police.uk/watchschemes) where you can find out more and register if you wish). Speedwatch teams will also be pleased to speak with you at the roadside.

Another way everyone can help is by recognising that 20 mph is the speed limit (i.e. the maximum legally permitted speed) not a target. They can then easily remain within the speed limit without the need to focus on the speedo – just go more slowly. The additional benefit is that other drivers will then note the behaviours and, over time, our high rates of drivers who drive in excess of the speed limit, will reduce.

A common thought for some drivers is that my driving 'is fine' – I think that argument works until it's not fine and then it's too late as damage is done and people are injured or worse. The reason for the speed limit is that it reduces crash rates relative to 30 mph by 50% in town. Another way to look at it is that cars driving in town at speeds of 30 mph relative to 20 mph doubles your chances of coming home to hear of a family member being involved in a crash and more than doubles the chance that a family member is seriously hurt as a result.

Finally, please keep within the speed limit – for everyone's safety. In addition, consider if you have the inclination and any spare time (a lot or a little) to help with our local SpeedWatch.

## Potton Town Council Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Current Assets	31 Mar '22	31 Mar '23
Trade Debtors	2,424	3,523
VAT Control Account	12,022	24,157
Prepayments	2,270	1,360
Current Account	12,139	10,202
30 Day Account	369,452	425,085
Petty Cash	261	287
Nationwide Instant Saver	190,000	190,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>588,568</b>	<b>654,614</b>
Current Liabilities	31 Mar '22	31 Mar '23
Creditors	4,019	1,737
Community Orchard Fund	665	52
Potton Food Garden	835	975
Accruals	2,342	0
Receipts in Advance	206	915
Party Deposits	500	800
Long Term Deposits	950	1,050
Youth Council Fund raising	270	250
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,787</b>	<b>5,779</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>578,781</b>	<b>648,834</b>
Represented By	31 Mar '22	31 Mar '23
General Reserves	137,532	171,230
EMR Community Centre	4,450	5,250
EMR Potton Hall for All	93,575	83,575
EMR Brook	19,471	0
EMR Cemetery	20,674	20,674
EMR Cemetery Extension	10,388	14,687
EMR Churchyard	3,449	3,449
EMR Christmas Lights	5,185	4,875
EMR Neighbourhood Plan	14,393	21,645
EMR Green Wheel	4,084	4,084
EMR Youth Budget	13,282	13,282
EMR Youth Council	255	357
EMR Warm Spaces	0	500
EMR Mill Lane Play Area	10,223	11,666
EMR HSPF Play Equipment	12,226	20,422
EMR Carpark	15,880	16,336
EMR Skatepark Replacement	19,634	28,960
EMR Public Conveniences	3,001	3,387
EMR Website	2,172	2,253
EMR Office Movement	15,772	1,244
EMR Training	3,919	4,725
EMR Legal Fees	15,220	19,902
EMR Elections	4,630	5,150
EMR Trees	9,543	12,359
EMR 3G Pitch	3,324	3,324
EMR Millennium Path	95,000	95,000
EMR Building Loan Repayment	39,000	78,000
EMR Rural Match Fund	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>578,781</b>	<b>648,834</b>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 23 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.



# Potton Hall for All Moves a Step Closer!

Registered Charity number 1158751

**We are delighted to tell you that building the hall is likely to start this autumn for completion in early summer next year.** As you will have previously read the new design (**Ref: CBC/23/01177/FULL**) received planning approval in July 2023. Although the total exterior building area will be smaller than originally planned, it will still contain the biggest main hall space available for hire in Potton and is able to host all the activities that residents wanted us to accommodate.

The main hall space is slightly bigger than that at the Gamlingay Eco-Hub. The plans can be viewed on CBC planning portal using the above reference number. The start of the building work was dependent on meeting an end of August 2023 deadline set by Central Bedfordshire Council, that Potton Hall for All Charity and Potton Town Council could show that the hall design (with planning permission)

can be built for the money already promised to the building. We met this deadline and have formally asked Central Bedfordshire to confirm the release of the Section 106 money to Potton Town Council for use in this project.



Potton Town Council have also submitted the request to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to confirm the borrowing approval for the loan from the Public Works Loan Board. Potton residents gave the Town Council agreement to take this loan in the consultation of 2020. Potton Town Council intends to take a loan which will not require a rise in the Council Tax residents are paying.

Once these two pieces of the funding are confirmed, we will be able to sign the contract with Watson and Cox, our contractor, and they will be able to start building.



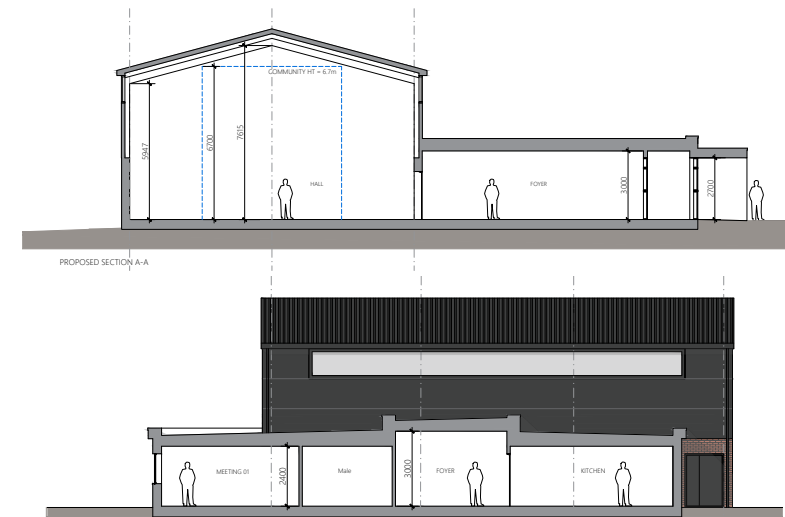
We will also call in pledges made by three charitable trusts to add to the funds already secured by the charity and Potton Town Council. Building on site could be as early as the end of October 2023 with the hall completed by June 2024.

It has taken us a long time to get to this point, but we are delighted that we are now in this position.

We are grateful to the huge amount of effort and support we have received to create Potton Hall for All.

If you would like to be involved in the next phase, please visit our website which has details of how to contact us.  
**[www.pottonhallforall.org.uk](http://www.pottonhallforall.org.uk)**

Our next fundraising event will be a joint Murder Mystery Dinner with Potton Scout Group on October 27th & 28th at The Scout Hut. Look out for further details on tickets!



# Christmas Events

Several Christmas events are planned for this year's festive season. Please see the town council website and social media for the latest information. Father Christmas looks forwards to seeing you on his visits to Potton!

## Christmas Lights – The Big Switch-On!

The 2023 Christmas Lights Big Switch-On event will be on **Saturday 2nd December** with a Christmas Craft Fair, which will include the usual stalls from Potton groups and organisations, together with Henry Harris' fairground rides and other entertainment on the stage in the Market Square.

The Big  
Switch-On  
is at 5pm.



### Christmas Lights Installation 2023

Potton's Christmas lights installation will commence on **Sunday 5th November at 10am** and will continue on **Sunday 19th November at 10am** if required.

### Christmas Lights Dismantling 2024

Potton's Christmas lights dismantling will commence on **Sunday 7th January at 10am**.



# Father Christmas Visit

Father Christmas will be visiting Potton on **Sunday 17th December** and his journey will terminate in the Market Square at 6pm where Carols will be sung.

Father Christmas has advised that he will try to visit as many roads as possible, although he can't promise to visit every road. Please listen out and look out for Father Christmas and his elves. To keep everyone safe, Father Christmas has requested that all vehicles kindly pass his sleigh and elves at no more than 15mph.



I'm on my way soon kids!

## Friends of Keech Children's Hospice Care, Potton

**HO HO HO! Santa will be welcoming children again to his busy Workshop and Grotto on Saturday 9th December, from 10am to 3pm, at the Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS.**

In return for a small entrance fee children will get a chance to meet Santa, receive a gift, and spend time in his Workshop.

All profits made will go directly to Keech Children's Hospice, who provide free specialist care for children with life limiting illness and specialist support for family and friends across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes.

Look out for more details of this event on public notice boards and media sites nearer the time.



For more information about this charity please go to **keech.org.uk**.

# Vacancy for 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. at least 18 years of age
3. meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
  - Is 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 Thursday 21st December 2023** 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.



**POTTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Email:** [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncouncil@btconnect.com)  
**Phone:** 01767 260086

Applications will be considered at the Town Council meeting on **Tuesday 9th January 2024** following the Planning Committee meeting starting at 7pm.