



**POTTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**News**

May 2024 Edition

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



## D-Day 80

Potton Town Council will be taking part in the British National Event to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings on **Thursday 6th June**, starting with *The Proclamation* by Potton's Town Crier in the Market Square at 8am, and later at 9.15pm the *Beacon Lighting* and *International Tribute* both taking place in the Market Square.





## Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the May 2024 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

### A positive start

So, spring has come, and much has happened over the past three months. I'll start with the positive things that you may have noticed when you're out and about. **The Millennium Path** replacement project is well under way and should be finished in good time for the summer events, more of this later. It's looking good and the re-profiled slope has been seeded with a wildflower mix to give a display of meadow flowers for all to enjoy. Please pay heed to any notices asking you to avoid walking over the area so it can establish properly.



Work gets underway on the Millennium Path

The path is going to be extended into the play area and loop round to the gate into the park by the adult outdoor gym, but this section will not be lit. Once this work has been completed the contractor, local firm Bell Groundworks, will commence on upgrading some of the paths in the cemetery, to complement the new railings.



### On a second positive note ...

if you go down Hutchinson Rise, you'll see works have commenced on the **Hall for All community hall**. After many trials, tribulations, and last-minute issues the contractors started on site on 15th April and Kim Gutteridge and I were on site in Biblical weather conditions to formally "break the ground". **You can read more about this in the article on pages 8 and 9.**



If you want to know more or have an issue with the work, then the site manager Michael will be happy to speak to you and there is a notice board by the site entrance with information and contact details.

### Youth Council

On a different note, it's good to see that there are still those in the community willing to engage. The young people of the town are taking an active interest in their environment in the form of the Youth Council, overseen by Cllrs Carol Leggatt, John Day, Leane Fox and Vicki Gwilliam. On Saturday 13th April, five of the six members went on a day trip to parliament which they found interesting.



Sam, Max, Milly, Evie and Carly

Also, at one of their recent meetings, the youth councillors identified that more benches were required in the shaded areas of Henry Smith Playing Fields, and, as part of the ongoing works, four new benches have been installed – one in the play area, between the outdoor gym and new youth shelter, two under trees either side of the sluice and one overlooking the skatepark and play area.

**There is more on the Youth Council's activities on pages 10 and 11.**



### Illegal Blue Badge use

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) officers were in a number of towns including Potton on 17th April, conducting inspections of Blue Badge permits in a number of council-run car parks and roads with double yellow lines. During the spot-checks, officers examined 114 Blue Badges and among them, three instances surfaced where the badge owner was absent, prompting them to launch further investigations.

Additionally, six vehicles were discovered parked in disabled parking spaces without displaying a Blue Badge and were subsequently issued parking charge notices. If you suspect someone of illegally using a Blue Badge, you can report it to CBC by calling **0300 300 8035** or emailing **car.badges@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**.



### Town Council meeting

The last Town Council meeting showed how the engagement with the Safer Communities Team and Bedfordshire Police has improved of late. We're fortunate to have an active and engaged local Safer Communities Engagement Officer and PC in the form of Julia Hobson-Cooper and Dave Lace. Just remember to speak to them if you see them and make sure you report any incidents large or small to keep building the database on antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime; it is to our community's advantage. Chief Inspector Jim Goldsmith and Inspector Grant Maxted of Bedfordshire Police attended the meeting to discuss anti-social activity in and around Potton. They spoke

about the problem-solving group which is going to be rebooted to help address the ASB issues, plus a more active approach to issues such as fly tipping, off road motorcycle use etc. He offered to come back and report/engage again later in the year, and we will be taking him up on this offer, so when we know more, we will let you know and would encourage you to come along and join us in any discussions which will be open to the public.



### "Hear ye!"

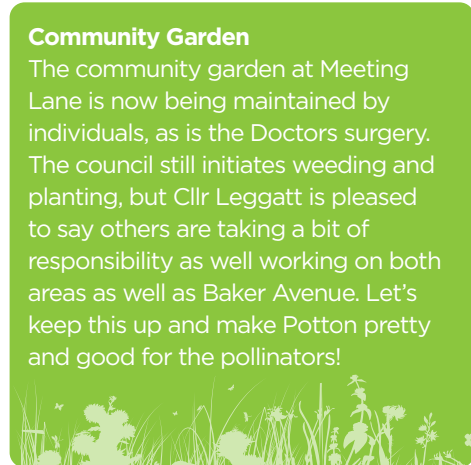
On Monday 6th May, the nation's Town Criers were called upon to mark the First Anniversary of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Potton's Town Crier, who is a member of the Ancient and Honorary Guild of Town Criers, read the Proclamation on behalf of the town in the Market Square at midday.



Potton Town Crier

### Community Garden

The community garden at Meeting Lane is now being maintained by individuals, as is the Doctors surgery. The council still initiates weeding and planting, but Cllr Leggatt is pleased to say others are taking a bit of responsibility as well working on both areas as well as Baker Avenue. Let's keep this up and make Potton pretty and good for the pollinators!



### Looking forward to Summer events

There are a number of events planned which will provide opportunities for all to join together and have fun in the sun - I'm making a big assumption with the sun, but we can but be positive! These events include the 100-year celebration of Clayton's, our town's family butcher on Saturday 22nd June where there's going to be "fun on the square". Keep an eye on Clayton's Facebook page for more information.



Then we've **Party on Potton** over the Summer Bank Holiday **from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th August** which is always a good bash with plenty going on for all (see pages 14 and 15).



As part of the Nation's event to mark **D-Day 80 (see cover)**, our Town Crier Carlton Avison will be reading The Proclamation at 8am on the Market Square on Thursday 6th June.

### And finally, a plea...

We need two more town councillors and some staff to make sure everything can be run properly. **You can find all the information on page 16.**

Have a wonderful summer!

*Jonathan*

Cllr Jonathan Price Williams

## Four Seasons Market



**Saturday 15th June**

9am - 1pm



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

# Community resilience

Author: Cllr Charles Craig



Periodically, we need to examine community resilience. At the time of writing, there are several voluntary Town and Youth Council positions, and essential staff positions available (see pages 11 and 16 for more information). I encourage all to consider how you can help the town.

## Community Safety

Potton Town Council works closely with Bedfordshire police and Central Bedfordshire Council to ensure Potton policing is optimised given finite resource. Senior police officers addressed the March council meeting and, recently, councillors attended a police-sponsored meeting. The key message from both meetings was that **RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS OR CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, SO THAT POLICE CAN APPROPRIATELY RESOURCE OUR NEEDS**. Indeed, police encourage residents to take responsibility for reporting, even if others may have reported the incident.

**NO REPORT = NO ACTION!!**



# Community Energy in and around Potton

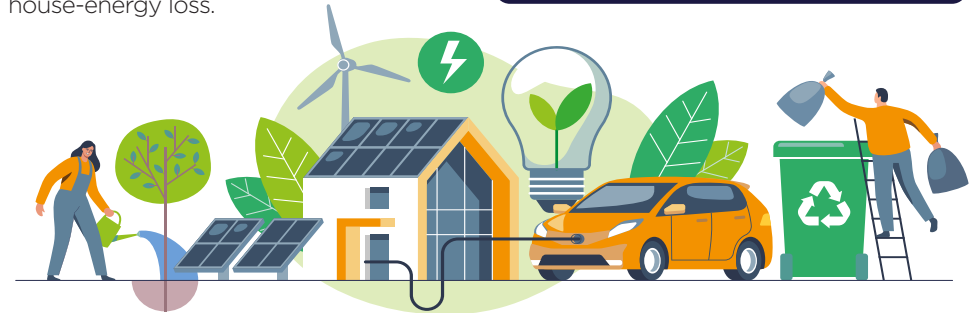
Author: Cllr Charles Craig

Unfortunately, we have been unable to take up the opportunity to set up a community benefit society to support community energy projects, due in part to a lack of volunteers and skill set.

We hope to find a way to support residents reduce their energy requirements through retrofitting insulation and improved glazing systems. Residents are asked to suggest reliable tradespeople who can provide help to reduce house-energy loss.

The Community Energy Working Group will follow up to produce a list for the next newsletter.

**Offers of help and suggestions for projects via the town council office will, of course be welcome.**



## Potton Community Agent



Supporting the over 60's in Potton  
Tel Andrea 07590 359630 (working Weds & Thurs only)  
Email [andream@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:andream@bedsrcc.org.uk)

Tablet Training on Wednesdays 10am to 12pm and  
Friendship Group on Thursdays 10am to 12pm both in the  
Community Centre, Brook End, Potton.

For more information on what Andrea can help you with visit <https://bedsrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/health-wellbeing/village-community-agents/>

Kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity with support from Potton Town Council.





POTTON  
HALL FOR ALL

# Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

**Some really good news! The build has started.**



**Building commenced on Monday 15th April with the breaking of the ground for the Potton Hall for All Community Building on the land on Hutchinson Rise, which was designated for this purpose under the planning agreement for the Tall Trees estate.**

Two of the Trustees, Kim Gutteridge and Jonathan Price Williams were on site to start things off. Jonathan is Chairman of Potton Town Council, as well as a Trustee of the Potton Hall for All Charity.

This is the culmination of many thousands of volunteer hours since the idea of a new bigger hall in Potton had been suggested. But this is only the beginning!

It will be the biggest space available to rent in Potton. The bigger hall will allow

existing clubs and societies activities to grow as well as attract new opportunities which residents can enjoy without having to travel out of town. Activities could include bigger daytime exercise classes, new indoor sports such as badminton and the main space is suitable for conferences, concerts, and wedding receptions. Construction is expected to be finished by the end of this year.



The building will consist of a central hall of 225sqm (7.6m height), and two meeting rooms which can be joined into one. There will be an office for the relocation of Potton Town Council, a lobby with reception and foyer plus kitchen with serving counter and plant room. There is a small internal storage area and an additional exterior located storage facility will be added when funds allow. The whole building will be heated using air source heat pump technology and there are future plans to include the addition of solar panels on the roof and battery storage when funds allow. Outside there is a car park with EV charging point. It will be set within a landscaped site with attractive views down to Potton Brook and access onto the Community Orchard and Community Greenspace.

Watson & Cox are the appointed contractors and their Senior Site Manager, Mike Kilford will be overseeing the day to day running of the project on the site. He can be contacted with any questions or issues about the build at [mkilford@watsoncox.com](mailto:mkilford@watsoncox.com) or **07793 782681**.

We are excited that this building is finally getting started. The build should complete this year, and it will be ready to hire early in 2025. We may need to raise more funds for elements that had to be removed due to rising costs and to help equip the building ready for use. If you would like to be part of the next phase of the project, as a Trustee of Potton Hall for All or as part of our Friends group, we would be delighted to hear from you.



You can contact us via our Facebook Page or by emailing [hall4allpotton@gmail.com](mailto:hall4allpotton@gmail.com)





# Houses of Parliament trip

Potton Youth Council recently visited the Houses of Parliament accompanied by their Town Council facilitators. Everyone enjoyed the trip and here's what three of the Youth Cllrs had to say...



*"On Saturday 13th April Potton Youth Council visited The Houses of Parliament in London. I've never been before. We saw statues of all the previous prime ministers. We had a great day, and it was very fun."* Carly



Milly and Sam



Carly, Evie and Max

*"Absolutely loved the trip on Saturday; loved learning the history behind parliament. My favourite part of the trip was going into both of the chambers and learning how all the Commonwealth countries helped put together the House of Commons."* Evie



*"On Saturday 13th April, we went to the Houses of Parliament on a guided tour. To visit the very place at the forefront of our country's political system was incredible, and an unforgettable experience for all of us."* Max

## 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!



# Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

## Council Sustainability Plan

As ever, it is a real privilege to represent you at Central Bedfordshire Council, holding the system to account and helping you navigate the services it provides.

I also still relish the challenges of being the lead member for sustainability and climate resilience.

I am aware the changing climate, and the need to reduce our carbon emissions, causes some people a real anxiety about the future; we would all benefit from changing the language around the topic from fear inducing to talking about the changes coming our way as an opportunity to move to a fairer and better way of living.

A good example would be to enable communities to have more leadership in how they organise themselves and showing how they can reap the benefits of local action. I am currently working on revising the council's sustainability plan, a process that shows there are many projects already underway to support the aims it agreed a few years ago.



For example, work continues on tree planting. I attended a sunny community event to plant a Tiny Forest in Langford (<https://tinyforest.earthwatch.org.uk/>), which is just one of a number across the region where we have helped schools plant trees, and if you know of a suitable plot of land, the council has funding available for tree planting schemes.

In April, Central Beds approved a strategy to improve the highways and byways to make walking and cycling easier. The plans mean the council is ready to move when funding is available and will enable people to leave their cars at home for shorter journeys.

Something that can bring serious benefits to our area is the setting up of **Community Energy Schemes**, which are locally run community interest companies that generate and/or save energy and invest any profits made back into local projects.

And lastly (but not finally!) CBC are inviting people to get in touch if they wish to start-up their own community projects, the sort of things a council would be terrible at running itself, for example, a Library of Things where people can borrow tools and equipment rather than buy themselves, repair cafes where you can get things fixed rather than send them to landfill, or whatever other great comes forward. Please email **BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** if you are interested in starting a project or want to get in touch with existing projects.

If you wish to find out more about any of the ideas mentioned please email me at [tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).



Central Bedfordshire Councillors			
Tracey Wye	0300 300 8528	Adam Zerny	0300 300 8540
	07754 515640		07776 130330

### 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

**Please recycle this newsletter**  
when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.

This publication has been compiled and published by Potton Town Council who are the owners of the copyright. No reproduction is permitted without the express permission of the Council. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the various entries within this publication. In no circumstances can Potton Town Council accept any liability for any loss or damage of any kind which may arise as a result from any error in, or omission of, any entry, artwork or telephone number. The editorial content is not necessarily the views of the Council.





# PARTY ON POTTON Big Weekend 2024!

Preparations are well underway for Party on Potton's Big Weekend 2024, taking place from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th August. The committee are looking forward to delivering another great event.



As in the past, all daytime entertainment is free thanks to fundraising efforts since 2022 as well as generous support from sponsors. This year will see the return of established daytime favourites including the dog show, climbing wall, zorbing, and hungry human hippos. There will also be new attractions, including a miniature steam train and inflatable axe throwing. Look out for our reusable Eco-Cups at the bar - the winning design will be chosen from entries from local youngsters. Registration is also open for the Walking Carnival Parade, with an Olympics theme this year.

## A call for volunteers ...

As ever, the committee would warmly welcome support from volunteers or sponsors. Can you help across the Big Weekend itself and/or at fundraising events or with logistics in the lead up to the main event? If you can, even for a few hours, please email [committee@partyonpotton.org.uk](mailto:committee@partyonpotton.org.uk) with your contact details.



Sound Express Big Band



Marcus Brigstocke



Laura Lexx

Ticketed evening events are also taking shape. These kickoff with a family disco on Friday. The legendary **Sound Express Big Band** return from Germany to provide a fantastic evening of live music on Saturday. Sunday is Comedy Night, hosted by **Laura Lexx**, with **Marcus Brigstocke** headlining. Closing the festivities on Bank Holiday Monday will be the **'Big Fat Weekend Quiz of Stuff'** where you are invited show off your general knowledge.

## Ticket Sales

Ticket sales for the evening events will start soon, with tickets available to purchase from the Post Office and Camerons newsagents. Look out for more details on **Facebook (Party on Potton)** and **Instagram (p.o.p\_partyonpotton)**, on the website [partyonpotton.org.uk](http://partyonpotton.org.uk) and the leaflet dropping through letterboxes in July.





# Town Council Vacancies

The town council currently has several vacancies, and we would be interested in hearing from anyone who might like to give back to their community by volunteering as a councillor or working for the town council. A brief outline of each vacancy is below, and you can find all the information you need to apply on <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies/>

## Town Councillor

Potton Town Council currently has two councillor vacancies. A Town Councillor is unpaid and gives their time for free to the community on a voluntary basis.

## Youth Councillor vacancies

*See page 11*

## General Assistant

We are looking to appoint a part-time, enthusiastic, and reliable individual to carry out caretaking, maintenance, and ground-keeping activities.

## Newsletter Delivery

We are interested in hearing from 13-18-year-olds who would like to deliver our newsletter. The Town Council produces four newsletters each year, which are delivered to every household in Potton.

# 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**.

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 [t @pottoncouncil](https://www.twitter.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 18th June 2024**

## Councillor Surgeries

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

**Saturday 15th June 2024**

Cllrs John Day and John Hobbs  
(10am-12pm)

## Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047	Robert Kett	261658
John Day	07986 124440	Carol Leggatt	260001
Leane Fox	07806 593650	Angus Macdonald	262006
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602	Dan Norman	260643
John Hobbs	260710	Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Guy Horsfall	07957 319520	Adam Zerny	07776 130330
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)