July 2024 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

THE WEEKEND

Fri 23rd to Mon 26th Aug 2024

6-page events quide in the centre of this newsletter



Tickets on sale from the **Post Office &** Cameron's









New Chairman's message

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

Welcome to summer!

It doesn't seem that long ago I was writing in the last newsletter that Spring was here: well time flies and we are into Summer! We live in hope for some good weather for all the events over the Summer period. Before we get to that though, a few notable events have occurred since I last penned my piece. The Millennium Path upgrade is now complete and it is, I think all will agree, a vast improvement and should help to make access through Henry Smith Playing Fields to the town centre much better for all. You may have noticed the path has been extended into the skatepark and play area, with access ramps in from the pedestrian gates on Brook End, which are to all users' benefit.

Please avoid walking over the wildflower areas so they can properly establish to give a display of meadow flowers



Potton Hall for All

If you have visited Hutchinson Rise in the last few months, you'll have seen that the Hall for All build is moving along. It's now clear where the building will be as the frame is up, and by the time you read this likely some brickwork as well. It is running to schedule, and we can all look forward to it being open for use early next year. You can read an update on the project on page 7.



Hall for All Build - Cllr Price Williams (centre) and Liz Smith (2nd from right), Chairman of Potton Hall for All Trustees with the Contractors

Thank you

Leane Fox stood down at the end of May as a Councillor of the town council after

two and a half years. I'd like to thank Leane for all her time and effort and particular involvement with the Youth Council and wish her well for the future.



Early Summer Events

The D-Day 80 Commemorations took place on Thursday 6th June. Potton's Town Crier, Carlton Avison, and Vice-Chairman of Potton Town Council's Events Committee, Denis Ellison were joined by ex-serviceman David Thompson and exservicewoman Sarah Chapman at 8am in the Market Square for The Proclamation.



The evening event included the lighting of the Beacon by Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Ruth Lloyd MBE JP, with readings by Sarah Chapman, Youth Councillor Evie Avison and Councillor Vicki Gwilliam. Also retired Navy Captain David Tall OBE RN read a prayer.

To complete the evening, Carlton, much to his surprise, was awarded the 'Honourable Freeman of Potton' for his service and dedication to the community of Potton.



Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Ruth Lloyd MBE JP presenting Freeman of Potton award to Carlton Avison

This is only the second time that this honour has been bestowed, and I'm sure everyone will agree, there is no one more deserving of the honour. My thanks go to all those involved in making the event a success, including Councillor Vicki Gwilliam, who deputised for me in my absence and Councillor Carol Leggatt, Chairman of the Events Committee.

Clayton's celebrates 100 years

On Saturday 22nd June, Clayton's, our town's family butcher, celebrated their long history and association with

Potton, holding their 100th Birthday Party in the Market Square.





Looking forward to late Summer and early Autumn events ...

There are a number of events planned which will provide opportunities for all to join together and have fun, starting with the **Party on Potton BIG WEEKEND** over the Summer Bank Holiday from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th August at Henry Smith Playing Fields. There will be plenty

going on for all, with free events during the day, and ticketed events in the evenings. Remember to get your tickets soon!

See pages 10 to 15 for more information.



The Potton Flower & Veg Show The Potton Flower & Vegetable Show returns on Saturday 7th September at St Mary's Church field - for details see page 23.



Potton Fire Station Open Day

The Potton Fire Station Open Day will be held from 12pm to 3pm on Saturday 24th August.

See page 22 for details.



Four Seasons Market

The next Four Seasons Market will be held from 9am to 1pm on Saturday 21st September at the Market Square.



Potton Apple Day

This year's Apple Day is planned for Sunday 29th September at St Mary's Church field and hall from 12pm to 4pm. There are lots of apple orientated activities, music, food and drink.

Check out Potton Apple Day Facebook page closer to the date for details.



Christmas Lights installation

The installation of the **Christmas Lights** will commence on **Sunday 3rd November from 10am**. Please take care when driving through the Market Square as volunteers may be in the road.

And finally...

We have three vacant seats on the council which we would like to fill, so please, if you've got an interest in your town and some time to spare, please join us and have your say. Oh, and we are still looking for staff to fill the vacancy for a General Assistant, along with young people to join the Youth Council and to deliver the town council newsletter. You can find more information about the vacancies and how to apply on pages 16 and 17.

I wish you all a happy Summer full of fun and celebration!

Jonathan

Cllr Jonathan Price Williams

Be part of the pick!

The Autumn Litter Pick is scheduled for Saturday 12th October from 10am to 2pm. Volunteers meet at the

Community Centre in Brook End and will be given hi-vis vests, litter pickers and bags.

Please bring your own gloves.



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** or call **01767 260086**.

You can find lots of information on the Town Council website:

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk or [@PottonTownCouncil or [@pottoncouncil

Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/ for more information.
Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Councillor Surgeries

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

Saturday 21st September 2024

Cllrs Andrew Inkersole and Bob Kett (10am-12pm)

Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047	Robert Kett	261658
John Day	07986 124440	Carol Leggatt	260001
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602	Angus Macdonald	262006
John Hobbs	260710	Dan Norman	260643
Guy Horsfall	07957 319520	Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Andrew Inkersole	261966	Adam Zerny	0300 300 8540

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

Potton Community Agent



Supporting the over 60's in Potton Tel Andrea 07590 359630 (working Weds & Thurs only) Email 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

Registered Charity number 1158751

Works for the Potton Hall for All commenced back in April. All neighbouring residents have received correspondence from Watson & Cox, the contractors responsible for the build.

Ongoing updates can be seen on the noticeboards just outside the site entrance.

The new building will comprise a large hall, and two meeting rooms which can be combined into a larger meeting room.



Community Safety

Author: Cllr Charles Craig



Potentially great news! Police records show only three crimes/ suspicious activity for the interim May report. This means that police can take a well-earned rest and focus on other areas.

However, it's interesting to note that recorded crimes hit a high of just below 40 on police reports just after Potton Town Council had run a promotion for residents to report local crime.

Do we believe this is now down to a fraction of that number?

No, we don't, but police have nothing else to go on and so will reprioritise other more needy areas (according to reported crime figures).

Therefore, if you want an appropriate level of policing in Potton, whenever you witness a crime or suspicious activity, please report it using one of these methods:









IN EMERGENCY - REMEMBER
TO PHONE 999 IMMEDIATELY IF
POSSIBLE; otherwise reporting can be
done on line: https://www.beds.police.
uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-acrime/

or, anonymously at CrimeStoppers: Phone: **0800 555111**; on line: https://crimestoppers-uk.org/giveinformation/forms/give-informationanonymously

In addition, the Bedfordshire police provide a community messaging system that offers information about crimes, incidents and events in your local area. You can sign up at: https://www.bedsconnected.co.uk/

This is a new system taking over from **Beds Alert.** It has gone live only recently. **I urge you to take a look!**

Want to know what's happening in your area?

By registering with Beds
Connected, you can receive news
and appeals, local crime
information, and prevention advice
direct to your email address.
Registration is completely free and
not only allows you to receive
messages about your local area,
but also allows you to feed back
information to your local policing
teams to help them better look
after your neighbourhood.

Local News:

If you have concerns about local crime, risks and issues in your area, sign up to receive alerts or contact us via the Beds Connected platform.

From organisations you can trust:

Receive alerts from Bedfordshire Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Action Fraud.

Crime Alerts & Prevention:

Bedfordshire Police has community policing teams across the county who are dedicated to protecting and engaging with local residents to keep them safe. Beds Connected allows your local team to update you on crime prevention in your area.



Beds CONNECTED E

A message from the POP Committee



The year has an even number, the August Bank Holiday weekend is fast approaching, and this can only mean one thing - Party on Potton's biennial Big Weekend 2024 is nearly here, offering 4 nights and 3 days of entertainment that showcases what a vibrant community our town has to offer.

A key principle of the Big Weekend is **free daytime activities**, ensuring everyone can enjoy the festivities at Henry Smith Playing Fields. Of course, there will be a licensed bar and numerous food stalls for you to indulge in too.

We aim to support local community groups, providing them opportunities to showcase their work and donate a proportion of event proceeds to local charities.

Evenings once again feature ticketed entertainment in the marquee, including big band Sound Express and our popular comedy night. Tickets are available at Cameron's Newsagents and the Post Office but will sell out fast!

New attractions this year include a miniature railway, inflatable axe throwing, laser tag and circus skills workshops by day, as well as live music all day across the whole weekend.

On Friday night, local vocalist Becky B will entertain at the Family Disco, alongside our resident DJ. Sustainability has been central to our planning for 2024. Look out for reusable cups featuring a design by local 12 year old Mercy Arokodare.



Meanwhile, hybrid generators will power the event more efficiently and quietly.

The weekend's success relies on the support of so many individuals and organisations. We thank everyone who attended fundraising events, supported our mobile bar service, and our sponsors and supporters. This support has enabled us to organise another fantastic weekend for the people of Potton to enjoy.

Let's get the party started!
The Party On Potton 2024 committee

Golden Ticket £40!

Access to Friday to Sunday evening events.

Only 100 Golden Tickets available so buy early and save £5 on buying ____individual tickets!

THE

Fri 23rd to Mon 26th Aug 2024

Friday 23rd August

Friday night is...

Party Night!

Dance the night away with POP's resident DJ, and special guests including live vocalist **Becky B**

Doors open at 6pm Kids disco 6-9pm. Over 16s disco until 12 midnight. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Tickets:

Adults (16+) £10 (all night) Kids under 16 £5 ('til 9pm)

Or use your Golden Ticket



Saturday 24th August

Community Day

12pm Olympic themed walking carnival parade, celebrating

Paris 2024. Starts at Shannon Place and arrives at Henry Smith Playing Fields at 12.45pm. See map on page 2 for the route.

Olympic themed fancy dress competition - everyone welcome 1pm

1.30pm Potton Fire Station display

The Great British 'Decorate Off'. Bring your own home-baked 2pm

biscuits & cakes to decorate. Prizes to be won!

POP's Dog Show supported by the Walkin' Cafe, Deepdale. 3pm

Bring your dog along for some fun!

5pm Daytime activities close

From 12pm (activities are free of charge):

Kids Zone Plenty for the little ones. Run by Woodentops and Happy Hands

Dog Agility with Wrayfields Dog Agility

Local Community Group Stalls

Human Football, Wipeout & Bungee Run

Assorted giant inflatables

Miniature railway

Live music

Licensed Bar, BBQ and other food stalls



Saturday night is...

Big Band Night (Doors open 7pm)

with Sound Express from Germany

Back by popular demand and always a sell-out event. Dance to all your favourites from 7.30pm until midnight. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Tickets:

Adults (18+) £17.50 Kids (under 18) £7.50

Or use your Golden Ticket



Sunday 25th August

Arts, crafts & small businesses

10am - 12pm Walking treasure hunt in and around Potton.

from the Marquee. Prizes available.

10.30am Churches Together Service in the marquee.

11am Potton History Society Walk. Starting at the marquee, a

one hour gentle family walk around central Potton to

learn about the unique heritage of the town.

12pm **Posh Picnic with Live Music.** Best dressed picnic wins

some fizz. Licensed bar & food stalls also available.

1pm - 2.30pm Meet the Author Local children's author Laura Noakes will be on

hand to read from her latest story from the Cosima Unfortunate

series in the Kids Zone and sign copies of her books.

1pm - 4.30pm Local arts & crafts stalls

5pm Daytime activities close

From 12pm (activities are free of charge):

Kids Zone Plenty for the little ones. Run by Woodentops and Happy Hands. Run by the local Brownies & Guides along with 'Sublime Science' workshops from Bedfordshire Libraries.

Live music

Miniature railway, Zorb Balls, Climbing wall and more

Licensed Bar, BBQ and other food stalls

Sunday night is...

Comedy Night (Doors 7pm, first act 8.30pm)

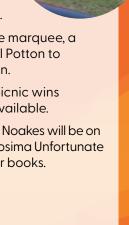
Headlined by Marcus Brigstocke (Live at the Apollo, Mock the Week, Have I Got News For You, Argumental)

Compere: Laura Lexx (Live at the Apollo, Have I Got News For You, Hypothetical)

Arranged by Custard Comedy and also featuring **Paul McCaffrey** (Impractical Jokers, Russell Howard's Good News, Stand Up Central, The Dog Ate My Homework) and **Ashley Frieze** (musical comedian as seen at Edinburgh Fringe). Licensed bar and food on sale.

Tickets: Adults over 18 only £17.50

Or use your Golden Ticket



Monday 26th August

Sports Day

9am Race Registration at the marquee for:

10am 5k-ish Run - all abilities welcome

From 2pm POP Olympics - enter in teams of 4 for family fun, from Human Hungry Hippos to Hobby Horse Showjumping to Egg and Spoon Races.

From 12pm (activities are free of charge):

Kids Zone. Plenty for the little ones, including sessions with Try Circus Skills.

Come and meet your local sports clubs you might find a new one to join!

Biggleswade Rugby Club, Potton Bowls, Potton United FC, Potton Karate Club, Arrows Elite Cheerleading and Gymnastics, Spiral Freerun and many more.

Climbing Wall and, new this year, Laser Tag

Live music

Licensed Bar, BBQ and other food stalls

Monday night is...

The Big Fat Quiz of Everything Night

(Doors open 7pm)

Gather a team of up to 8 people and pit your wits against Potton's finest brains. Expect the unexpected. There will be cash prizes! Quiz starts at 7.30pm. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Last orders 10pm. 10.30pm close.

Team Ticket of up to 8 people: £55 per team Not a Golden Ticket event



We are a community-based group, run by volunteers. For this local spectacular event to happen, Party on Potton needs to recruit new committee members to help organise the next event in 2026.

Why should you?

- To make lifelong friends
- To make a **contribution** to the community in which you live
- To support local groups and charities



• It means Party on Potton will carry on

Could your skills help Party on Potton continue to thrive?

We'd dearly love to have a chat if you want to join the fun. Why not email us: committee@partyonpotton.org.uk or just tap one of us on the shoulder; we'll be the ones wearing the orange tops! And do attend our AGM on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at Mill Lane Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30pm start.

We'd love to meet you. Go on – you know you want to!



this be you?

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. 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.

See page 17

Youth Councillor vacancies See page 24

General Assistant Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and reliable General Assistant to carry out caretaking, maintenance and ground-keeping activities.

The position is initially for 15 hours per week and overtime for additional hours (times to be confirmed - NJC Scale Point 4 currently £12.01 per hour) and is an ideal opportunity for a responsible person, who has pride in their work, a conscientious attitude towards work duties, is able to maintain a high standard of work and would like to work for the local community.

You can contact the town council for an application pack or download it https:// www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies/.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be returned to Jonathan Whitehurst, The Town Clerk at Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS or pottoncouncil@btconnect.com.

Closing Date: Applications will be considered on receipt and interviews conducted



Wanted!

Teenagers for newsletter delivery

Potton Town Council produces four Newsletters each year which are delivered to every household in Potton.

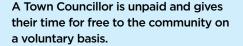
We are interested in hearing from 13-18 year olds who would like to deliver our newsletter. The rate of pay is £20 for 300 delivered newsletters, pro-rata.

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

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.



Any interested parties must make an application in writing to the Town Clerk. Mr Jonathan Whitehurst at Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS by 9am on Monday 12th August 2024 and include the following information:

- 1. reason for wishing to be a Councillor;
- 2. previous Community/Council work;
- 3. other skills you can bring to the Council.

For further information please refer to the town council's Co-option procedure in the 'Our Council'. 'Policies' section of the website

Please note it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and/ or email will be public information.



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

Email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com Phone: 01767 260086

Applications will be considered at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 following the Planning Committee meeting starting at 7pm.



Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Adam Zerny

Could new care home proposal see houses backing right up to community venue?

A planning application has been received by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) for a 67-bed care home on a plot of land just off Tear Crescent, Potton. However, the same proposal also seeks to build 8 new residential properties on land immediately next to the new Community Hall.

Back in 2011, when the planning process first got underway for the large housing development on the east side of Biggleswade Road, Potton - often referred to as Tall Trees - the original plans first approved, showed an area of 'employment' land, to the south of the main area of housing, just to the west of where a new hall was proposed.

While construction of the hall has recently begun, the land between the hall and the western end of Hutchinson Rise, lies unused. Until now.

Although, back in 2011, the land in question was designated for employment use, planning permission is now required as the latest plans (below) show the applicant now also wishes to build four three-bedroom homes and four fourbedroom houses, on the site.

Some might think it a questionable idea to put new homes immediately next to a venue which is likely to result in some noise in the area close by.

CB/23/01177/FULI

At present the nearest existing houses are 100 metres away from the new venue on Tear Crescent.

The applicant discloses they have paid the council for what is referred to as pre-application advice. The advice itself is not publicly disclosed.

The public consultation on the new application runs until 21st August and you can comment by emailing planningcomments@ centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and quoting the reference CB/24/01340/ **FULL** in the subject line.

To see all the documents relating to the application, including the application itself. click here:

https://cbc.aifusion.io/ planning/publicViewer. html?caseID=CB/24/01340/FULL

Adam Zerny

Independent Central Bedfordshire councillor for Potton

adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk



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



Please recycle this newsletter

when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.

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Potton Cemetery Footpath Refurbishment

The town council are planning to remove and replace over 300m² of asphalt (tarmac) in several areas of cemetery footpaths. Replacing 109 linear meters at 1.1m wide and 87 linear meters at 2.2m wide.

The project will take approximately two weeks to complete, and will be undertaken at some stage between July and October 2024.

The work will involve excavating the existing footpaths in various areas, removing the old surface and sub-base, laying of 174 linear meters of concrete flat top edgings on the 2.2m wide strip and the laying



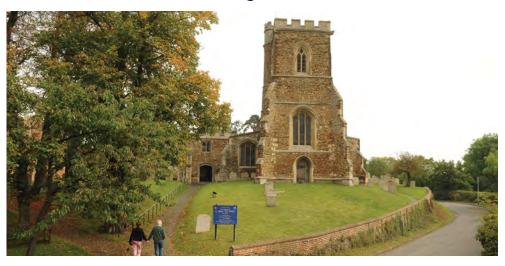


The town council apologises for any inconvenience caused whilst the improvement works are carried out.

A news item will be added to the town council website along with a post on the town council's Facebook page as soon as the dates for the works are confirmed.



News from St Mary's



We continue with our normal pattern of services, to be found in our weekly. Benefice-wide, free weekly newsletter, The Link. You can be added to the list of Link readers by contacting:

benefice.com@gmail.com

Our Open the Book team visited Potton Primary School recently, to read and perform a bible story to the children, and we are thrilled that our monthly Family and Friends service continues to provide such a wide variety of activities. Friends and Family are held on the first Sunday of every month except for August and January.

The Link Café, which meets on the last Saturday of the month between 10am and 1pm, goes from strength to strength and we shall be continuing the Cafe throughout 2024.

We will have a stall at Party on Potton's Community Day and we have an external concert on 19th October in St Mary's, with a gala evening of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Our magnificent Events Team have further great plans for 2024, and these are posted regularly on our website pottonparishchurch.org.uk/ (Calendar) and Twitter @StMarysPotton.

We participated in the recent D-Day 80 Commemorations, and throughout this year we give everybody in Potton the opportunity to "buy a square" to help us raise funds to refurbish the town's VE Day Banner, housed in the Lady Chapel, which we hope to have ready in time for the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2025.

We are here for you. Need support? Please contact alex.wheatley.rector@ gmail.com or call 01767 764062.

We ask you to please keep in your prayers our five candidates for their confirmations on 28th July, and the troubled areas of the World.



POTTON FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

Saturday 24th August 2024, 12pm to 3pm at Bury Hill, Potton SG19 2RS

what3words ///anchorman.curve.diamond

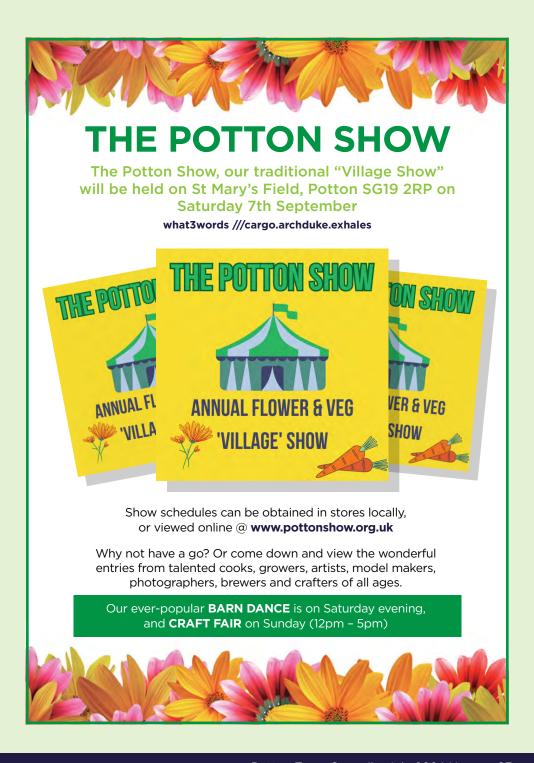


The event is FREE TO ENTER and features:

- Tours & demos
- Food & Refreshments
- Meet the firefighters
- Fire Safety Advice

In support of The Fire Fighters Charity.





Potton Youth Council



What's it like being a new Youth Councillor?

Sam's story ...

I recently joined the Potton Youth Council as I wanted to try and make a difference in the town and support those in our community in need. My goal is to make Potton an even nicer place to live. In my free time I enjoy sports such as boxing and researching subjects like science and politics.

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: ${\color{blue} \textbf{pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com}}$

We look forward to hearing from you!