

**Report from District Councillor Derek Davis
For Shotley Parish Council Meeting 18 January 2018**

A superb example of councillors from all parties working together was evident when we managed to persuade the new leader of the administration to hold a referendum, and not just a limited number phone poll, so the subject of dissolving Babergh Council, and then forming a larger council with Mid Suffolk, can be properly debated and decided.

Many councillors from all parties wanted to return to you the residents to see if the decision NOT to merge, which was voted 61% to 39% still held, while the cabinet made up of seven Conservatives, would not agree.

That led to the leader Jennie Jenkins resigning ahead of a motion of no confidence, and the new leader promising a referendum would be held, and changes to the cabinet would be made to make it more inclusive. It will be interesting to see if he will be allowed to keep his word and invite Independent, Lib Dem or Labour members to join the cabinet as promised.

It is likely the new referendum will be held in May and I will endeavour before then to provide you with all the facts, from both sides, so you can make an informed decision.